

Florence, New Jersey  
April 20, 2011

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 Council President O'Hara at 8:00PM. President O'Hara led the Salute to the Flag.

The following statement was read by the Township Clerk: "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 2, 2011 and January 16, 2011; 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:

Frank Baldorossi  
Sean Ryan  
Jerry Sandusky  
David Woolston  
Dennis O'Hara

Also present:

Mayor William Berry; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

### **MINUTES**

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

Regular Session	February 16, 2011; March 2, 2011
Closed Session	August 18, 2010; April 6, 2011

### **FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

It was on the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Township Clerk's report and the Court Administrator's report for March. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

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

### **REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE**

Nothing at this time.

### **APPLICATIONS**

Nothing at this time.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mike Sawka, 75 Riverbank Drive, stated that the Florence Township IRS Vita program is complete for the year. During six weeks the volunteers completed 31 tax returns. He thanked Assistant

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Administrator Sahol for his help in getting them set up in the Florence Township Library. He plans to expand the program next year. Council President O'Hara thanked Mr. Sawka and asked him to pass on his appreciation to the other volunteers.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, stated that several weeks ago there was a "Help Wanted" posted on Florence Township's website asking for volunteers for the Earth Day Cleanup this coming Saturday. Mr. Kamienski and his wife volunteered but have not been contacted yet and asked if it was still going to take place? Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that it is still planned. He will contact the coordinator and advise her that Mr. Kamienski has not been contacted with the details.

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that 15 people volunteered, which will be broken up in two (2) groups. One group will start at the boat ramp and the other group will start at the Roebbling Circle.

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.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON 2011 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Council President O'Hara opened the hearing to the public.

Nothing at this time.

Administrator Brook gave an overview of the 2011 Municipal Budget. For 2011 the township's appropriations are \$10,777,364, which is an increase of approximately \$890,000 over last year. The primary reasons for the increase, which equates to approximately \$730,000, is debt service, reserve for uncollected taxes (funds set aside to pay the school, fire district and county), the Police and Fire Pension System and the Public Employees Pension System. He explained that there is an appropriation cap in the State of New Jersey; the township's overall allowable appropriations for 2011 are approximately \$10,800,000 and the township's actual appropriations inside the cap are approximately \$8,145,000 so there is a cap difference of approximately \$1,863,000 that the township is under. The township is also under the tax cap levy; this year the township is raising \$5,017,544 through its levy, last year was approximately \$4,208,437 for an increase of approximately \$809,107, which is still within the tax cap levy. The overall tax rate is increasing from .347 to .404 this year, which is an increase of \$.057 or approximately \$131 for the average assessed home. The township is not filling seven full time positions and one part time position.

Administrator Brook stated that there is a Resolution on the Agenda, Resolution No. 2011-90, Amend Approved Budget, and explained that municipalities were not notified until very recently that if a municipality has a free library they have to take a certain percentage of the library appropriations and figure out a Library Tax. It does not mean an increase in the taxes.

Council President O'Hara thanked Mayor Berry, his fellow Council Members and everyone involved for their work in the budget process this year; it was not an easy task.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-89**

**WATER AND SEWER PAYMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 4, Lot 7**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-90**

**AMEND 2011 APPROVED MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-91**

**ADOPT MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-92**

**CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR GAS SERVICE  
BETWEEN THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOARD  
OF EDUCATION AND THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-93**

**WATER AND SEWER PAYMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 167.09, Lot 6**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-94**

**WATER AND SEWER PAYMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 16, Lot 7**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-95**

**APPROVE REDUCTION IN PERFORMANCE BONDS  
FOR WATER DISTRIBUTION AND SANITARY SEWER  
HARKINS LANE PLAZA, LLC  
Block 159; Lot 5.02**

*NOTE: Conditioned upon payment of any escrow funds due.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-96**

**APPROVE REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE BONDS  
FOR WATER DISTRIBUTION AND SANITARY SEWER  
SHOPPES @ MALLARD CREEK  
Bond No. B98808-16574 and Bond No. B98808-16575  
Conditioned upon payment of any escrow funds due.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-97**

**APPROVE REQUEST TO RELEASE PERFORMANCE  
BOND/LETTER OF CREDIT FOR  
ROMA BANK PREVIOUSLY STERLING BANK  
BLOCK 58, LOTS 3 & 4  
Letter of Credit No. 9101241**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-98**

**APPROVE REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND  
WAWA INC., 2060 ROUTE 130 NORTH  
PERFORMANCE BOND NO. 105367605  
Conditioned upon payment of any escrow funds due.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-99**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF  
FLORENCE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH BURLINGTON  
COUNTY FOR COOPERATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-100**

**A RESOLUTION CANCELING TAXES AS THE RESULT OF AN  
ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENT  
BLOCK 162, LOT 2**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-101**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE  
ACCEPTING EASEMENTS ACROSS BLOCK 164.01, LOT 6 AND BLOCK 164.01, LOT  
6.01 FOR PURPOSES OF CONSTRUCTING A BICYCLE PATH**

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution No. 2011-89 through 2011-101.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan (Resolution Nos. 89, 92-101), Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: Ryan (Resolution Nos. 90 & 91)

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE 2011-04  
(1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE  
AMENDING CHAPTER 134 – TRAFFIC, ARTICLE IVA OF THE  
FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE TO ESTABLISH PERMIT  
PARKING REQUIREMENTS ON A PORTION OF SECOND  
AVENUE FROM HORNBERGER AVENUE TO MAIN STREET**

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It was the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2011-04 on first reading and set the public hearing and adoption for May 4, 2011.

**On the Question**

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**REPORTS**

**Committees, Boards and Officers**

- Council Member Sandusky stated that the **Crossing Guards** often get overlooked and asked Mayor Berry to consider a **Proclamation in their honor**. Mayor Berry thought it was a great idea and believed it should be presented at the last meeting in June as school is ending. He will work with Council Member Sandusky on the Proclamation.

**Mayor**

- Mayor Berry presented a **Proclamation in honor of National Day of Prayer on May 5, 2011**. There will be a service in front of the municipal building led by the Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Florence.
- Mayor Berry presented a **Proclamation in honor of Elks National Youth Week**, May 1 through May 7, 2011.
- Mayor Berry, with Council's approval, will recognize **John Rein** (who had been a servant to the community for many years serving on the School Board, Council and his church) with a posthumous **Proclamation** that will be presented to his family at the May 18, 2011 meeting. The actual "**John Rein Day**" will be **May 19, 2011**, which would have been Mr. Rein's 84<sup>th</sup> birthday. Council Members were in agreement with the Proclamation.

**Administrator**

- Administrator Brook thanked Mr. Kamienski for his understanding and patience waiting for the installation of the **dock**. It is scheduled to be put in tomorrow.

**Assistant Municipal Administrator**

- Nothing at this time.

**Township Solicitor**

- Nothing at this time.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

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**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Nothing at this time.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Administrator Brook explained that the township has tried for several years to have the **former Duffy School** renovated and converted to housing for senior citizens. It is very difficult to get the tax credits that are necessary to convert the building to senior housing and it would be extremely expensive. The township is moving forward with a different plan, which is the potential to demolish the building and apply for tax credits. The cost to rebuild the structure would be less and the units would be much nicer for the people that are going to live there. To do this the township is going to move forward to designate it as an **area in need of redevelopment**, which will help encourage and strengthen the tax credit application and the application that gets submitted to the state. The next step of the process is a public hearing before the Planning Board on May 16, 2011. Once the Planning Board approves, it will then come back before Council for formal action.

Discussion followed regarding a letter from a **Front Street business owner regarding displaying goods outside of the business** and concerns that have been voiced in the past due to merchandise getting too far out onto the sidewalk. This business owner would like to address Council with his request. Council will discuss at the May Worksession. Administrator Brook will advise the business owner.

8:30PM MOTION by Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

8:30PM Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC  
Township Clerk

/mab