

Florence, New Jersey
December 21, 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 8:00 PM. 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
Dennis O'Hara

Also present:

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

Last Meeting for Mayor Berry, Council President O'Hara and Councilmember Ryan

Township Clerk Weiler presented clocks to the departing members on behalf of the residents of the Township. Township Administrator Brook presented flowers to the women (Mrs. Linda O'Hara; Mrs. Charlene Ryan and Ms. Karen Eckley) who supported the members during their tenure. Police Chief Fazekas presented each of the men with a plaque on behalf of the Fire Department, Police Department and the Emergency Squad, honoring their service to the community and thanked them for all of their hard work and support over the last four years.

Detective James Ford, President of FOP Lodge 210, presented a plaque to Mayor Berry, thanked him for all that he's done over the last four years and congratulated him. FOP President Ford then presented plaques to Councilman Ryan and Council President O'Hara and thanked them for their support and integrity.

Council President O'Hara said the cooperation with emergency services, police and fire has always been a two way street and he appreciates all they do.

Chief Fazekas gave the background of the annual softball tournament that the Township employees, Police, Fire Department and teachers participated in for the last four years. It has always been called The Mayor's Cup. Chief Fazekas said the tournament will now be called the Mayor Berry Softball Tournament in honor of the Mayor who started the tradition.

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Councilman Sandusky commented that over the last four years he and Council President O'Hara worked well together and the audience tonight was a tribute to that cooperation. Councilman Sandusky noted that he served with relatives of Councilman Ryan in the past and said that even when he did not agree with Councilman Ryan, he always conducted himself as a gentleman. He wished Councilman Ryan the best of luck. Councilman Sandusky commented that the past four years for Mayor Berry were difficult because of budget issues, and said he handled it well.

Council Vice President Baldorossi commented that over the last four years Council did not always agree but the departing members always put the residents first. He wished them luck and happiness.

Councilman Ryan apologized to Councilman Sandusky for any disagreements that may have "caused any additional gray hair." He said all of his decisions were for what he felt was the best for the community. He said the decisions were made together despite party affiliation. He praised his parents for the values instilled in him, and always took his father's advice to make his community proud. He said he is proud to have worked with the employees and administrators on some tough challenges. He said he dedicated the night to the community and to his parents, Terrance and Charlene Ryan. He acknowledged the "watchdogs of Florence Township," a group of residents who attended just about every meeting and provided input on many matters. Councilman Ryan wished the new Mayor and Council Members well.

Council President O'Hara recognized Councilman Ryan and commented on his commitment to the community. He also praised the "men and women in uniform" and thanked them for all that they have done and said it has been a pleasure working with them.

Council President O'Hara remembered that during his time on Council, Councilman Ryan lost his father. Also during his term in office, Council President O'Hara's wife fought cancer. She supported him and wanted him to serve the residents who elected him. He praised her for being a survivor and thanked her for her support. He said the past four years were a challenge and Council faced it as a group. He thanked Administrator Brook and Assistant Administrator Sahol for all of their hard work and dedication. He also thanked Township Clerk Weiler for all of her hard work and guidance. He also thanked the professionals – Township Engineer Guzzi and Township Solicitor Kearns for all of their guidance and help. He thanked the Water and Sewer and Public Works employees for their dedication and hard work. He said he hopes he made a difference over the past four years and will miss serving and will be back to being a dedicated family man.

Mayor Berry commented on the turnout at the meeting. He thanked Valerie Sweeney, who retired, for having been a bright spot in the office. He acknowledged all of the work Township Engineer Guzzi did for the town and in helping the Township move forward with the Roebling Steel Mill site. He also thanked Solicitor Kearns for all of his hard work and knowledge and connection to the League of Municipalities that kept the Township ahead of many other municipalities. Mayor Berry thanked Assistant Administrator Sahol for all of the successful projects he spearheaded. He also thanked Township Clerk Weiler and said he will miss sitting side by side with her, and he appreciated their good working relationship. He thanked Council

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Vice President Baldorossi for all of his support over the last four years. He said Council Vice President Baldorossi looked out for the “Village” of Roebling, and also served the entire community. Mayor Berry said he and Councilman Ryan may have disagreed in the beginning, but worked together for the interest of the community. Mayor Berry said he has known Councilman Sandusky for a very long time, and he appreciated all the support Councilman Sandusky has provided. Mayor Berry said that he and Council President O’Hara worked very hard together and accomplished many things over the last four years. He said Council President O’Hara is a very devoted husband, father and grandfather and he will miss working with Council President O’Hara. Mayor Berry praised his “beloved” police department, fire department and emergency squad and appreciated their attendance. Mayor Berry said the police department was the best in New Jersey, and he said it is because of the leadership. He thanked Chief Fazekas for his support and he thanked Captain Bunce and Captain Scully. He said he was happy that he will now be able to spend more time with family. He remembers telling his mother as a child that he was going to be the Mayor like Mayor Kenneth Wilkie. He said he hoped he made his mother proud. He thanked all of his family members in attendance. He told Mayor Elect Craig Wilkie to take care of his town, and thanked former Mayor Michael Muchowski for all of his help. He also thanked Administrator Brook and Assistant Administrator Sahol for all of their help and support over the last four years.

MINUTES

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

Regular Session – December 7, 2011
Executive Session – December 14, 2011

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Court Clerk’s Report for November. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to approve the Treasurer’s Bill List.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, O’Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: Woolston Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

A. RAFFLE LICENSE: Florence Twp. Civic Association, Inc.

April 15, 2012, 4:00 PM, Muchowski Field Concession Stand

Baldorossi made a motion, seconded by Ryan to approve the application.

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Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: Woolston

ABSTAINED: Sandusky Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Kaminski, 10 McCay Drive, came to the meeting to thank the outgoing Mayor and Council members for all that they have done for the Township.

Council President O'Hara thanked Mr. Kaminski for his participation in local government.

Mayor Berry thanked Mr. Kaminski for organizing a community group that cleaned up parks and public areas. He also thanked Mr. Kaminski for his attendance and participation at the meetings. The Mayor credited Mr. Kaminski for making Delaware Avenue safer because of the fog lines he lobbied for.

Council President O'Hara recognized resident Bill Bott and thanked him for his attendance at many meetings and participation.

Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, thanked Mayor Berry for all he has done; he commended Council President O'Hara for how well he ran the meetings, and thanked him for letting people speak on the issues. He said he and Councilman Ryan may not have always agreed, but he thought Councilman Ryan always had the best interest of the town in mind.

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, said he echoed Mr. Bott's sentiments.

Former Mayor Michael Muchowski, 1337 Maple Avenue, praised the outgoing members of Council and outgoing Mayor for what they accomplished during their time serving. He commented on tough issues that were faced over the past four years and commended the Mayor and Council for making tough decisions while keeping the good of the town in the forefront. He said during his tenure he did not face many of the problems seen now. He thanked each member for all they had done, and wished them a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

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

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE 2011-17

(2nd Reading)

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING
THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION
OF QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT**

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Public Comment

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

Seeing no comments, it was on the MOTION of Ryan; seconded by Sandusky to close the public hearing. All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question

Administrator Brook explained that the Chief Financial Officer took classes to become a Qualified Purchasing Agent. The purpose of this is to increase the overall bid threshold for the Township under the Local Public Contracts Law. When she completed the courses the Township was able to place this title into the Municipal Code Book. It does not affect compensation; it gives the Township more options and flexibility. It is also another certification for the employee and improves the qualifications of that person.

A MOTION was made by Sandusky; seconded by Ryan to approve Ordinance 2011-17.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: Woolston Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-236

**QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT:
APPOINT SANDRA BLACKER**

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-237

**AMEND ROEBLING ACCOUNTS:
ADDING ACCOUNTS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-238

CANCEL TAX OVERPAYMENTS LESS THAN \$10.00

RESOLUTION 2011-239

**CANCEL TAXES ON A PROPERTY OWNED
BY FLORENCE TOWNSHIP**

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RESOLUTION 2011-240

**DENY RELEASE OF ESTATES AT CROSSROADS:
WATER & SEWER PERFORMANCE BOND**

RESOLUTION 2011-241

**DENY RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND:
ALBAX, LLC**

RESOLUTION 2011-242

**DENY RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BAND:
SCAMPORINO**

RESOLUTION 2011-243

REFUND WATER AND SEWER OVERPAYMENT

RESOLUTION 2011-244

BUDGET TRANSFERS

RESOLUTION 2011-245

CANCELLATION – BUDGET ITEM

RESOLUTION 2011-246

**2011 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROJECT:
EST. #2**

RESOLUTION 2011-247

**2011 PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:
EST. # 2 (Final) & CO #1**

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RESOLUTION 2011-248

**APPROVE BOND REDUCTION
HARKINS LANE PLAZA, LLC**

RESOLUTION 2011-249

REFUND WATER AND SEWER OVERPAYMENTS

RESOLUTION 2011-250

AMEND FLEXIBLE SPENDING PLAN

RESOLUTION 2011-251

**APPROVE THIRD PARTY:
DISBURSEMENT SERVICE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS**

RESOLUTION 2011-252

**APPROVE NEW BANK ACCOUNT:
FLEXIBLE SPENDING PLAN**

RESOLUTION 2011-253

**AWARD CONTRACT:
BASIN RENOVATIONS, WILBUR HENRY DRIVE
GIBERSON EXCAVATING**

RESOLUTION 2011-254

**OPPOSITION TO RATE INCREASE REQUESTED BY NEW JERSEY AMERICAN
WATER**

Mayor Berry explained that Resolution 2011-254 was added that night in response to a letter received from Freeholder Director Bruce Garganio. The Board of Chosen Freeholders asked for the Municipality to pass a resolution in opposition of the rate increase that was requested by

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New Jersey American Water. Although they do not serve Florence Township, Mayor Berry felt compelled to present the resolution for adoption so the Township will be able show the Board that the Township acted upon the Board's request.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Baldorossi to approve Resolutions 2011-236 to 2011-254.

On the Question: Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

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

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

Council Vice President Baldorossi wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

Council President O'Hara said he and everyone there seconded the thoughts.

Mayor: Nothing at this time.

Administrator:

Administrator Brook thanked Mayor and Council for their service to the residents. The administrator also requested a brief Closed Session to follow regarding tax appeals in the Township.

Council President O'Hara thanked Administrator Brook again for the pleasure of working with someone with such talent and dedication.

Assistant Municipal Administrator:

Assistant Administrator Sahol expressed his thanks for four years of working together.

Division of Law:

Township Solicitor William Kearns wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a successful new year.

Division of Engineering:

Township Engineer Dan Guzzi wished everyone a Happy Holiday and he said he will miss working with everyone.

Division of W & S Utilities: Nothing at this time.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Council President O'Hara referenced an e-mail sent by Assistant Administrator Sahol regarding the recreation vehicle parking lot on South Street. He commended Public Works on the good clean up job.

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained there are seven (7) vehicles parked there now, the area looks much better, the residents in the area commented on the improvement. He said it is a work in progress.

NEW BUSINESS: Nothing at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH: Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS: Nothing at this time.

9:00 PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

9:00 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

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