

Florence, New Jersey
February 19, 2014

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 Lovenduski at 8:00 PM. President Lovenduski led the Salute to the Flag.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was sent to the Register News for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board; placed on the web-site on January 9, 2014; and advertised in the Burlington Co. Times on January 12, 2014.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Paul Ostrander
Jerry Sandusky
David Woolston
Ted Lovenduski

Absent: Frank Baldorossi (slipped & fell on ice) & Kelly Grant, Esq. (broke her foot).

Also present:

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

MINUTES

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

- Township Council Work Session – December 11, 2013

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Ostrander to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi Motion carried.

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REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

**A. Off-Premise 50/50, Florence Twp. Civic Assn., May 26, 2014
Coates Field Concession Stand, 711 Broad Street, 5:00pm**

**B. Social Affair – Mt. Laurel FOP Lodge, March 15, 2014
Main Street Community Center, Roebling, 7:00pm – 12:00am.**

It was the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Sandusky to approve applications A and B. Roll call vote - All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, thanked the Public Works Department for doing their best to clear the roads of snow, but he was upset that his driveway was plowed in multiple times after he shoveled it out. Council President Lovenduski explained it is not on purpose, they try to get closer with each pass and it piles up. Mr. Kamienski asked if he should put his car at the end of his driveway. Mayor Wilkie advised that was not a good idea because the plows will go around and plow the car in. Mayor Wilkie said he waits until the plowing is done to shovel. It is unfortunate that it has been a rough winter.

Jack Ulmer, 200 West Front Street, asked if there is a way to require that sidewalks be cleared? He said it is difficult to walk. Council President Lovenduski said the last snow storm left a lot of snow and it is not going away any time soon. It has been one storm after another. He said he would hope the homeowners would clear the walks.

Councilman Sandusky said he thinks Mayor and Council need to look into the properties that are owned by banks and other companies that are not doing anything when it snows. He would like to see an ordinance that would address all abandoned properties and not only for snow but for other maintenance issues as well. He noted there was a commercial property on Hornberger Avenue that was vacant but was plowed. He wanted to know who did it. If it was the township, he would like a bill to be sent. He said the vacant properties that are just sitting are the ones that the township needs to address.

Administrator Brook said there are pros and cons to having a snow ordinance. There are issues to consider, such as the elderly and others who can't shovel. Councilman Sandusky said he was really concerned about empty businesses.

Mayor Wilkie said business owners have a responsibility to take care of their business even if the area with snow is not their property. In order for the customers to get to the business, the owner has to maintain the area.

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Also, people need to help each other. Sometimes we need to remind people to be neighborly and help out where they can.

Councilman Sandusky agrees but he does not think a business owner should have to take care of vacant properties. He would like to see some enforcement. If clean-up is done by someone else, there would be a lien on the property. Mayor Wilkie said that it is possible but he thinks the snow may have been dumped in areas from other places.

Mayor Wilkie said there will be future discussions about the condition of properties and enforcing and implementing the laws.

Joseph Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, asked if there was a way to clear some snow away from intersections where it is blocking the view of traffic? He asked if the snow could be dumped into the river? Mayor Wilkie explained that a few years ago the township did dump in the river and the DEP and EPA threatened to fine the township if it continued.

It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-01

**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AUTHORIZING THE
EXECUTION OF A LEASE BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AND THE
FLORENCE TOWNSHIP YACHT CLUB REGARDING
THE LEASE OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL LANDS
(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adopt)**

It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander to open the public hearing of Ordinance No. 2014-01.

Seeing no one wishing to comment, it was the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Ostrander to close the public hearing.

It was the Motion of Woolston, seconded by Ostrander to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-01.

Councilman Sandusky abstained from voting because he is a member of the Yacht Club.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

ABSTAIN: Sandusky

Motion carried.

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**ORDINANCE 2014-02
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**

(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

(1st Reading) (Public Hearing and Adoption 03/05/14)

Administrator Brook explained this is a basic budget ordinance that is done every year. The State of New Jersey has expenditures for municipalities that are considered to be “in cap,” others are considered to be outside the cap. In cap expenditures are decided by the State. It allows a municipality to adopt an ordinance that allows the town to expand the expenditure numbers if there is a need in the future. The township does the ordinance every year but has never had to expand up to the amount of the cap limit. It is more to protect the township. The township is \$1 million under what it can budget. He said this is standard operating practice.

It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander to approve Ordinance No. 2014-02 and set the public hearing and adoption for March 5, 2014.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-59

Increase Temporary Budget Appropriations for 2014

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-60

**Authorizing Online Auction
with Govdeals
for Disposal of Municipal Property**

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-61

**Authorizing a Lease Agreement with
Florence Township Yacht Club**

Council President Lovenduski said that regarding Resolution No. 2014-60, the auction will begin on March 4, 2014.

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It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander to approve Resolution No. 2014-59 and 2014-60.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carried.

It was the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution No. 2014-61.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

ABSTAIN: Sandusky

Motion carried.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

Council President Sandusky said the incinerator project proposed in Bristol, Pennsylvania had been withdrawn. He will keep everyone updated if there is any change.

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie said there is a **proclamation** that will be presented to **James Alexander** for his **100th birthday**. The proclamation was read into the record. The Mayor and some members of Council will present the proclamation on **Tuesday, February 25, 2014** around 5:30pm at Mr. Alexander's residence.

There was a fire at the PSE&G building in Burlington. Burlington's Office of Emergency Management said there are no harmful chemicals in the air.

This Saturday the **Roebing Museum** is holding a **Kids Create Bridge Festival**. It is being held from 11:00am-4:00pm.

On February 23, 2014 there will be a **grand opening** for **Highlights Hair Salon**. It is at 12:30pm at the old firehouse on Delaware Avenue.

On March 5, 2014 there will be a **Patriotic Day Parade meeting at 6:00pm** at the Municipal Building. The **Patriotic Celebration** is scheduled for **July 12, 2014**.

On March 12, 2014 the insurance fund the township belongs to will be holding a meeting at Charlie's Other Brother. There is a credit against the premium for attendance. There will be no Council meeting on March 12. Mayor and Council will be attending the meeting.

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Administrator:

Administrator Brook said Police Chief Alvin Scully informed him that one of Florence's police officers, **Michelle Hollins**, was selected to sing the **National Anthem** at a national ceremony honoring fallen officers. The event will be held in Washington, D.C. in May. Officer Hollins has a phenomenal voice and it is an honor that she was chosen. Florence Township is proud of her.

An e-mail was received from Jennifer Bongiorno, the resident who spoke at a meeting recently about **pediatric stroke awareness**. She is planning a **fundraiser** dinner on **Friday, May 2, 2014** at 6:30.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

Buy Local/Burlington County Buck Program

Assistant Administrator Sahol said the program tries to encourage people to buy local. He and Martin Eckert, Recreation Coordinator, attended the kick off meeting. One of the programs is a Burlington County Bucks card. It is something that can be used in any participating business in Burlington County. There are already three or four businesses in our area that are interested in participating. Florence Township would like to make it easier for local businesses. To do that, Florence could host a Change Fund Location. A business could accept the cards at its location and then redeem them for cash here from our account. Burlington County would make the funds whole. There would need to be a one-time charge to the Economic Development account. The administrators of the fund would be Assistant Administrator Sahol and Mr. Eckert. A resolution would be needed.

Mayor Wilkie said he discussed this topic at an Economic Development meeting. He hopes the cards will draw people working in the area into the local businesses.

Division of Law:

Council President Lovenduski noted that Kelly Grant, the Township Attorney, broke her foot and could not attend the meeting this evening.

Division of Engineering: Nothing at this time.

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

Unfinished Business: Nothing at this time.

New Business: Nothing at this time.

Board of Health: Nothing at this time.

Miscellaneous: Nothing at this time.

Public Comments: Open to the Public

Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to close the public comment. Roll call vote – all ayes.

8:30 PM MOTION by Sandusky; seconded by Ostrander to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

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ADJOURNMENT:

8:30 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

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