

Florence, New Jersey
June 4, 2003

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 Hofflinger at 8:30 PM. President Hofflinger 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 5, 2003 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 Hofflinger, President
Frank Baldorossi
John Fratinardo
Bruce Garganio (Left the meeting for 5 minutes)
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

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

MINUTES

Nothing at this time.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Fratinardo; seconded by Baldorossi to receive and file the Chief of Police report for May. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Fratinardo made a MOTION; seconded by Baldorossi 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, Monday nights: Jul. – Dec. 7:30 PM – 10:50 PM

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

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

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Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: Garganio

Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC HEARING ON MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Nick DiLullo, 416 E. Fourth Street, asked if the budget was going up or down? Council Member Fratinardo stated that the budget was staying the same. Mr. DiLullo asked how the budget could stay the same after giving the employees of the Township 4% raises? Council Member Fratinardo explained that the employee increases were negotiated with the different unions and the reason the budget stays the same is due to the increased ratables over the past year. Mr. DiLullo discussed the current recession and does not believe that the employees should have been given increases in salary.

NOTE: Council Member Garganio present at this time.

Mayor and Council tried to explain union raises, negotiations and arbitration.

Mayor Muchowski explained that there were many cuts made and flexibility was taken out of the budget.

Mr. DiLullo feels that if salaries must be increased then some employees should be laid off.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nothing at this time.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-96

ADOPT MUNICIPAL BUDGET

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-97

**APPROVE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL LICENSE
PLACE TO PLACE TRANSFER PLENARY RETAIL
CONSUMPTION LICENSE - BUNGALOW CORPORATION
2031 ROUTE NO. 130 SOUTH, BURLINGTON, NJ 08016
(LICENSE NO. 0315-33-004-003)
FOR EXPANSION**

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-98

AUTHORIZING REFUNDS OF CERTAIN TAX OVERPAYMENTS

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-99

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF REVENUE AND
OFFSETTING APPROPRIATION BALANCE FOR THE 2003 CLEAN
COMMUNITIES GRANT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-100

RESOLUTION AMENDING BUDGET

Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, asked that Resolution No. 200-97 be HELD until June 18th per the applicants' request due to a problem with advertising.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinaro that Resolutions 2003-96, 2003-98 through 2003-100 be adopted.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinaro, Garganio, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE 2003-12
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
PROVIDING A PROCEDURE AND POLICY FOR THE
NAMING OF STREETS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF
FLORENCE**

It was on the MOTION of Fratinaro, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2003-12 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

Nothing at this time.

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It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinardo 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, Fratinardo, Garganio, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2003-13
(2nd Reading)**

A BOND ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF AN AMBULANCE FOR THE FLORENCE EMERGENCY SQUAD; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$140,000 THEREFORE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$133,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATIONS; AND MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinardo to approve Ordinance No. 2003-13 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

Bill Strimple, Route 130, asked if the squad or the township would own the ambulance?
Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that it would be municipally owned.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinardo 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, Fratinardo, Garganio, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Nothing at this time.

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Mayor Muchowski

- Mayor Muchowski stated that it was brought to his attention by the local funeral director that if a person passes away in their home the police department must do an investigation, even if the person is terminally ill or under hospice care. This also involves calling out the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office and the Medical Examiner. Florence Township is the only town in Burlington County still following this procedure. Mayor Muchowski would like to review this procedure and look into changing when there is a natural cause of death.

Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

Assistant Administrator

- Assistant Administrator Sahol discussed the Patriotic Celebration and the judge's reviewing area for the parade. Mayor Muchowski suggested having representatives from the various organizations in town act as judges.

Mayor Muchowski stated that a local business on Broad Street that will be opening shortly offered to have the reviewing stand on his balcony. Some of the concerns discussed were the weight capacity of the balcony, and if they will be open by July 12th. Assistant Administrator Sahol suggested using one of the school's collapsible stages in front of the business rather than using the balcony. Assistant Administrator Sahol will follow up with the business owner tomorrow and discuss at next week's meeting.

Mayor Muchowski stated that Altera will be sponsoring the walk this year. The money raised will be split between the Florence Township Chapter of Deborah and the Richard Yurcisin Scholarship Fund.

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that he is looking into borrowing a lighted signboard from the County that could be placed on Route 130 notifying people in advance that Delaware Avenue will be closed for the parade. The local fire police are being asked to help work traffic control. The parade will begin on Delaware Avenue at Hamilton Avenue and will proceed to Broad Street and end at the American Legion at Broad and Sixth Streets.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Nothing at this time.

Council President Hofflinger asked Mr. Guzzi if the hump at Delaware Avenue and Grove Street has been replaced? Mr. Guzzi explained that he has met with the County a number of times and they do believe that the hump was there before they worked on the road; therefore they will not replace it. Mr. Guzzi stated that a contractor could fix it during the road program.

Mayor Muchowski and Mr. Guzzi met with some of the residents of Creekwood Drive regarding one of the basins. The residents believe that the basin is beginning to sink. Mr. Guzzi will take another look at it once it dries out and report back.

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Council Member Garganio asked if the area at Bennett Street and Maple Avenue could be fixed during the road program? Mayor Muchowski also discussed an outlet problem on Sixth and Summer Streets. Mr. Guzzi explained that there is also some storm sewer work that will need to be done and will prepare an estimate in the next few weeks.

Council Member Garganio asked that since the train station will be under construction, if the storm sewers on the mill side of Hornberger Avenue could be tied into their system. The storm sewers are crushed and the water has no place to go. Mr. Guzzi will follow up.

Mr. Guzzi reported on the alleys. He has a list of the alleys prioritized from worst to best, which he will bring to next week's meeting. PSE&G dug this morning to check the depth of gas lines, and the gas lines are at least 30" down.

Mayor Muchowski discussed painting the parking space lines on some of the avenues in Roebing. Council Member Baldorossi will get a consensus from the residents in his area. Discussion followed regarding the length requirements of spaces. The distance from a corner, hydrant and a driveway cannot be altered; must abide by law.

Mayor Muchowski discussed the parking issue on W. Third Street. Administrator Brook stated that Tom Layou, Housing Inspector, will inspect the area. This will be discussed at next week's meeting.

Council Member Garganio asked if a meeting could be set up with the owners of the Front Street stores to discuss the improvements? The bilco doors and leveling the sidewalk to meet ADA requirements were discussed. The Township has \$27,000 for the project, but the estimate is \$150,000. The business owners do not want the improvements that the Township was planning; they are only looking for new concrete. The business owners will be asked to be represented at next week's meeting to discuss.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council President Hofflinger reported on a meeting held with Administrator Brook, Assistant Administrator Sahol, Assemblyman Conaway, Assemblyman Connors, the NJ Turnpike Authority Chief of Staff and himself regarding the larger toll charged to exit off of the turnpike at the Florence Township exit. The Chief of Staff agreed with many of the problems and will take it back to the NJ Turnpike Authority Board.

Roebing Steel Plant Site

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Sandusky is happy to see the "Welcome Back Officer Bunce" signs outside of the high school and local businesses. Officer Bunce has been serving overseas since September 2001. He asked that Mayor and Council draft a letter sending their congratulations to Officer John Bunce for being heroic. Also, send a letter to Adam Ovat, who recently saved a woman from drowning.

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BOARD OF HEALTH

Council President Hofflinger stated that the odors from the Tullytown landfill have been very bad lately. Assistant Administrator Sahol will discuss in Closed Session.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Muchowski stated that he is meeting with Administrator Brook tomorrow regarding the speed of NJ Transit and to draft a letter.

9:20 PM MOTION by Baldorossi, seconded by Fratinardo to adjourn to closed session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:20 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab