

Florence, New Jersey
August 3, 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 followed by a **Moment of Silence** in memory of former **Council Member Ted Wainwright and former Police Chief Edward T. Schafle.**

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:

Sean Ryan
Jerry Sandusky
David Woolston
Dennis O'Hara

Note: Council Vice President Baldorossi absent due to a work commitment.

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.

Regular Session	June 15, 2011
Executive Session	June 8, 2011
Closed Session	July 13, 2011; July 20, 2011

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Chief of Police's report for July. 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

Council President O'Hara read the letter received from Judith King, President of the Florence Historical Society, addressed to Mayor and Council. On behalf of the Florence Historical Society, she would like Arthur Foulks recognized for his bravery in 1949 for rescuing four boys from the Delaware River. For this heroic act Mr. Foulks was awarded the Carnegie Medal of Heroism. She asked for a Proclamation at a future Council

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 08/3/11

Meeting and a declaration of Arthur Foulks Day in the Township of Florence. Although he is now 84 years old and no longer lives in Florence, he is willing to return to Florence for this honor. Ms. King stated that the historical society would arrange for press coverage and furnish a detailed newspaper account of the rescue in 1949. Mayor Berry stated that it would be his pleasure to present a proclamation at a future meeting in honor of Mr. Foulks. Ms. King will provide the necessary information to write the Proclamation. Council Member Sandusky suggested trying to locate the four boys and inviting them to the meeting that the Proclamation will be presented.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve the Florence Historical Society's request. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Council Member Sandusky offered the Front Conference Room, if the Historical Society would like to serve refreshments following the presentation.

APPLICATIONS

A. Raffle: Off Premise 50/50, Florence Township Civic Association, November 5, 2011, 6:00PM, Football Concession Stand at Municipal Complex

It was on the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Ryan to approve the above application.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

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

Motion carried.

B. Block Party: 1000 Block W. Third Street, September 10, 2011, 12:00PM – 7:00PM

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

On the Question

Council President verified that the Chief of Police reviewed the application and made his recommendations. Administrator Brook stated that he did and he works closely with Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, when preparing the letter outlining the conditions to go to the applicant.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

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

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 08/3/11

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, stated that he called the municipal office and asked if Florence Township had a food bank and was advised that the township does not but was provided with a phone number for Parish of Sts. Francis and Clare and a phone number for the Florence Methodist Church, both have food pantries. He called both numbers and left a message that he had some extra potatoes and tomatoes and asked if they could use them. That was three days ago and he has not received a call back. He then found out that Burlington City has a food bank where they give out food on Wednesday mornings. He took several bushels of potatoes and tomatoes to that food bank this morning.

Council President O'Hara provided that contact information and times of distribution for the food bank at Parish of Sts. Francis and Clare. He also provided the name of the contact person for the Florence Methodist Church.

Council President O'Hara noted that the Parish of Sts. Francis and Clare are expanding the space of their food pantry because of the higher demand for food. They would be happy to accept donations of food.

Council Member Ryan suggested reaching out to the churches to get the information on their food pantry and post on the township website.

Council Member Ryan thanked Mr. Kamienski for bringing this to Council's attention.

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.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-160

**APPOINT SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL FOR
AMERIPAY, LLC BANKRUPTCY**

RESOLUTION 2011-161

**AUTHORIZING REFUNDS OF CERTAIN OVERPAYMENTS
WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-162

**AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC SALE OF TOWNSHIP
OWNED PROPERTY**

**(Motor Vehicles that came into possession of the Florence Township Police
Department through abandonment or failure of the owners to claim)**

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 08/3/11

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution No. 2011-160 through 2011-162.

On the Question

Council Member Ryan asked why the township was not utilizing Gov Deals for the abandoned vehicles auction? Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that these vehicles are not in the township's custody; they are on the towing company's lots and the storage fees is the first to come out of the proceeds of the sale and paid to the towing company. If the township were to keep custody of these vehicles, they would have to have a secured lot. A majority of the time the vehicles have been stored for a long period of time, the storage fees are high, the vehicles do not sell and the towing company keeps the vehicle in lieu of receiving payment for the storage fees.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2011-07
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
PATROL OFFICERS – DETECTIVES – SERGEANTS
2011 – 2013**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2011-07 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

Mike Sawka, 75 Riverbank Drive, questioned the salary chart and the length of time between steps and how long it takes to become a sergeant? He also asked the size of the police force. He believes the expense Florence Township is spending on its police force, for the size of the town, seems disproportionate compared to other towns. Council Member Ryan stated that Florence Township is an extremely safe community and recently read in a magazine that Florence Township is the safest community in Burlington County, out of 40 communities.

Mr. Sawka asked how quickly a patrol officer rises through the salary steps? Administrator Brook explained that at the present time the police force is down by three officers that have not been replaced. He stated that a police officer does not automatically rise to the position of police sergeant. At the present time there are four sergeants.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 08/3/11

A Police Department runs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. He explained that the department is not overstaffed; there was a study done several years ago that showed that the township was under the number of officers it should have. Usually a sergeant is someone who has been on the force for a long period of time and a person is only promoted to the position of sergeant when there is a vacancy. There are only two (2) rates for sergeants; there is the initial rate and after a year they move to the higher rate.

Administrator Brook explained that for police officers there is the academy rate, which is low, once the officer graduates from the academy they move to the first step, at that point they move up a step every year until they reach the final step. Mr. Sawka believes the increase between steps is outrageous. Administrator Brook does not believe that the salaries are outrageous for that line of work and offered to meet with Mr. Sawka along with the Chief of Police with the facts, figures and comparisons. He explained that overtime has been cut back significantly in this contract and will save a significant amount of money.

Discussion followed regarding police vehicles. Council Member Ryan stated that he worked with Administrator Brook and Chief Fazekas in exploring alternate types of police vehicles and alternate ways to purchase vehicles. It turns out that Florence Township, from a purchasing standpoint, is operating in a very cost effective manner. He explained that as a new Council Member he also had questions. He offered for Mr. Sawka to review the document.

Solicitor Kearns stated that the salary range is part of what was negotiated in the contract. Police and fire are unique in New Jersey because they get binding arbitration. The arbiters look at what other towns have done; the steps and pay levels are standard provisions.

Administrator Brook reviewed various ways things were negotiated in the contract that will save the township money, such as receiving comp time instead of being paid for mandatory training that has to be used in such a way that it does not create overtime.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, asked the total number on the police department staff? Administrator Brook responded that there are 11 police officers, two detectives, four sergeants, two captains and one chief.

Mayor Berry explained that most of the time the police are the first to respond to a medical emergency and the Tahoe's allow the ability to have the vehicle completely outfitted with EMT equipment for medical emergencies. Administrator Brook also explained that municipalities can pay for a Tahoe over several years but with a vehicle the State of NJ makes you put it all in the municipality's budget at one time.

Council President O'Hara praised the Florence Township Police Department.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 08/3/11

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to close the public hearing. All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O’Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE 2011-08
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING
CHAPTER 134 OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE TO ESTABLISH
PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON PORTIONS OF WINTER STREET AND TO
ESTABLISH STOP INTERSECTIONS AT WEST SIXTH AND WINTER
STREETS AND AT TALL TIMBER LANE**

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the new development, Estate at Oaks Mill, behind the municipal complex is going to create new traffic patterns on Winter Street that did not exist in the past. This Ordinance will address Winter Street’s entrance into that development causing W. Sixth Street to stop at Winter Street because Winter Street will now become a through street. It also addresses the no parking provision on that section of Winter Street from Fifth Street to Front Street but not from Sixth Street, allowing vehicles to only park on the west side. This Ordinance also creates a stop intersection at Tall Timber Lane where it intersects with itself.

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2011-08 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

Jerry Cohen, 7 Barbee Court, questioned the need for the no parking signs in Greenbriar Horizon? Solicitor Kearns explained that if a roadway is a certain width it is state mandated that there has to be no parking on one side. Mr. Cohen asked who determines which side is no parking? Solicitor Kearns stated that is determined at the Planning Board level.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to close the public hearing. All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question: Nothing at this time.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 08/3/11

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2011-09
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING
CHAPTER 91 TO PROVIDE FOR TEMPORARY INFLATABLE POOLS ON
RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY PROPERTIES IN THE R, RA, RB, RC AND
AGR ZONES**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve Ordinance No. 2011-09 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

Nothing at this time.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to close the public hearing. All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2011-10
(2nd Reading)**

**ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$60,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT FUND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER
METERS AND ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF
FLORENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2011-10 on second reading for adoption.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 08/3/11

Public Comment

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

Nothing at this time.

It was on the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Sandusky to close the public hearing.
All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Council President O'Hara stated that the Economic Development Committee held their meeting last night, which went very well and was well attended. Assistant Administrator Sahol attended along with a resident, Lou Lippincott. There was an extensive discussion regarding **Patriotic Celebration Day**, which was suspended the last 2 years because of budget constraints. There are many residents that would like to see it brought back. Economic Development has taken a lead on seeing what could be done to make it a reality. The township began to hear from residents that different groups were forming to try to bring it back; the township would like to bring everyone together to work together instead of having splinter groups. He explained that monies generated from fundraising have to go into a certain account that the township must manage. Council President O'Hara stated that it was a tremendous asset to have Assistant Administrator Sahol at last night's meeting; he has been involved with the Patriotic Celebration for many years and knows all that is required. Many of the groups in the community are not aware of all that is involved with holding the Patriotic Celebration and Assistant Administrator Sahol brought clarity to what needs to be done. Council President O'Hara stated that there will be fundraisers and the first one will be a Beef & Beer at a local establishment on August 20th. There will be a thermometer placed in the community to track as funds are raised. He encouraged residents to get involved and volunteer. Council Member Ryan stated that municipalities are all facing challenging times and this is a creative way of bringing back the celebration.
- Council President O'Hara stated that the **Economic Development Committee** is holding a **Meet & Greet** at the Roebing Museum on September 15, 2011 for the businesses. There will be a speaker regarding social media.

Mayor: Nothing at this time.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 08/3/11

Administrator

- Administrator Brook reported that the interest rate for the **Tax Anticipation Notes** is 1.5%, which is very good. He noted that it is good that they moved forward with the Tax Anticipation Notes because, as of today, no municipality in Burlington County has a tax rate.
- Administrator Brook stated that an **Interlocal Services Agreement** is being drafted with the **Roebing Museum** whereby the museum will work with the township and they will staff and man the **Main Street Community Center**. It will be open approximately four days a week. The museum is looking to have a Christmas celebration for the children on December 3, 2011.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

- Assistant Administrator Sahol reported that there is an opportunity to **expand the recycling toter program** to include the whole lower end of Florence Township, Riverbank Drive and Birch Hollow. This does not include the Village of Roebing because the county is not sure if it can utilize the truck used to pick up the toters in the Village of Roebing. Council Member Sandusky suggested no parking on one side of the street in the Village of Roebing on recycle day. The problem would be where homeowners would store the toters; it would not look nice having the toters stored out front of the homes. Assistant Administrator Sahol believes that maybe in the future they can come up with a box type toter that could be stored under porches. Council Members are in agreement to proceed with expansion of the recycling toter program. A Resolution will be prepared for next week's meeting.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council Members were in agreement to have **plaques** made to **thank** the businesses that contributed towards the give-a-ways at the **Mayor's Cup Softball Game**.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Ryan mentioned a letter that was received from a resident regarding a concern they had about some **sidewalks**. Administrator Brook and Assistant Administrator Sahol will be inspecting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-163

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
IN MEMORY OF EDWARD T. SCHAFLE**

It was on the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution No. 2011-163.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 08/3/11

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

9:16PM MOTION by Woolston, seconded by Ryan to adjourn to Closed Session. It was announced that action may follow Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

10:00PM MOTION by Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to resume Regular Session. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

ST. FRANCIS AND CLARE PROPERTY: SENIOR COMPLEX

Developer is willing to do more buffering, install fence and exit on Hornberger Avenue. The developer is willing to work with the township. Council Member Ryan would like to see a color rendering. They are planning on 36 units.

10:10PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to adjourn meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

10:10PM Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab