

Florence, New Jersey  
October 15, 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

(Frank Baldorossi absent due to illness)

Also present:

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

### MINUTES

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

- Township Council Regular Session – September 3, 2014
- Township Council Closed Session – October 8, 2014

### FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky, to receive and file the Court Administrator and Township Clerk's reports for October. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

It was on the MOTION of Woolston; seconded by Sandusky 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.

## **Florence Township Council Regular Session 10/15/14**

**REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**APPLICATIONS:** None

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

David Bemiss, 17 Abrams Drive, inquired about a tax break for disabled veterans. He wanted to know if it was a percentage for tax relief? Administrator Brook said he believes disabled veterans do qualify for relief. Administrator Brook said he will verify with the Tax Collector and get back to him.

Mr. Bemiss said he realized the police need to have good equipment but questioned having 15 or 20 police cars for a town this small. Council President Lovenduski said the cars are rotated; they cannot be run 24/7. Mayor Wilkie said the town has a population of 12,000. There are three to five police officers on a shift. If they only run one vehicle for the whole shift, the mileage accumulates quickly and it is not highway miles. During the budget process the township knows it has to buy new vehicles. The question is when to retire them. Administrator Brook said when a vehicle is no longer up to par for police use it then goes to Public Works or Water and Sewer. It will be run until it is unsafe or it just cannot run anymore. He said the Township just got rid of a 1996 Jeep. The two big dump trucks are 1990. The township will purchase two vehicles a year. For police the Tahoes are used because a majority of the officers are certified EMT's. When they respond first to a scene, there is equipment available for them to lend assistance to someone in need before the squad gets there.

John Chester, 15 Abrams Drive, asked if there was a solid plan or schedule for getting the roads in Legacy paved? He asked the status of the punchlist items? Administrator Brook said the Mayor and Council have an overview. The township went out and commissioned a report on the sidewalks and had the concrete tested. Administrator Brook gave a copy of the report to Mr. Chester to review. Administrator Brook said it concludes two different things. It could be the method and the quality of the concrete work and the way that it was done. It could also be the de-icing materials that were used. Administrator Brook met with William Buechele from Guzzi Engineering to discuss it. Administrator Brook asked him if the township would be successful if it sued the developer over this particular point? Litigation would delay the paving. Mr. Brook did not think the township would win and it would be in litigation for months to come. The Homeowner's Association would be pulled into the litigation; the residents of the development would be paying for the litigation twice. The developer would claim the de-icing materials hastened the deterioration of the sidewalk.

Administrator Brook approached the developer and said the township would like him to finish paving the streets and do the base repairs and finish his as-built plans. The township would require him to fix any portion of concrete that was dangerous or a hazard. The Municipality knew it would be responsible for malfunctions in the concrete that create a safety hazard in the future. He provided a copy of the report to the developer. There is only one goal and it is to get the development finished.

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 10/15/14**

There was a snag over the last couple of the weeks. The plans for the gazebo area were poorly done. He spoke to Mr. Buechele about the quality of the drainage leaving the site. It would go to the two neighbors on either end. The developer finally provided an acceptable plan. The as-built plans for the sewer and the roads were in the process of being finished. The township is in a very secure legal position with respect to getting the streets paved. The developer has promised to do everything possible to get them done this year. Administrator Brook was keeping the Homeowners Association advised and would provide his e-mail address to any residents that had questions. Florence Township does not give in easy and does not quit but there needs to be a reasonable chance of success.

It was the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Sandusky to close the public portion. Roll call - all ayes.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-207**

**Adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-208**

**Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a  
Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of the Township of Florence,  
County of Burlington, Pursuant to N.J.S.40A:4-87  
(Waste Management Contribution)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-209**

**A Resolution of the Township of Florence  
Accepting the Dedication of Independence Road  
For Public Use**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-210**

**Reject Bids for Library Roof Replacement and Related Work and  
Authorize Preparation of Plans, Specifications and  
Obtain Bids for the Project**

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 10/15/14**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-211**

**Authorize the Township Water & Sewer Engineer to  
Prepare Plans, Specifications and Solicit Bids for  
The Rehabilitation of Wells No. 3 & No. 4**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-212**

**Authorizing Refunds of Certain Tax Overpayments**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-213**

**Authorizing the Issuance of a Duplicate Tax Sale Certificate  
Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:5-52.1**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-214**

**Authorizing the Issuance of a Duplicate Tax Sale Certificate  
Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:5-52.1**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-215**

**Authorize Refund  
Use of FAAD Building Fee  
Due to the Event Being Cancelled**

It was the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution Nos. 2014-207 through 2014-215.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carried.

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 10/15/14**

**ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2014-22**

**A BOND ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE,  
IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY  
PROVIDING FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF  
\$400,000 TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TOWNSHIP'S  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IN AND FOR THE  
TOWNSHIP, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF  
\$400,000 IN WATER AND SEWER UTILITY BONDS OR  
NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE SAME  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Reading) (Public Hearing and Adoption)**

Administrator Brook said the township is taking two old digesters and rehabilitating them so they can be utilized to make the plant run more efficiently. They will be converted to holding tanks and will also be able to be used in an emergency. They will help the township to better meet its permit requirements of the 2.5 million gallons per day. It is a very cost efficient move to make an upgrade at the sewer plant that will leave the township in good shape for a minimum of fifteen to twenty years.

It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to open the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2014-22. Seeing no one wishing to be heard it was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander to close the public hearing.

It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-22.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

AYES: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 2014-23**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY  
KNOWN AS BLOCK 165.03, LOTS 5.09 AND 5.10  
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE  
FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PURPOSES  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)**

## Florence Township Council Regular Session 10/15/14

Assistant Administrator Sahol said over the summer Council adopted an Ordinance to purchase a property on Potts Mill Road that was about six acres for \$235,000 for the purposes of open space, recreation and to support some community groups. There was a typographical error in the Ordinance. The intent of the Ordinance is the same; the Ordinance is being done again to clarify the block and lot. It re-memorializes what was done in the summer.

It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander to open the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2014-23. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander to close the public hearing. Roll call – all ayes.

It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-23.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

AYES: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carried.

## REPORTS

### Committees, Boards and Officers

#### Administration

##### Mayor

Mayor Wilkie said over the past weekend there were some especially nice events. **St. Nicholas Byzantine Church** celebrated their **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** and it was a very nice service. The sanctuary was redone and it was blessed by their Bishop. The dinner that followed was very well attended.

On Sunday **St. Stephen's Church** had a **blessing** for the **police, fire, and EMS** including the new vehicles. It was nicely attended and represented by all. An excellent breakfast followed that was prepared by Council Member Sandusky.

The **Fire Prevention Show** was last Friday night and there was good attendance. The **Fire House** will be hosting a **Halloween Party** for the public on Sunday, October 26 for children up to age 10.

On **October 24<sup>th</sup> Pulte** will be holding a **special event** that is being kept a secret because it is a surprise. It is scheduled for 10:00am. He asked that some representatives of Council attend. Council President Lovenduski also has a prior commitment where he will be representing Council.

October 25<sup>th</sup> the **Riverfront School** will be holding its **Annual Fall Festival**. It was well attended last year. In the evening the **Riverbank Charter School** is having a **Halloween** function from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Mayor and Council have been asked to be judges. Council Members Ostrander and Lovenduski are able to attend.

## Florence Township Council Regular Session 10/15/14

He thanked Council for the Ordinances and Resolutions that were just approved.

He reminded everyone that the **Florence Fire Department** was having its **hoagie sale** this weekend.

### Administrator

Administrator Brook said in the last packet there was a report from Burlington County on the **Florence Township Municipal Court**. It was an excellent report as usual. He commended the staff of the Court Office. **Patty Mellor** does an excellent job as a department head. The reports always come back that Florence runs a superior court. It is not easy.

One of the Public Works employees, **Butch Marshall**, turned **seventy**. He could be described as a colorful character, but Butch is an extremely nice person who does a fantastic job in the street sweeper and collecting leaves. He is an asset to the Public Works Department.

### Assistant Municipal Administrator

Assistant Administrator Sahol said three **grant applications** were submitted yesterday. They were the **sidewalks grant**, the **road program** and the **bikeway extension**. Florence Township is also eligible to apply now for grants starting next year for the **Community Development Block Grants**. He is working on the census data map now to see what the eligible project areas are. The township is automatically eligible for handicapped accessibility improvements. That can be anywhere in the community. He will be providing a memo with some recommendations as to how to proceed. There were areas identified in the past that the township should continue to work through until they are complete.

The township was awarded a **\$135,000 grant** for the purpose of **park rehabilitation**. He will provide a recommendation as to which two parks will be done. The application was for four parks and the township was approved for a certain amount of funding that will cover two parks. If all goes well there would be a Resolution in November authorizing the State Contract purchase to provide for the material and installation at the parks. Some of the preliminary work would be done in the fall. In the spring the park would be on-line with the new safety surface material for the children.

**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:** None at this time.

**New Business:** Nothing at this time.

**Board of Health:** Nothing at this time.

**Miscellaneous:** None at this time.

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 10/15/14**

**Public Comments: Open to the Public**

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

Fred Wainwright, 1011 Cedar Lane, said he has been trying to get some trees that are a hazard removed. Contractors won't touch the trees because they are too close to the lines. Assistant Administrator Sahol said he will talk to PSE&G about at least trimming them to clear it for a contractor to remove the trees.

Council Member Sandusky said when the tractors went through Florence it was a really nice event. If it happens again next year, there should be more advertising. The kids would love to see the tractors. Mr. Wainwright said he believes it goes through different towns every year.

It was noted that **Mr. Wainwright and his wife** celebrated their **60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**. Everyone congratulated them.

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

8:27 PM MOTION by Sandusky; seconded by Woolston to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:27 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER  
Township Clerk

/aek