

Florence, New Jersey
June 2, 2004

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by President Fratinardo at 8:00 PM. President Fratinardo led the Salute to the Flag.

The Township Clerk read the following statement: "Notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was published in the Burlington County Times on January 4, 2004 and given to the Register News for information. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board."

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

John Fratinardo, President
Frank Baldorossi
Bruce Garganio
Elizabeth Ryan
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

Michael Muchowski, Mayor; Richard Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas Sahol, Assistant Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy Weiler, Township Clerk

MINUTES

Sandusky made a MOTION; seconded by Ryan to approve the following minutes. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Executive Sessions February 11, 2004 and March 10, 2004

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Ryan made a MOTION; seconded by Sandusky to approve the Treasurer's Bill List. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

- A. Bingo: Holy Assumption Church, July to December 2004, 7:15 PM – 10:30 PM, (Monday nights)
- B. Overnight at FAAD Park: Cub Scouts Pack 3, Saturday June 12 – Sunday June 13

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the above applications.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

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Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinardo

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Victor Murisan, 436 West Second Street, discussed a situation having to do with sewage leaking out onto the street at his mother's house, 510 Fifth Street. Administrator Brook gave an overview of what took place. He explained that due to problems in 2003 the Water and Sewer Department installed a Y to help the resident keep the lateral clean. Mr. Murisan was advised that the lateral would be his mother's responsibility. Over the past few months a clog was causing the waste and wastewater to spill out onto the street. The Township intervened since there did not seem to be a response from the resident to correct this health hazard. Administrator Brook explained the dangerous situation Mr. Murisan put himself in by going down into the manhole by himself. He also advised him that digging a trench for the wastewater to flow onto the grass was not a solution; it could cause anyone who comes in contact with it to become very ill. Administrator Brook gave some suggestions as to how Mr. Murisan could clear the clog. Mayor Muchowski asked Mr. Murisan to agree not to come onto municipal property and go into the manhole again. Mr. Murisan agreed. Mr. Murisan will fix the line.

Mr. Murisan asked about a tree in front of his residence on W. Second Street that was cut down and asked when the stump would be removed? Assistant Administrator Sahol advised him that would be done as a separate project, but Mr. Murisan could have the stump removed himself if he wished.

John Gonzalez, Fifth Avenue, discussed problems on his street in regards to fighting, drugs and trash. He stated that the police were there on several occasions last weekend. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the response from the police. Mr. Gonzalez stated that trash and recycling are left out in front of the houses. The street looks dirty.

Mayor Muchowski explained that the residents had a meeting with the Chief of Police about six to eight months ago; now the governing body will meet with him to find out what has transpired and why the resident's expectations are not being met. Mayor Muchowski thanked the residents in attendance this evening for coming to the meeting to express their concerns. Mayor Muchowski will meet with Administrator Brook and Chief of Police tomorrow morning.

Helen Bordash, 241 Fourth Avenue, thanked Mayor Muchowski for attending the Hungarian Reform Church and presenting a Proclamation to help celebrate their 90th anniversary. She also thanked the governing body for putting the church's picture on the cover of the Township's calendar. She also reminded the governing body that she submitted a handicapped parking application for a space in front of her house.

Mrs. Bordash also discussed the problems on the street such as trash, loudness and drugs. She stated that the Roebling Centennial is coming up and the street is disgraceful.

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Mr. Gonzalez also brought the condition of the alley and some yards to Council's attention and questioned maintenance code.

Mayor Muchowski asked for a couple of weeks to gather the resources to get some of the clean up done and cite the violators. He feels the residents deserve better. He suggested a spokesperson be appointed for Fifth Avenue that Mayor Muchowski can contact to keep informed of strategies that will be implemented.

Mayor Muchowski addressed Mrs. Bordash regarding her handicapped parking application. The governing body is reviewing the policy so that it is fair. He hopes to resolve by the end of the summer.

Council Member Sandusky suggested that the police walk the area in twos to let their presence be known and move the people along.

Discussion followed regarding regulating when recycling can be placed out front prior to pick up. The buckets are left out front; they are dirty and attract bees. Mayor Muchowski stated that might be something the governing body can look into.

Mayor Muchowski assured the residents that all of the issues will be addressed but it is not something that can be taken care of over night. He explained the processes that must be followed.

Tom Giehl, 252 Fifth Avenue, asked that a certain address be cleaned up. Administrator Brook stated that he would have it checked.

Irene Pichette, 236 Fifth Avenue, spoke regarding the trees lifting the sidewalks. She voiced concern for the pedestrians. Mayor Muchowski stated that is a very expensive issue. The one end of Fifth Avenue was done through a grant. He realizes that it is an issue that needs attention. The areas have been prioritized for work but then things come up like the tornado. There are hundreds of areas in town that have similar problems.

Mayor Muchowski stated that he cannot promise he can fix all their problems. Some of the problems he can take care of by checking with those who should be enforcing the law regarding those issues. He discussed the finances required to fix some of the problems. He explained that with trying to keep taxes stable it can effect the services rendered.

Mrs. Giehl, 252 Fifth Avenue, questioned the parking of recreation vehicles on South St. She feels that it is an eyesore and does not believe that they are all legal. She would also like to see the speed limit reduced on Fifth Avenue. Mrs. Giehl stated that South Street is a two way street but there is no stop sign at the end of Fifth Avenue.

Mayor Muchowski explained that the State regulates residential speed limits. He stated that there are several areas in Roebbling are not stop streets in that situation that have been brought to our attention. A request for a stop sign will be given to the Police Department so they can apply to the State.

Mayor Muchowski addressed the recreation vehicles on South Street. He acknowledged that the lot has become used for abandoned, unused vehicles and questioned the obligation of the

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municipality to provide parking lots for recreation vehicles. Discussion followed regarding the length of time recreation vehicles are left parked in the lot. Some are rotting and water puddles in them causing mosquitoes. Mayor Muchowski stated that some have had tow stickers placed on them by the Police Department.

Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, explained that his neighborhood has had similar problems. Some of the residents would walk the neighborhood to help the Police Department.

Mr. Bott complained that there are leaves piled up against the fence in the access road to the development. He is worried about the potential for a fire.

Bob Reillo, 17 Riverbank Drive, stated that the access road to the development is covered up with branches and pine needles. He asked that the trees be trimmed back so emergency vehicles can get through. Mr. Reillo discussed putting a privacy fence up where the trees are. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that he would have to see a survey; the trees may be in an easement area that acts as a buffer or conservation. Administrator Brook will inspect and report back to Mr. Reillo.

All residents having an opportunity to be heard, MOTION by Sandusky; seconded by Ryan to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-118

**AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF 2004-2005 RENEWALS OF
PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSES**

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-119

**APPROVING RENEWAL OF 2004-2005 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR
AIEBON CORPORATION INC. t/a ILLUSIONS PLENARY RETAIL
CONSUMPTION LICENSE WITH CONDITIONS**

(NOTE: 2004-120 taken separately)

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-121

**AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF 2004-2005 RENEWALS OF
PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSES**

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-122

REFUND WATER AND SEWER OVERPAYMENTS

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RESOLUTION NO. 2004-123

**AWARD CONTRACT 2004 SIDEWALK PROGRAM
EARLE ASPHALT COMPANY
920 HIGHWAY 33, HOWELL, NJ 07727**

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-124

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT
FOR NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY
STATE CONTRACT NO. A42285
PHONEXTRA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-125

REFUND WATER AND SEWER OVERPAYMENTS

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan that Resolutions 2004-118, 2004-119 and 2004-121 through 2004-125 be approved.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinardo

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-120

**AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF 2004– 2005
RENEWALS OF CLUB LICENSES**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan that Resolution No. 2004-120 be approved.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinardo

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Baldorossi (Marconi Lodge only. Council Member Baldorossi explained that he has a conflict of interest since he is the President of the Marconi Lodge Club.)

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE 2004-04
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
ADOPTING A DRUG FREE ZONE MAP**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2004-04 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

Council President Fratinardo opened the meeting to the public for comments at this time.

Nothing at this time.

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to close the public hearing.
All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinardo

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Nothing at this time.

Mayor Muchowski

- Nothing at this time.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook reported that he notified the County of the site obstruction at the intersection of Delaware Avenue and Hornberger Avenue. He will follow up. He will also notify the crossing guard that works at that intersection to be cautious.
- Administrator Brook stated that the stone at the Roebling Park is a specialized blend. It will be costly to replenish the stone, which must be done every couple of years, opposed to paving. The material will cost approximately \$3,000.

Council Member Garganio will be meeting with Assistant Administrator Sahol and Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer to discuss the parks. Council Member Garganio will report back for further discussion.

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- Administrator Brook reported that the engine failed in one of the police vehicles. The vehicle has approximately 115,000 miles. Options will be discussed at next week's Worksession.
- Administrator Brook stated that the street sweeping has been completed in Florence and will begin in Roebing on Monday, June 7th.

Assistant Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, explained that in order to apply for the **Transportation Trust Fund Grant**, which is due in July, the governing body must select the roadway and/or sidewalk areas they would like done. Will discuss at next week's Worksession.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council Member Garganio asked if there were any **sidewalk grants** that could be utilized in **Roebing**? Mr. Guzzi explained that sidewalk grants are for the specific purpose of moving pedestrians to school. Different options of funding sidewalk repair were discussed. Most grants are only available for main streets or for new sidewalks not replacement sidewalks. Discussion followed regarding including sidewalks in the CCO inspection. Council Member Sandusky noted that some insurance companies will deny homeowners coverage if the sidewalks are lifted.

Council Member Garganio asked how many **recreation vehicles** are parked in the lot on **South Street**? Assistant Administrator Sahol will do an inventory and report back.

Council Member Garganio stated that Paul Ostrander is donating **Astroturf** to the **girl's softball league**, which will be delivered tomorrow. He asked that equipment be available to pull it off the truck. Administrator Brook will see that it is taken care of.

Council Member Garganio stated that the **soccer league** is looking to put in **lighting** at the **field in Veterans Park**. It will cost approximately \$29,000 for PSE&G to bring power onto the site. He asked that the governing body discuss helping them with the cost of bringing power onto the site and the league would pay for the lights through fundraising. Mayor Muchowski will meet with Administrator Brook and Assistant Administrator Sahol to see what could be done without going through the bid process. Will discuss at next week's Worksession.

Council Member Garganio asked if anything has been worked out with the business owners on **Front Street** in regards to the **weak façades** so the Township could proceed with the **beautification project** there. Assistant Administrator Sahol has spoken with two of the three owners that are affected and they do not want to sign a waiver. He would like the business owners to meet with the governing body, but they are not interested. A letter will be sent to the business owners stating that a waiver must be granted in order for the project to proceed.

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NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council Member Sandusky acknowledged and thanked the **Roebing Garden Club** and the **Florence Garden Club** for all their work; they are doing an outstanding job throughout town.

Council President Fratinardo thanked **Paul Varga** for his work and assistance on the sound system for the various ceremonies for the veterans and other township functions

9:30 PM MOTION by Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to adjourn meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:30 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab