

Florence, New Jersey
May 4, 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 8:07PM. 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 on 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

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

Executive Session March 9, 2011

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Township Clerk's report for April. 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

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, noted that he predicted before the School Board Election that the budget would be voted down, which it was. He brought in a copy of NJ Monthly showing the results of a survey they did ranking 322 high schools in the State of New Jersey. Florence Township ranked 237 meaning 74% of high schools rated better on the standardized testing. Council Member

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 05/04/11

Sandusky suggested that Mr. Kamienski discuss that information with the Florence Township School Board. Mr. Kamienski advised that he is bringing it to Council's attention because they will be discussing the school board budget later in the meeting.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-103

RESOLUTION TO REMOVE PROPERTIES FROM TAX SALE

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-104

**AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT
TO J.H. SERVICES, INC.**

RESOLUTION 2011-105

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM
OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-87
CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948**

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-106

**APPROVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT WITH
THE SALT AND LIGHT COMPANY INC.
REGARDING 340 ALDEN AVENUE
AND
RESCIND RESOLUTION NO. 2011-86**

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-107

**WATER AND SEWER PAYMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 40, Lot 4
314 WEST FIFTH STREET**

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution No. 2011-103 through 2011-107.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 05/04/11

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE 2011-04
(2nd 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**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve Ordinance No. 2011-04 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

Council President O'Hara opened the meeting to the public for comments at this time.

Bea Tully, 63 Second Avenue, stated that Second Avenue has parking on both side of the streets. She does not believe it makes sense to provide permit parking for only one (1) block of Second Avenue. Council President O'Hara explained that this was brought to the attention of the full Council by Council Vice President Baldorossi, who was contacted by residents of the 100 block of Second Avenue regarding parking concerns. This is in response to those residents' concerns. He noted that Second Avenue does have an advantage due to parking on both sides of the street but only having homes on one side of the street. There are 30 homes but only 45 parking spaces on Second Avenue from Hornberger Avenue to Main Street. Council discussed the situation and agreed to try permit parking, which would not work on the other avenues in Roebling. Council President O'Hara stated that there was a meeting several weeks ago to discuss; a majority of the residents were for the permit parking and there were others that voiced their objections but a majority were in favor of trying the permit parking. Council will review the situation in one year to see how it is working.

Ms. Tully expressed concern regarding of the overflow parking on her block of Second Avenue. She stated that there is already a parking problem on her block. She did not understand how Council can provide permit parking for just one block on one avenue in the Village of Roebling. She asked where the overflow is going to park? Council Vice President Baldorossi stated that the overflow will be instructed to park in the overflow parking lot on Hornberger Avenue. He also explained that overnight parking is not allowed in NJ Transit's parking lot, so people are parking their vehicles on the 100 block of Second Avenue and leaving them there for two to three days at a time. Ms. Tully asked how it will be enforced? Council Member Ryan stated that all of Council acknowledges that there is a parking problem in the Village of Roebling. He lived on Fifth Avenue for 14 years. There is no easy solution to fix the parking situation. He explained that over the past several years the municipality has tried to provide solutions such as striping Second Avenue and installing overflow parking lots. He acknowledged that this is a creative solution but in Council's planning the intent is

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 05/04/11

that the overflow parking would go to the overflow lot across the street. He reiterated that the Ordinance will be reviewed to be sure that it is working or if modifications need to be made.

Jennifer Daily, 67 Second Avenue, understands the trail basis but asked if consideration has been given to the number of commercial vehicles that take up parking spaces? She believed the commercial vehicles should be directed to park in the overflow lot and then look to see if there are still parking concerns. Council President O'Hara noted that permit parking does not assure that the residents will have a parking space directly in front of their home. He explained that there are 45 houses with 45 parking spaces. If each house is issued 2 permits it helps give the residents a better opportunity to park in between Hornberger Avenue and Main Street but not necessarily directly in front of their house.

Amy Morris, 65 Second Avenue, expressed concern regarding overflow parking on her block of Second Avenue. She stated that parking is already tight on her block of Second Avenue on the teen block of Second Avenue and just a few extra cars are going to impact their block. She does not believe it is fair to have permit parking on one block of Second Avenue and not the other.

Eric Ruczynski, 147 Second Avenue, believes the problem the residents on the teen block are going to have is the museum parking, since they will no longer be able to park in the 100 block of Second Avenue. Council President O'Hara stated that he is on the Board for the Roebbling Museum and it was brought up at the last board meeting that parking was going to be strictly enforced on Second Avenue between 4:00PM –8:00AM. He stated that those in favor of the permit parking have made it clear that they are willing to park in the overflow parking lot if necessary. He believes it is worth a try. Council President O'Hara stated that Council is responding to what they have heard from the residents, this is a compromise that will hopefully work.

Joshua Inskeep, 145 Second Avenue, would like to apologize; he is one of the residents that has three (3) vehicles. He asked what the restrictions for parking a commercial vehicle on the street were? Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that there is a weight, height, length and width restriction but he would have to check the code for the figures. Mr. Inskeep has a work van and two cars. He is willing to park his cars in the overflow but does not feel comfortable parking his commercial vehicle were he cannot see it. He stated that his work vehicle is not registered to the house on Second Avenue and asked if a compromise could be made? He feels that the overflow lots are dark and asked that they be policed better. Council Member Ryan stated that the security issue was raised at the last meeting and expressed a sincere willingness to step up the patrols in the area to be sure that the vehicles are secure in the overflow lot. Mr. Inskeep suggested that each household receive two (2) permits and park whichever vehicle they like on the street. He stated that his commercial vehicle is a E250 Van.

Mr. Ruczynski does not believe anyone would have a problem if Mr. Inskeep parked his work vehicle on the street substituting one of his vehicles to park in the overflow lot. Mr. Ruczynski does not believe the concern who the vehicle is registered to as long as no more then two (2) vehicles per household were allowed. Council Member Ryan asked Solicitor Kearns if a waiver could be made for such a situation as long as the vehicle meets the requirements of being able to park on the street? Solicitor Kearns stated that the Ordinance can be written so the vehicle does not have to be registered to that address and still have only two (2) permits issued per house. He noted that the Ordinance could be amended. He stated that if Council does want to change the Ordinance, they do not adopt tonight; it has to be re-introduced. Solicitor Kearns suggested limiting it to vehicles that take up no more then a standard parking space.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 05/04/11

Ann Cetinkaya, 141 Second Avenue, verified that the residents will have to come to the municipal building to obtain the permits. Council President O'Hara stated that is correct. She suggested that the residents provide a list of all of the vehicles belonging to their address, that way a vehicle does not have to be registered to that address but would be on file with the township. Council President O'Hara believes that the township can accommodate Mr. Inskeep, whose work vehicle is registered to the company he works for as long as he can show that he lives on Second Avenue by showing his driver's license. Mayor Berry noted that there is a NJ State Police Officer that lives on the 100 block of Second Avenue that sometimes brings his police cruiser home; that vehicle should be able to be parked on the street not the overflow lot.

Scott Daily, 67 Second Avenue, suggested that the township provide two (2) permits per household and allow the residents to place the permit in whichever vehicle they wish. Council Member Sandusky noted that not each household is going to get two (2) permits, if a household only has one (1) vehicle, they are only going to get one (1) permit. Council Member Sandusky asked how many people in the audience only have one (1) vehicle. Two people responded.

Council Member Sandusky is in favor of trying the permit parking for a year and then looking to see how it is working out.

Ms. Tully expressed concern of where guests of the residents are going to park; she believes that they will park on her block. She also believes that it is going to take a lot of resources to implement and enforce the permit parking.

George Spanos, 155 Second Avenue, spoke in support of issuing a permit and allowing Mr. Inskeep to park his work vehicle on Second Avenue. He does not have a problem with a compromise. The other residents in attendance were also in agreement to allow a compromise.

Solicitor Kearns explained that the Ordinance would have to be amended and re-advertised that an amendment was done and that there will be a final reading and adoption.

Solicitor Kearns stated that the amendment is going to remove the requirement that the vehicle has to be registered to the address and include that any property owner can get not more than two (2) permits. They will be able to put the permits to different vehicles whether they are registered to that address or not. Council and the residents are in agreement to the amendment.

Council Member Ryan thanked the residents for working with Council to come to an agreement and compromise. He is hopeful that the permit parking will work out.

Patricia Dyson, 109 Second Avenue, noted that there are vacant properties on her end of the block and that is why there are no parking problems at this time.

Paul Varga, 20 Fourth Avenue, stated that when his children were younger his family had six (6) vehicles and they did not have permits to park. He believes it would not have been fair to the neighboring avenues to have permit parking for a select few.

Mr. Varga stated that he has trouble walking and is one of the people who parks in front of the Roebling Museum. He does not go there everyday. He will no longer be able to park there. He does have a handicapped placard but there are no handicapped parking spaces. One of the Second Avenue

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 05/04/11

residents stated that where Mr. Varga parks is more in front of Main Street and does not believe that the residents have a problem with him parking there.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi 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, Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O’Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky to authorize Solicitor Kearns to amend the proposed Ordinance No. 2011-04 by deleting the requirement that the vehicle had to be registered at the specific address and authorizing Clerk Weiler to advertise a notice of the amendment with a public hearing to be held at the May 18th Council Meeting.

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.

8:58PM: Recess

9:03PM: Meeting resumed.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Council President O’Hara discussed the letter in the packet from the Chief of Police regarding **Sgt. Jon Greenberg**, who saved the life of a young infant. It is phenomenal and suggested a **letter of commendation** to Sgt. Greenberg from Mayor and Council. Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, will draft a letter for Mayor and Council to sign.
- Council Member Sandusky complimented the color guard for their participation at the ceremony and funeral for former Florence Township Police **Sgt. Sam Henry**.

Mayor

- Mayor Berry presented the appointment of Travis Corson to fill the unexpired term on the Recreation Committee.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 05/04/11

It was on the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the appointment of **Travis Corson** to the **Recreation Committee** to fill an unexpired term, **Term Expires 12/31/2011**.

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.

- Mayor Berry stated that he, along with Assistant Administrator Sahol, had the privilege of participating in the police department's semi annual firearm certification and training exercises last week. It was quite an experience to participate in the training. He is very proud of the Florence Township Police Department.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook stated that letters were hand delivered to the three (3) homeowners regarding **622 Wallace Avenue**, the very small parcel of property that is not a developable lot. One (1) homeowner has expressed interest in acquiring the property to annex it to his and another has said that he may be interested but will get back to the township. Administrator Brook reported that no one has gotten back to him and feels it is best to authorize Solicitor Kearns to prepare an **Ordinance for the May 18th meeting** to hold an **auction** for the property. Solicitor Kearns will prepare an Ordinance.
- Administrator Brook reported that the Planning Board will be discussing the **Redevelopment Zone for the Duffy Manor** on May 16th. Solicitor Kearns will prepare an Ordinance for May 18th, which will be adopted in June if all goes well before the Planning Board.
- Administrator Brook stated that the township has a lease agreement with the **Roebing Museum**. The museum has acquired their own mower to cut their own grass. They are **seeking permission to put up a 12'x16' shed** to the right of the museum building. Council Member Sandusky expressed concern regarding storage of gas too close to the museum building; Administrator Brook will speak to the museum regarding Council's concern. A Resolution will be prepared for the May 18th meeting, if necessary.
- Administrator Brook stated that now that the budget has been adopted, Chief Fazekas approached him and, since the funds are in the budget to replace the **detective's vehicle**, suggested to hold off on purchasing the detective's vehicle and the funds could be cancelled if they are not used and use in the 2012 budget. As an alternative, replace one in the fleet with a Tahoe; the Ordinance is in place. Take an old vehicle from the fleet to replace the detective's vehicle. It is not a great upgrade but it would be much better than the detective has now, which is in deplorable condition. Chief Fazekas will prepare a report for Council to review.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 05/04/11

Assistant Municipal Administrator

- Assistant Administrator Sahol thanked Council for their understanding that he will be out of town next week and will miss the Council Meeting.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Defeated School Budget

Administrator Brook reported that the school budget was defeated and either a subcommittee or the Mayor will need to meet with the School Board to discuss their budget. The township has until May 18th to take formal action.

Mr. Varga, 20 4th Avenue, Roebing, stated that he was asked several years ago to find out what is wrong with the heating and cooling system in the new high school. He did find out what was wrong and advised the School Board. The School Board thanked Mr. Varga but did not follow his advice. Mr. Varga stated that he could save the School Board between \$10,000 - \$12,000 per year, which he believes is a conservative number. He did the same for Northern Burlington High School and they are saving between \$10,000-\$20,000 as long as they do not have any breakdowns or repairs. Mayor Berry noted Mr. Varga's comments. Mr. Varga will provide something in writing. The subcommittee will be made up of Mayor Berry, Council Member Woolston and Council President O'Hara.

Mr. Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, Roebing, asked if he could be part of the subcommittee? Council President O'Hara explained that when the school budget is defeated it goes before Council for their review; a resident cannot sit on the subcommittee; the residents participate through the voting process.

BOARD OF HEALTH Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council President O'Hara stated that he was a participant in this past weekend's Rely for Life. He noted that the two women (Barbara Mayer and Carey Trayner) that chaired the Rely for Life deserve recognition from Mayor and Council for an outstanding job. The Relay for Life raised a lot of money to battle cancer and brings positive recognition to Florence Township. Clerk Weiler will prepare a letter for Mayor and Council to sign.

9:25PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

9:25PM Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab