

## **FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**December 9, 2009**

**8:20 PM**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Council Vice President O'Hara called the meeting to order.

### **SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

The Opening Statement was read: 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 11, 2009; given to the Register News for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Bruce Garganio, Dennis O'Hara, Sean Ryan, Jerry Sandusky, Frank Baldorossi  
David Woolston, Council Member Elect

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

Council President Baldorossi thanked the Florence Township employees for their hard work on the beautiful holiday decorations in and around the municipal building. He also thanked Fountain of Life for the beautiful poinsettia they gave to Mayor and Council.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nothing at this time.

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

### **CITIZENS CAMPAIGN: RENE KOUBIADIS**

Rene Koubiadis, 83 Creekwood Drive, introduced herself as the South Jersey Coordinator for the Citizens Campaign. She provided copies of a Resolution and an article regarding the program.

Ms. Koubiadis explained that the Citizens Campaign is a statewide movement of hundreds of volunteers who are dedicated to improving, educating and mentoring regular citizens who are in volunteer non-elected positions in the communities of the State of NJ. Citizens Campaign has been in existence for approximately 11 years. Just recently, the NJ State Legislature adopted two (2) of their Ordinances that they have been passing around to local towns, which Governor Corzine recently signed into law. One of the Ordinances has to do with her presentation this evening, which is the Citizens Service Act, which was signed on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Solicitor Kearns stated that Council has already adopted the form and is using it. She acknowledged that and explained that this Ordinance requires that every municipality in the State of NJ have a list of all of the boards and commissions, the purpose, members, schedule, a standard application and procedure on their website. This helps regular citizens learn how to get involved.

Ms. Koubiadis stated that the Citizens Campaign holds live forums around the State and online to educate citizens about non-elected volunteer positions. Citizens Campaign courses include how to

## **Florence Township Council Executive Session: 12/09/09**

prepare and present an effective presentation before a governing body. They also teach about the various appointment boards, their functions, the importance to the community and how to effectively serve on those boards and commissions.

Ms. Koubiadis explained that the Public Service Resolution that she handed out is a companion piece to the Citizens Service Act that was adopted at the state level and establishes an annual day where residents are encouraged to come out and learn about volunteer opportunities on the various boards, which could also include emergency service positions. The date on the sample resolution is September 17<sup>th</sup> because it is National Service Day throughout the country. Florence Township can pick a day that already exists in Florence Township. The day could be advertised inviting residents to learn about opportunities in the community and how they can give back to help improve the community. Ms. Koubiadis, as a resident of the community, offered to help with the educational component.

Ms. Koubiadis stated that the Citizens Campaign is non-profit and non-partisan. The Chairman and founder of Citizens' Campaign, 11 years ago, was a Middlesex County Democratic Chairman and Freeholder. He and his wife founded this organization to encourage a culture of service throughout New Jersey. Citizens' Campaign has a lot of experts working with them. She respectively asked that Council adopt the Resolution for a Florence Township Citizen Service Day.

Council Vice President O'Hara asked if there were any costs for the courses? Ms. Koubiadis stated that they are non-profit and there are no fees associated with anything they offer.

Council Member Ryan thanked Ms. Koubiadis for her presentation, and stated that he likes the idea and believes it will help get the spirit of service a little bit more widespread within the community.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara to put the Resolution on next week's Agenda. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

### **TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER ENGINEER**

#### **Belt Filter Press**

Russell Trice, Township Water and Sewer Engineer, reported that he is on schedule with the design of the belt filter press installation. Plans and specifications will be complete next week and sent to David Lebak, Water and Sewer Superintendent for review. Depending on comments he believes they will be able to advertise after the first of the New Year. Mr. Trice will get the information on the existing gravity belt filter press so he can advertise for auction.

### **TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

#### **2009 Road Program: Current Estimate No. 5 & Change Order No. 2**

Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer, reviewed and recommended Change Order No. 2 and payment of Current Estimate No. 5. A Resolution will be prepared for next week's meeting.

Council Member Sandusky stated that the overflow lot that was just paved on Buc's former property is dark in the back and asked about lights. He expressed concern regarding still having two (2) cut outs into the lot which will allow recreation vehicles into the lot unless there is a barricade.

**Florence Township Council Executive Session: 12/09/09**

Mr. Guzzi stated that there is a plan to fence the lot. The curb cuts were left for the future when the property is developed.

Council Member Sandusky is happy with the striping that was done in Roebbling.

**Former Buc's Property: Report**

Mr. Guzzi provided a copy of the letter from the environmental consultant. The soil contamination has all been removed and disposed of. There is some slight groundwater contamination and they prepared a proposal to address that issue. Administrator Brook noted that in regards to the escrow, the township is in good shape; there is still approximately \$122,000 in escrow. Mr. Guzzi stated that further testing needs to be done to see how far the contamination has migrated. He explained that there are many options when it comes to cleaning up groundwater. The levels are so low it may just need to be monitored over a certain period of time before it dissipates. A Resolution will be prepared for next week's meeting to proceed with the proposal to address the groundwater contamination.

**Illusions Sign**

As requested, Mr. Guzzi inspected the Illusions sign and acknowledged that it is leaning but it is stable; it is not in eminent danger of falling over. He suggested notifying the owner that the sign is leaning over and that if it continues to lean it could cause a hazard.

Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, advised the governing body that the Illusions (Aiebon Corp.) ABC License renewal with a Special Ruling will be on next week's Agenda for consideration.

**1001 Hornberger Avenue: Retaining Wall**

As requested by the Construction Code Official, Mr. Guzzi inspected the retaining wall behind 1001 Hornberger Avenue and found that the retaining wall does have serious structural issues. He explained that it is an older wall and there is a large tree that is pushing the wall. The wall is holding back a lot of earth and poses a danger if it collapses. The homeowner is deceased but the daughter is moving forward with repairs.

**Special School Board Election: Bonding for Solar Panels**

Council Member Ryan has questions regarding the Special School Board Election for bonding for solar panels and requested more information. Administrator Brook will request a copy of the report from the School Board and provide copies in Council's packet.

**NO PARKING REQUEST: CHURCH OF STS. FRANCIS AND CLARE**

Council Vice President O'Hara reported that he met with Administrator Brook, Chief Fazekas and Sergeant Palombi on site. Father Adam has some legitimate concerns with the plans for the new parking lot. The plans call for curb and sidewalk on Emerick Avenue, which is a narrow street. Father Adam would like to put "No Parking" signs on the church property side of Emerick Avenue so the residents across the street would be able to park in front of their homes. He would also like "No Parking" on the Hornberger Avenue side of the church property from the residence to Parrish Lane after the new parking lot is completed. Chief Fazekas and Sergeant Palombi concur that these changes make sense. Administrator Brook stated that Sergeant Palombi will have a sketch for the governing body to review at the January Worksession. These changes will not take effect until the parking lot is complete, approximately late spring. An Ordinance will be introduced at that time.

**Florence Township Council Executive Session: 12/09/09**

**REORGANIZATION: REVIEW AGENDA, RESOLUTIONS, RFP'S & APPOINTMENTS**

The Township Clerk provided packets containing information for the 2010 Reorganization: agenda, resolutions, results of the RFP's and various appointments. Clerk Weiler asked if there were any questions? No questions at this time.

9:00PM MOTION by Ryan, seconded by O'Hara to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

9:00PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC  
Township Clerk

/mab