

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION

July 9, 2003

8:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Hofflinger called the meeting to order.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

The Township Clerk read the Opening 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; given to the Register News for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board.

ROLL CALL

Present: Frank Baldorossi, John Fratinardo, Jerry Sandusky, John Hofflinger

Also Present: Mayor Michael Muchowski; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; Richard Alaimo, Township Water and Sewer Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy Weiler, Township Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nothing at this time.

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

TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER ENGINEER

Richard Alaimo, Township Water and Sewer Engineer, reviewed his status report:

- Kinsman Road and Riverview Drive Water Main
- Miscellaneous Work at Sewer Treatment Plant
- Walnut Street Water Main
- Well No. 6 and Water Treatment Issues
- Well No. 2 Redevelopment

Release Maintenance Bond: Elevated Water Storage Tank

Administrator Brook reviewed and recommended the release of the maintenance bond. A Resolution will be approved at next week's meeting.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Senior Center

Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, along with Assistant Administrator Sahol, toured Bordentown Township's Senior Center. He stated that it is similar to his plans, just bigger. Council President Hofflinger asked if they would be able to obtain the plans from the architect at a reasonable cost? Mr. Guzzi will contact Bordentown Township to see who their architect was. There are changes that the Township will want to do with the plans. Grant opportunities and financing were discussed.

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Mayor and Council expressed their interest in pursuing a senior center.

Assistant Administrator Sahol and Mr. Guzzi will take pictures of Bordentown Township's facility for Council's review. Arrangements will be made for Mayor and Council to tour Bordentown Township's Community Center in the near future.

New Public Works Facility

Council President Hofflinger questioned the status of the bids for the new Public Works Facility? Mr. Guzzi stated that bids will be received at the end of July.

Boat Dock

Mayor Muchowski asked Mr. Guzzi if he was able to look at the dock? Mr. Guzzi stated that he has inspected the dock. He explained that the top piece is starting to come through the screw heads. He will take pictures and contact the manufacturer.

ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Potts Mill Road Sewer Project

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that he has met with all but one resident on Potts Mill Road. At this time there are three residents that would like sewer and two that would not. A packet of information will be given to Mayor and Council for next week's meeting and discussed under Unfinished Business.

Poplar Street Water Line

Council President Hofflinger questioned a water line that was installed on Poplar Street. Administrator Brook explained that the residents' water was coming out at a trickle and a majority of the work was done in house, which years ago couldn't have been done. Council President Hofflinger asked if laterals were tied into their homes? Administrator Brook stated that they were not.

School Referendum

The Township Administrator briefly discussed the school referendum scheduled for December for a new high school; he discussed the financial impact. There will be changes to the local purpose tax because of the school. The school debt, water and sewer debt (new water and sewer plant, new elevated tank, new well, Route 130) and new debt service will affect any future projects.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

Municipal Hotel and Motel Occupancy Tax

Solicitor Kearns explained that the State adopted a hotel/motel occupancy tax, which extends the ability for a municipal hotel/motel occupancy tax. If an Ordinance is adopted for the tax, the Township will receive 1% until July 1, 2004, after that date the Township will receive 3%. After adoption, the Ordinance must be filed with the State. Council Member Sandusky asked if the families that are placed at the motels by the County would be charged the tax? Solicitor Kearns believes that they are considered permanent residents and would be exempt from the tax. Council in agreement to adopt Ordinance.

Solicitation Ordinance

Solicitor Kearns discussed the current Solicitation Ordinance. The Ordinance limits solicitation to 5:00 PM. The Chief of Police received a call from an environmental group and they pointed

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out that there is a case that states that organizations cannot be limited to stopping at 5:00 PM. Solicitor Kearns stated that is correct. He explained that there is also a case that states that the Township cannot compel the organization to get a permit. These cases apply to First Amendment groups. Solicitor Kearns stated that the current Ordinance will not stand up. He will review it and report back.

PARKING ORDINANCE (TICKET)

Mayor Muchowski explained that a commercial vehicle was ticketed; owner of the vehicle lives in North Carolina. The Ordinance states an "up to fine", which automatically compels the owner to appear in court. Mayor Muchowski explained that the judge has the ability to set the fine on a first offense ticket. He asked if Council would like to allow the judge to set a first offense fine or have the owner of the vehicle appear in court for a first offense?

Administrator Brook stated that the gentleman from North Carolina will not have to appear in court; the Court Administrator will handle it by affidavit.

STREET SWEEPING (TICKET)

Council Member Sandusky discussed an incident where after the street sweeper was finished cleaning the street, a resident moved their vehicle back to in front of his house. About twenty minutes later a patrolman gave him a ticket. The signs were still posted; they do say "No Parking 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM". Council Member Sandusky feels that the signs should be taken down when the sweeper is done. Administrator Brook does not believe that this is a common occurrence and stated that the signs are normally taken down shortly after the street is done.

The current policy, such as advertising in the newspapers, hand delivered notices to the residents and no parking signs was discussed.

Mayor Muchowski suggested having the street sweeper operator issue the tickets as he is sweeping. Administrator Brook will discuss the possibility with the Chief of Police.

ACTION

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-129

**RESCINDING RESOLUTION No. 2003-66 AND APPOINTING
ASSISTANT COORDINATOR OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
*ROBERT BEEBE***

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinardo to approve Resolution No 2003-129.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

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ABSENT: Garganio

Unanimous approval.

ADJOURNMENT

9:10 PM Motion made by Sandusky; seconded by Fratinardo to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab