

140TH Anniversary of the Township of Florence

Florence, New Jersey
March 7, 2012

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 Sandusky at 7:00 PM. The children in attendance led the Flag Salute.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Advertised in Sunday, February 19th, 2012 edition of Burlington County Times. Given to the Register News on 2-15-12 for information; posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board on 2-15-12; posted on the Municipal web-site on 2-15-12 and on Channel 19.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Frank Baldorossi
Ted Lovenduski
David Woolston
Jerry Sandusky

Absent: Paul Ostrander

Also present:

Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Anthony Ogozalek, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

PRESENTATIONS

The Mayor announced that this evening was the *140th Anniversary* of the succession of Florence Township from Mansfield. He said he realized it fell on a Council Meeting night, so he wanted to do something special and honor people who have given much of their lives to Florence Township. He said they were here for the 100th Anniversary in 1972. The Mayor shared that he found a Centennial Newsletter from April 1973. He said at that time the celebration was a week long. He said it started with a parade with a dinner dance held after. He believed the dance was held in a big tent. He said he remembers hearing stories that the tent was blown over the night before and it took a great deal of work to put it back up and secure it. The first day of the celebration, Sunday, July 1, had a religious service in the afternoon and a performance by the Burlington County Pops Symphony Orchestra. The second day was Children's Day with a youth concert in the evening. July third was Heritage Day, and there was a Council Meeting held that day as well. On July 4th there was a speaker, a flag raising, a street dedication, a softball game, a band concert and fireworks.

He said he researched some of the Township's history and looked in old minutes, but there were no minutes for March 7, 1872 because the Township was not incorporated at that time.

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Mayor Wilkie checked the minutes from Mansfield Township and found information on the separation, there was an agreement put in place. He said Florence started as a resort town; there were activities on the river. R. D. Wood then built a foundry. In 1905 the Village of Roebbling was built. He said that as he looked at the history, he realized that there is a Council Member who has served for a very long time. Mayor Wilkie called upon Council President Sandusky to give the next presentation.

Council President Sandusky presented *Charles "Scoots" Adams* with Resolution 2012-71, A Resolution of the Township of Florence Honoring Charles "Scoots" Adams, a former Florence Township Committee Member, a Burlington County Freeholder and the first Township Administrator under the new form of government. Council President Sandusky commended Mr. Adams for reaching the age of 96 years. He then read the resolution to Mr. Adams and expressed his and the Township's appreciation for all that Mr. Adams had done for the town over the years.

Mr. Adams said when he started in local government the Township had ten council members and a Mayor. He said it was his pleasure to serve on the Township Committee. He said when the form of government changed to what it is today, it was a challenge but he enjoyed it. He thanked the Mayor and Council for the "very fine" resolution and for honoring him. He thanked all those in attendance for coming.

Council President Sandusky recognized in the audience former Mayor George Sampson, former Mayor Michael Muchowski and former Mayor William Berry. He said they all came out too see those being honored.

Council President Sandusky explained that Resolution 2012-70, a resolution of the Township of Florence Honoring *Norman P. Hamilton*, the former Township Clerk for thirty years, was to be presented to Mr. Hamilton tonight, but due to health issues he was unable to attend. Council President Sandusky read the resolution into the record.

Township Clerk Weiler delivered a message from Mr. Hamilton to Mayor Wilkie, former Mayor William Berry and former Mayor Michael Muchowski. Mr. Hamilton said he appreciated the honor and he relayed that he taught the three Mayors in his Civics Class. He said obviously they were listening; they have followed up by serving their community and he was very pleased and proud of them.

Oath of Office – Police Sergeant

Mayor Wilkie administered the Oath of Office to *Brian R. Young* for the position of *Police Sergeant* while friends and family looked on. Mayor Wilkie reminisced that when he was a substitute teacher he taught Mr. Young and developed a friendship with him. He said he was pleased that Mr. Young was hired.

Oath of Office – Chief Law Enforcement Officer

Mayor Wilkie administered the Oath of Office to *Alvin G. Scully* for the position of *Chief Law Enforcement Officer* as friends and family looked on. He said he has known Captain Scully for a number of years.

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PRESENTATION: RETIREMENT - CHIEF OF POLICE STEPHEN FAZEKAS

Mayor Wilkie called on former Mayor William Berry to present a retirement clock to Chief Fazekas.

Former Mayor Berry said he was honored to be asked to present the clock. He said four years ago he and the Chief came into their positions as Mayor and Chief together. He said they became like brothers. He said Chief Fazekas led an outstanding department. He said that he has called the Chief by many names, but always he called him "friend." He said the Chief did fill the big shoes and ran a great department.

Detective James Ford, President of FOP Lodge 210 congratulated Sergeant Young and Chief Law Enforcement Officer Scully for jobs well done and positions well earned. He said everyone present was here to recognize not only a Chief of Police but a law enforcement career that spanned twenty-five years. He said that meant the impact of that on one's life is something that does deserve recognition. He noted that the department progressed under his leadership and the Chief faced many challenges during his career and met them with success. Det. Ford presented a plaque to the Chief from the FOP Lodge.

Council President Sandusky presented Lorraine Fazekas, wife of the Chief, with flowers. He acknowledged and thanked her for the support she gave her husband over the years.

Administrator Brook noted that police work is a difficult job; officers do not know what to expect each day when they leave home for work. He said they are all very special people. He said the police make our society better and he thanked them for all they do. He congratulated Chief Law Enforcement Officer Scully and Sergeant Young on their positions and wished them luck.

Administrator Brook said he expected Chief Fazekas to be wearing "Giants Colors" at the meeting; his office was decorated in red, blue and white on his last day. It was a shock for a man that "bleeds" Eagles green. Administrator Brook said what struck him most about the Chief was his humanity. He genuinely cares about people and especially his family. He treasures his entire family. When it comes to his officers he is always worried. He is proud of them and said the Chief always said he was very fortunate to have the police force he did. The community was fortunate to have him for his twenty five year career, and Administrator Brook thanked the Chief for his tireless service to the community.

Amy and Abbey Wilkie, daughters of Mayor Wilkie, had picked out a gift to present to the Chief; they presented him with a Philly Phanatic.

Council President Sandusky also had gifts to present to the Chief. He gave the Chief a children's fishing pole and Little Tykes plastic golf clubs in case he needed something to do with his new found free time, and a pair of socks in case he got a "hole-in-one."

Mayor Wilkie opened the meeting to the audience.

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Elizabeth Wargo, an employee of the Police Department, expressed her gratitude for being able to work with the “nicest Chief” and she wished the Chief the best in his retirement.

Valerie Sweeney, a former Township employee, said that the Chief has a wonderful family and he is a true gentleman, but she wanted to make sure everyone knew he was from Roebling.

Darlene Taylor, also a former employee, said it meant a lot to her when the Chief came to the hospital to support her when her husband was very ill. She really appreciated that.

Scott Arnold, a member of the emergency squad, thanked Chief Fazekas for being a friend and a mentor to him.

Chief Fazekas thanked his parents, his three sisters, his wife and daughters for all of their support. He thanked Administrator Brook for being such a supportive boss.

He thanked his “right hand man” and best friend, Captain Scully. He extended his congratulations to Sergeant Young in his new position. He said he has worked with Sergeant Domenique Golden for over twenty years and thanked him for making them very good years. He recalled that Sergeant Greenberg was a detective when he made Chief. Chief Fazekas said that Sergeant Greenberg and Detective Jacoby did an excellent job and Detective James Ford also does a great job in the Department. He said he remembered many years ago when he started as a police officer he was a coach for the Catholic Youth Organization Basketball Team. He remembers having Sergeant Brian Boldizar and Patrolman TJ Sadar on his first team along with Sergeant Mauro Correnti. He also reminisced that Officer Anthony Cardone was his first hire; he mentioned each of his officers and thanked them for being a wonderful department to lead. He said he appreciated his time with them and thanked each member of the force for all that they had done for him.

Chief Fazekas thanked Mayor and Council for all of their support. He wished them good luck. He especially thanked Council President Sandusky for all that he has done for the Chief through the years in the Fire Department and in his role as law enforcement officer. He thanked all of the retired officers who came to the meeting tonight. He also recognized the members of the fire department there tonight. He said that in good times and bad everyone came together as a family. *(Note: There was a brief recess for a small reception and refreshments.)*

MINUTES

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

Township Council Executive Session – February 8, 2012

Township Council Regular Session – January 18, 2012 and February 1, 2012

Township Council Closed Session – February 8, 2012, February 15, 2012 and February 22, 2012

Township Council Special Budget Session – February 29, 2012

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FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Reports to receive and file

It was on the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Lovenduski to receive and file the Court Administrator and Chief of Police Reports for February and the Tax Collector's Report of Receipts for 2011.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ostrander Motion carried.

Treasurer's Bill List

It was on the MOTION of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to approve the Treasurer's Bill List.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ostrander Motion carried

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

A. Florence Township Volunteer Fire Co. #1 Easter Egg Hunt, April 7, 2012

H. Kenneth Wilkie Memorial Park, 10:00 am

B. Social Affair Permit: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, April 20, 2012

C. Night at the Races: Florence Township Civic Association, April 20, 2012

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 6:00 pm – 12:00 am

D. Raffles, 50/50 and On Site: Florence Township Civic Association, April 27-28, 2012

Relay for Life, Florence High School 6:00pm – 12:00 pm

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Lovenduski to approve the applications.

On the question

Council President Sandusky abstained from applications B, C & D because he is a member of the Florence Township Civic Association.

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Upon roll call to approve Application A Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Woolston, Sandusky
NOES: None
ABSENT: Ostrander
ABSTAIN: None Motion carried.

Upon roll call vote to approve Applications B, C and D Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Woolston
NOES: None
ABSENT: Ostrander
ABSTAIN: Sandusky Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Former Mayor Michael Muchowski, 1337 Maple Avenue, voiced being upset that he was called with very short notice to attend a town hall style meeting with Governor Chris Christie. He felt other former Mayors of Florence Township were notified earlier. He said he will not be able to attend because of work commitments.

Mayor Wilkie apologized that the call was so close to the event, but said the calls were all made that day. He said there was no intent to call anyone later than someone else.

Former Mayor Muchowski said it is important to be united and fair to everyone and not divided by party lines when representing the Township.

It was on the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Lovenduski to close the public portion of the meeting. Roll call vote – all ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-70
A RESOLUTION
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
HONORING NORMAN P. HAMILTON**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-71
A RESOLUTION
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
HONORING CHARLES “SCOOTS” ADAMS**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-72
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE FOR ORGANIZING AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE
FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-73
APPROVE AN INTERLOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT
WITH BURLINGTON CITY, BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP AND
FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FOR
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012 – 74
RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES CALCULATION
2012 BUDGET**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-75
INTRODUCE 2012 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-76
AWARD CONTRACT FOR SLI-K200 OR
EQUIVALENT LIQUID CORROSION INHIBITOR**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-77
AWARD CONTRACT FOR SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE
SOLUTION - BULK
TO MIRACLE CHEMICAL COMPANY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-78
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON
RESOLUTION CONSTITUTING 2012 TEMPORARY CAPITAL BUDGET**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-79
AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF PROSECUTOR**

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**RESOLUTION 2012-80
AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-81
AUTHORIZE APPOINTMENT OF
CONFLICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
James D. Fattorini, Esq.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-82
AUTHORIZING REFUNDS OF CERTAIN TAX OVERPAYMENTS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-83
DENY RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE BOND
GREENBRIAR HORIZON, SECTION 1**

It was on the motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Lovenduski, to approve Resolution Nos. 2012-70 through 2012-83.

On the question

Nothing at this time

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ostrander Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 2012-07

(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing and Adoption)

An Ordinance of the Township Of Florence Amending the Florence Township Code, Chapter 5-2 on Committees and to Establish a term of service for Emeritus Members serving on the Economic Development Committee

Council President opened the meeting to the public for comments on Ordinance 2012-07.

All residents having an opportunity to be heard, a MOTION was made by Woolston, seconded by Lovenduski to close the public hearing.

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A MOTION was made by Lovenduski, seconded by Baldorossi to adopt Ordinance 2012-07.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Woolston, Sandusky
NOES: None
ABSENT: Ostrander Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-08

(1st Reading) (Hearing and Adoption 3/21/12)

An Ordinance Of The Township Of Florence, In The County Of Burlington, New Jersey, Providing For Improvements to the Township's Streets and Roads and Related Expenses in and for the Township and Appropriating \$50,000 to Fund the same

A MOTION was made by Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2012-08 and set the public hearing and adoption for March 21, 2012.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Woolston, Sandusky
NOES: None
ABSENT: Ostrander Motion carried

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-09

(1st Reading) (Public Hearing and Adoption 3/21/12)

Ordinance Appropriating \$88,000 from the Capital Surplus Fund for Acquisition of Two (2) Tahoes and Accessory Equipment for the Police Department in and by the Township of Florence, in the County of Burlington, New Jersey

A Motion was made by Woolston, seconded by Lovenduski to approve Ordinance 2012-09 on first reading and set the public hearing and adoption for Mach 21, 2012.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Woolston, Sandusky
NOES: None
ABSENT: Ostrander Motion carried

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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION

Mayor:

Mayor Wilkie presented the members of the **Economic Development Committee**. He said the Emeritus positions were created specifically for those who served for many years. He nominated Joan Geary and Marvin Wainwright for Emeritus positions on the Committee. He said for the remaining seats on the board, he nominated: Emma Cartier, B. Michael Zekas, Newell Kehr, Tara Sandusky, Thomas McCue, and Kevin Minton.

A Motion was made by Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to approve the appointments to the Economic Development Committee. All Ayes – Motion carried.

Mayor Wilkie said the Township advertised for an Insurance Broker and met with three brokers to look over the available options. One broker offered a program that is no cost to the Township. The broker, AJM Associates, will review the history of the Township and present their findings and recommendations when the review is complete. A resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Mayor Wilkie thanked Council for moving forward with the 2012 Budget. He explained it is a difficult situation and in going over the budget one thing to look at is containing costs and one place is the State Health Benefits. There was an increase in Debt Service this year and it will remain for the next four years. The budget decreased, but the debt service creates an increase.

Mayor Wilkie said he received a call from Governor Chris Christie's office informing him that the Township was selected as a site of a **Town Hall Meeting**. He said the office asked for a large building, not a school, so the Mayor offered the Roebing Firemen's Hall. He thanked everyone for coming together and working so hard to make the visit a success. He said late this afternoon he received a call from the Governor's Office asking for a list of those who would be attending "In Honor." He said this is why the calls inviting local officials were so late. He again apologized to former Mayor Muchowski. He said he did not want to make it a political event. He said he toured the facility and it looked great. He said the last time a Governor came to Florence was when Richard Hughes was in office.

Mayor Wilkie announced that the Florence Historical Society was holding an open house on March 25 from 1pm to 4pm. He explained it will be held at the Firehouse on West Third Street in Florence. He said there was an article about the event in the Register-News.

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There will be artifacts on display, old yearbooks to peruse; there will be much memorabilia to see. He said the building was used for town meetings until the Township began using the old hotel. He noted that it is great the Historical Society is preserving the building for the community.

Administrator:

Administrator Brook said there was an article he noticed that said State Police are aware how many local police officers are being laid off and fired from their jobs. There are going to be opportunities in the future for individuals to attend the Police Academy. Municipalities will be able to contact the state and ask to come to your township to hold a meeting to recruit.

Assistant Administrator:

Nothing at this time.

Division of Law:

Nothing at this time.

Division of Engineering:

Nothing at this time.

Division of Water and Sewer

Nothing at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council President Sandusky opened the meeting to the public again at this time.

Fred Wainwright, 1011 Cedar Lane, said in 1995 he became the Mayor of Mansfield. He said he found the minutes from Mansfield from the 1700's and he remembered reading the Florence section was growing so fast something had to be done and it would be best to separate it.

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He said they were all reprinted and rebound if anyone would like to go look at them.

8:15 PM MOTION by Lovendusky, seconded by Woolston to adjourn.

Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

8:15 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

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