

Florence, New Jersey
August 6, 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:

Frank Baldorossi
Paul Ostrander
Jerry Sandusky
David Woolston
Ted Lovenduski

Also present:

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

PROCLAMATION: Curtis Thompson, Team USA

Mayor Wilkie called Curtis Thomson and his parents to the front of the room. He was presented with a Proclamation that was read by Mayor Wilkie. It highlighted his many athletic accomplishments. He said he has high hopes for Curtis and it was a possibility that Curtis could bring home medals from the 2016 Olympics. He wished Curtis well on his future at Mississippi State where he is starting school in two weeks. He proclaimed that **Saturday, August 9, 2014** would be **Curtis Thompson Day** and invited Council and the community to celebrate all of Curtis' athletic and scholastic achievements.

Council President Lovenduski presented Mrs. Thompson with flowers as a thank you for raising such a well-rounded, talented young man. Mayor Wilkie and Township Council congratulated Mr. Thompson, as well.

Curtis thanked the Mayor and Council for the honor. He said he hoped he would be able to continue to make everyone proud and he will work hard to achieve that.

Mayor Wilkie said even though he has accomplished so much, Curtis is still a very humble person. That is just one of his great qualities.

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He said he is proud that he and the community can continue to support Curtis and he hoped Curtis stayed in touch and would provide updates.

At this time there was a five minute recess: 8:22 PM – 8:27 PM

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander, to receive and file the Township Clerk’s Report for July and Tax Collector’s Report for Tax and Water & Sewer for June. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

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

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried. Unanimously approved.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

- A. Off-Premise Merchandise Raffle, Dec. 1, 2014, 6:30pm-9:00pm, Florence Township Football Association, Riverfront School

- B. Block Party: The Estates at Crossroads, Saturday, Sept. 6 (9-13-14 rain date)
4:00 pm – 9:00 pm

It was the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky to approve the application.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Laura Astor, 3 Amboy Avenue, expressed her concerns about an incident that occurred in her neighborhood the weekend before. She described what happened and said she is concerned and would like the police to increase patrols in the area.

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Mayor Wilkie said that Acting Chief Bunce had briefed Mayor and Council this evening regarding the incidents over the weekend and the area in general. There have been steps taken to correct the situation, including increased patrols.

Frances Jones, Amboy Avenue, said he does not believe there are increased patrols because he does not see an increased police presence.

Council President Lovenduski said some of the increased presence may not be seen but that does not mean it is not there.

Ms. Astor was not comfortable with not being able to identify the police officers. Mayor Wilkie noted that there is an on-going investigation and sometimes the presence does not want to be seen.

He said other than the incident the prior weekend, it has been a typical summer in the area. He said there are certain properties that have individuals that cause problems and the police are aware of them and are taking steps to abate the problems.

Ms. Astor noted the people that came from the house party that evening did damage to property in the area that needed to be repaired.

Cindy Brown, 47 Amboy Avenue, questioned the amount of back up that came to the area of the incident over the weekend. She said there is a big drug dealing problem in the area and she would like to see more foot patrols. She noted the police did respond to the area.

Joseph Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, said he remembered as a child seeing "beat cops" that were foot patrols. Each had their own area they patrolled on foot.

Jean Gregas, 49 Amboy Avenue, said she has lived in the area for many years and has watched it deteriorate into a "ghetto."

Patricia Hammell, 18 Amboy Avenue, said there are trees in the alley that are blocking vehicles from getting through the alley. There are also drug deals that occur there. She said the trees needed to be removed. Mayor Wilkie said he would have Assistant Administrator Sahol look into the issue with the trees and what the options are to take care of the problem.

Kim Bernardon, 23 Amboy Avenue, said she purchased her home in 2007. She is unable to sell the house because of the problems in the neighborhood and the condition of area properties. She said there are properties that have trash all over and are not kept up. She worried about the possibility of rodents. Administrator Brook said he would meet with her to discuss the issues and determine if the Burlington County Board of Health needed to be contacted.

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Ms. Astor said the parking lot by the park is not being maintained. The trees and bushes are becoming overgrown. Mayor Wilkie agreed it needs to be maintained; he will discuss it with the Public Works Department.

Council Member Sandusky said Mayor and Council have been briefed by the police department and there would be some changes in the area. He encouraged the residents to notify Mayor and Council if there is no improvement. During his many years on Council, there have been certain “hot spots” in town that were improved. He assured the residents it will be taken care of. He said there is attention being paid to the Amboy Avenue area, but he is not at liberty to discuss it because there is an active investigation.

Ms. Brown said there are also problems at Roebing Park on Riverside Avenue in Roebing. She said people are going there at night and smoking, drinking, doing drugs and selling drugs.

Council President Lovenduski said he will forward the information and asked that the residents let the Mayor and Council know if these issues do not improve.

It was the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to close the public comments. Roll call vote - All ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-160

Extension of Time for Payment of Tax Bills

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-161

**Refund of Permit Fee as per
Construction Code Official
124 Delaware Avenue**

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-162

**Refund of Permit Fee as per
Construction Code Official
ADT Security**

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-163

**Approve Current Payment No. 1 for
2013/2014 Road Project
Richard T. Barrett Paving Company, Inc.**

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It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander to approve Resolution Nos. 2014-160 through 2014-163.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried. Unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

Mayor

The Annual Roebing Museum Car Show was held on July 26, from 10am – 3pm. It was a nice event, despite the little bit of rain.

He said the fall recreation sports programs have started practicing.

He was concerned with what is happening in certain areas. The weather has been beautiful and that means people are out. It is unfortunate that there are people causing trouble.

Administrator

Administrator Brook said the CFO, Sandra Blacker, sold \$2,500,000 worth of Tax Anticipation Notes. The interest was one (1) percent.

Christine Swiderski, the Tax Collector, recently held the **Tax Sale**. He said she did an excellent job. It was the first time she had run the sale since taking the position.

He said the Assistant Administrator was going to contact PSE&G to see if it was possible to increase lighting in the Amboy Avenue area. That could help deter some of the mischief.

Mayor Wilkie explained that there are continuous issues with 73 Amboy Avenue because there is an absentee landlord. The landlord has been cited numerous times. Regarding the incident over the weekend, charges have been filed against four individuals and there may be more filed in the near future. The police do keep a presence in the area. Administrator Brook offered to get contact information from the residents and have the Police Chief or the Captain call them. He wants to assure everyone that steps are being taken to correct the problems in that area.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

Assistant Administrator Sahol said the entrance from **Route 130 to Hornberger Avenue** is scheduled to open this coming Saturday night, August 9, 2014. He said the project has taken a long time (two years) and it was really good news for the community.

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The Department of Transportation advised that because of safety issues, vehicles cannot pass through the median off **Route 130 South** to enter the entrance of the new **Burlington Coat Factory** facility. Signage will be posted.

Division of Law: Nothing at this time.

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.

NOTE: At this time, Solicitor Grant left the meeting.

MINUTES

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

- Township Council Executive/Regular Session – July 9, 2014
- Township Council Regular Session – July 16, 2014
- Township Council Closed Session – July 9, 2014
- Township Council Special Session – July 30, 2014

NOTE: Solicitor Grant returned to the meeting.

Public Comments: Open to the Public

Council President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public at this time.

Ms. Hammell said she heard there was a robbery on West Third Street. She suggested if that was the case, perhaps a flier should have been distributed to make residents aware. Administrator Brook said if there were a string of related robberies the neighborhood would be made aware.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, it was the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to close the public portion of the meeting.

8:58 PM MOTION by Ostrander; seconded by Sandusky to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:58 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk
/aek