

Florence, New Jersey
February 4, 2015

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 8:00 PM. President Sandusky led the Salute to the Flag.

A **Moment of Silence** was held to remember Council Member Frank Baldorossi's father, **Francis K. "Chick" Baldorossi**, who recently passed.

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 8, 2015; and advertised in the Burlington Co. Times on January 11, 2015.

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Ted Lovenduski, Paul Ostrander, David Woolston, Jerry Sandusky

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

Oath of Office – Patrolman Paul Wright

Mayor Wilkie said it was his pleasure to call forward Officer Wright. He also called for Acting Chief John Bunce and Elizabeth Wuelfing to hold the Bible.

Mayor Wilkie said the Fire Department was also represented. Officer Wright is very active in the Fire Department. The Fire Chiefs sent their regards but were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

Mayor Wilkie administered the Oath of Office to Officer Wright.

Acting Chief Bunce thanked Mayor Wilkie and Council for the opportunity to have Officer Wright join the ranks of the Police Department. Acting Chief Bunce stated that Officer Wright is definitely an asset to the department.

Acting Chief Bunce thanked the members of the Fire Department and the family and friends of Officer Wright for attending. Officer Wright's journey has just begun. Acting Chief Bunce congratulated him for all of his accomplishments.

Mayor Wilkie said Officer Wright received a Valor Award in 2011; it is a national fire fighters recognition.

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MINUTES

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

- Township Council Regular Session – December 17, 2014
- Township Council Reorganization Session – January 7, 2015
- Township Council Executive Session – January 14, 2015

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

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

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

APPLICATIONS:

A. Off-Premise 50/50, H.S. Parent Organization to benefit Relay for Life
April 26, 2015 Florence High School, Cedar Lane, 11:00pm.

B. Car Show, Rollin’ Oldies Car Club of Bordentown, Sponsored by American Legion Post 194
May 16, 2015, rain date May 17, 2015. Close portion of Broad Street.

It was the MOTION of Woolston; seconded by Baldorossi to approve applications A and B. Roll call vote: All ayes. Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to close the public comments. Roll call vote - all ayes. Unanimous approval.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-53

**Authorize Purchase of Three Chevrolet Tahoe
Police Vehicles, Cooperative Pricing System Purchase**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-54
Authorizing the Burlington County Public Works
Mosquito Division to Conduct an Aerial
Mosquito Control Activity**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-55
A Resolution Cancelling Taxes on Property
Owned by the Township of Florence**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-56
A Resolution Cancelling Taxes on Property
Owned by the Township of Florence**

It was the MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Ostrander to approve Resolution Nos. 2015-53 through 2015-56.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-01

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, IN
THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY,
PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TOWNSHIP
ROADS AND STREETS IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP,
APPROPRIATING \$1,400,000 THEREFOR, AND
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,330,000 IN
GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS OR NOTES OF THE
TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE SAME
(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing and Adoption)**

It was the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Ostrander to open the public hearing of Ordinance No. 2015-01.

Joseph Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, asked about the Road Program and where it was being done?

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Mayor Wilkie said there are roads throughout the township being done. He noted the roads were announced at an earlier meeting. Assistant Administrator Sahol listed the roads being done.

It was the MOTION of Baldorossi; seconded by Lovenduski to close the public hearing. Roll call vote – all ayes. Unanimous approval.

It was the Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-01.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Woolston, Lovenduski, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-02

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, IN
THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY
PROVIDING FOR ACQUISITION OF THREE (3) TAHOES
WITH POLICE PACKAGES IN AND FOR THE
TOWNSHIP, APPROPRIATING \$180,000 THEREFOR, AND
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$171,000 IN
GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS OR NOTES OF THE
TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE SAME
(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)**

Administrator Brook said the township is buying three Tahoes rather than the normal two for rotating the fleet. There was an officer involved in an accident when he was rear-ended by a woman who fell asleep at the wheel. He was hurt but will make a full recovery. His vehicle and all of the equipment in it was totaled. That meant the township was down an additional vehicle that it didn't anticipate. There will be an insurance reimbursement for the vehicle but if the vehicles are going to be ordered it makes the most sense to order them all at once.

It was the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Ostrander to open the public hearing of Ordinance No. 2015-02. No comments from the public.

It was the MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Lovenduski to close the public hearing. Roll call vote – all ayes.

It was the Motion of Lovenduski; seconded by Ostrander to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-02.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Woolston, Lovenduski, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried. Unanimous approval

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ORDINANCE NO. 2015-03

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, IN
THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY,
PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF 791 RAILROAD
AVENUE IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP,
APPROPRIATING \$100,000 THEREFOR, AND
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$95,000 IN GENERAL
IMPROVEMENT BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP
TO FINANCE THE SAME**

(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)

Administrator Brook said this was a project that Assistant Administrator Sahol has been working on. Florence Township has been extremely aggressive in dealing with blighted properties in the community. This property qualifies as such. He provided some photos of the property for those in attendance to review to see the state of the property. The property owner is very ill and the property is in horrendous shape. Railroad Avenue is one of the gateways into the community. The township has targeted, with resident's input and oversight, several properties in the community for acquisition, cleanup and revitalization. It takes time to do this and the municipality has to make sure it follows all the statutory requirements. The property is currently blighted beyond repair.

It was the MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Woolston to open the public hearing of Ordinance No. 2015-03. No comments from the public.

It was the MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Woolston to close the public hearing. Roll call vote – all ayes.

It was the Motion of Baldorossi; seconded by Woolston to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-03.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Woolston, Lovenduski, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-04

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION
OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 121 LOTS 7 AND 8
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
FOR PUBLIC ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)

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Mayor Wilkie explained that Hornberger Avenue needed improvement. Council looked at the access to the Roebling Steel Mill site from Route 130 and decided some changes to Hornberger Avenue would provide the best access. There are two properties that are on Hornberger before the bridge. They have constant flooding issues. The property owners approached the township to ask if it would be interested in purchasing the properties? The township agreed and will tear down the buildings and flatten out the property. There will now be potential to widen the road.

It was the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Ostrander to open the public hearing of Ordinance No. 2015-04. No public comments.

It was the MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Woolston to close the public hearing. Roll call vote – all ayes.

It was the Motion of Baldorossi; seconded by Woolston to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-04.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Woolston, Lovenduski, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE 2015-05
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 & Adoption 2/18/15)**

Administrator Brook explained the State of NJ tells a municipality it can go to a certain point with expenditures inside the cap. If a municipality wants to give itself breathing room in case it needs to be exceeded, an ordinance must be adopted prior to adopting the budget. This is done every year and Florence Township has always stayed well within the cap. It does not provide the authority to raise more money with the tax levy. It just gives the township the ability to extend its appropriation needs if necessary.

It was the MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Lovenduski to approve Ordinance No. 2015-05 and set the public hearing and adoption for February 18, 2015.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

AYES: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

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REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers: Nothing at this time.

Administration

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie was pleased to announce that the township received word that the **Pennsylvania DEP denied Elcon's request concerning the hazardous waste facility in Falls, Pa.** It is great news and the township would like to think that it is over, but that may not be the case. The township is paying attention. It is a sigh of relief and a quality of life issue for the township.

Next week there will be a Closed Session at 7:00pm to discuss police personnel and other issues.

Tomorrow night is the **DARE Graduation Ceremony** for the fifth grade students at Riverfront School at 6:00pm.

The **Fire Department Dinner** is going to be held **February 28, 2015**. Council received invitations in their packets. Mayor Wilkie asked that they let the Fire Department know if attending.

Administrator

Administrator Brook said the township is extremely grateful that the river towns worked together and pulled their resources to fight the waste facility. Burlington County was also instrumental in helping. There were groups in Pennsylvania: Delaware River Keeper Network; The League of Women Voters and the Clean Air Council that were a great help with providing information. There is information that is not easy to come by. He hopes it never resurfaces.

Sandra Blacker, the township's **Chief Financial Officer**, provided a memo to Mayor and Council regarding the **Bond Anticipation Notes** that were sold. The rate of 0.45% is excellent. Ms. Blacker did a great job. Mayor Wilkie also praised Ms. Blacker.

Assistant Municipal Administrator:

Assistant Administrator Sahol reviewed the picture of a mural of the Florence Township seal. All were in favor; placement should be a bit higher on the wall in the court room.

Division of Law: Nothing at this time.

Public Comments: Open to the Public

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

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Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Woolston to close the public portion of the meeting. Roll call vote – all ayes. Unanimous approval.

8:26 PM MOTION by Lovenduski; seconded by Ostrander to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:26 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/aek