

Florence, New Jersey
March 18, 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.

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, Jerry Sandusky

Absent: David Woolston due to prior commitment.

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

MINUTES

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

- Township Council Special Budget Session – March 4, 2015
- Township Council Closed Session, Budget Session – March 4, 2015
- Township Council Closed Session – March 4, 2015

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Lovenduski, to receive and file the Court Administrator's and Tax Collector's Tax and Water & Sewer Reports for February. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

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

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: Woolston

Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

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APPLICATIONS:

- A. Off-Premise 50/50, Florence Civic Association
5/25/15, 5:30pm, Coates Field, to benefit Florence Baseball Association
- B. On-Premise Raffle, Florence Civic Association
5/9/15, 6:00pm-12:00am, Main Street Community Center, Roebling
To benefit the Florence Softball Association
- C. On-Premise 50/50, Florence Civic Association
5/9/15, 6:00pm-12:00am, Main Street Community Center, Roebling
To benefit the Florence Softball Association
- D. On-Premise Raffle, Florence Civic Association
4/25/15, Noon – Midnight, Florence High School, benefit - Relay for Life
- E. Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 28 (rain date: 4-4-15) 10:00 a.m.
H. Kenneth Wilkie Memorial River's Edge Park

It was the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Lovenduski to approve Applications A through E. Roll call vote: all ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, said a few weeks ago Township Council was talking about the new park area in Roebling. At that time he asked how long the walking path was? Last week, using an engineering wheel, he went and measured the walking path. It was 6,301 feet, which equates to 1.193 miles. Mr. Kamienski said he plans to measure the paths at Marter Park and Wilkie Park.

Council Member Baldorossi said he was at a park in another municipality that had markers for quarter miles, half miles, three quarter miles and full miles. He thought it was a good idea.

David Hamilton, 208 Boulevard, said recently the odors from the Tullytown Landfill have been better. There has been a good amount of action taken to make officials aware of the problem. In the summer the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection became more involved and worked to fix the problem. There is information on Florence Township website to contact the PADEP to report odors. There is more public awareness. The PADEP said there is going to be a public hearing regarding the renewal of the landfill's permit. It runs out in May. This is a great opportunity to make a statement about the problems Florence has been having with odors from the landfill since the early 90's. The PADEP is looking for significant turnout for the public hearing but it is difficult to get residents to participate because it is in Falls Township, Pennsylvania. It will be a challenge to get people to drive over but written comments will be accepted.

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He asked if Florence Township was going to do anything to promote awareness for the hearing? He suggested signs be posted. He inquired about Burlington County using the electronic sign to promote awareness. He wanted to know if anyone from the governing body would be representing the township at the hearing?

Mayor Wilkie said there are a number of comments being shared on Facebook regarding the hearing. A few people have committed to attending. The township is preparing a letter outlining concerns regarding the expansion. He noted a reporter was in the audience who would probably put something in the newspaper about it.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said the variable message signs that Mr. Hamilton referred to are owned by Burlington County. They are basically traffic signs. They are intended to notify the public of potential traffic issues and sometimes that involves community events. That is what the signs are intended for. They are not used for information regarding public meetings and things like that.

Council President Sandusky asked if Mr. Hamilton could post signs on people's property? Assistant Administrator Sahol said that would be permitted. The former Johnson's also has a marquee it is not using. Council President Sandusky also suggested the VFW marquee.

Council Member Baldorossi said he has been in northern New Jersey recently and he has seen signs opposing the pipe line on many lawns.

Mr. Hamilton said the odors have cut back and people have become passive. There has been a shift of where the smell is going. The cold weather also kept the odors down. In May and June it will return. It is important for people to know how important the hearing is for the community.

Mayor Wilkie said he agrees that the diligence of the public taking a stand is what has made the difference. The township and its residents have to be vigilant watching what is happening on the other side of the river.

Mr. Kamienski asked if the Board of Education was contacted to see if it would supply a school bus to take interested residents to the hearing? Mr. Hamilton said he has not contacted the BOE. He was looking into some options. He suggested the Environmental Commission get involved. The meeting is on March 25, in a week. The permit for the landfill expires in May. He heard the PADEP is eager to make some modifications. The DEP Inspector told him the complaints need to be worded to say there is a public nuisance. Without that wording things will not improve.

Joe Csik, 25 East Fifth Street, asked if a map and directions to the meeting could be posted on the township website? Assistant Administrator Sahol said he would do that.

Council President Sandusky thought it was a good idea to contact the BOE regarding the use of a bus.

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It was the MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Lovenduski to close the public comments. Roll call vote - all ayes. Unanimous approval.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-81
Approve Request to Release Performance Bonds
LPM9044809 Water
LPM9044808 Sewer
NFI, Phase I

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-82
Amend 2015 Approved Municipal Budget

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-83
Authorizing Refunds of Certain Overpayments
Water & Sewer Department

It was the MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Ostrander to approve Resolution Nos. 2015-81 through 2015-83.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-07
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING LAND ACQUISITION FOR
REAL PROPERTY, LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP
REDEVELOPMENT AREA, IDENTIFIED ON THE MUNICIPAL TAX MAP
AS BLOCK 160.01, LOT 15
(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)

Administrator Brook explained this is the property called the Nirdip Motel on Route 130. The township is purchasing the property. The ultimate goal is to demolish the buildings and redevelop the site with a commercial type use. Most likely it will be a business type hotel with a stand-alone restaurant. The property is in bad condition and it would be a positive for the community if the site was redeveloped.

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It was the MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Ostrander to open the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2015-07. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Lovenduski to close the public hearing.

It was the MOTION of Baldorossi; seconded by Lovenduski to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-07.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2015-08
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF
REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 147.01 LOT 4.02
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE FOR FUTURE
POTENTIAL ROADWAY EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT
(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)**

Administrator Brook said Assistant Administrator Sahol has been very involved in this acquisition. This property is in an area deemed "In Need of Redevelopment." The township is making a concerted effort in various parts of the community to address redevelopment options and to eliminate blight and improve the conditions of properties. This is one of those major efforts.

It was the MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Ostrander to open the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2015-08. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Ostrander to close the public hearing.

It was the MOTION of Baldorossi; seconded by Lovenduski to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-08.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

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

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ORDINANCE NO. 2015-09

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
PATROL OFFICERS-DETECTIVES-SERGEANTS
2015-2017**

(1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 4/1/15)

It was the MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Ostrander to approve Ordinance No. 2015-09 and set the public hearing and adoption for April 1, 2015.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

AYES: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: Woolston Motion carried.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers Nothing at this time.

Administration

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie said the two ordinances approved this evening were significant. The township is continuously trying to improve the quality of life in Florence Township. Actions like these ordinances continue to get rid of blight and he appreciated the support of council.

This Saturday is the **Boy Scout's Blue and Gold** recognition program. It is the crossing over from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. It is scheduled to be held at Riverfront School at 3pm. He invited Council members to attend. At that time a proclamation will be presented naming the **Grand Marshal of the Patriotic Day Parade**.

The **annual Easter Egg Hunt** sponsored by Boyd's Pharmacy and the Florence Township Fire Department has been held since the early 80's. He appreciates it and said it is a nice event for the local children. It is being held **March 28 at 10:00am** at H. Kenneth Wilkie Memorial River's Edge Park.

Administrator Nothing at this time.

Assistant Municipal Administrator Nothing at this time.

Division of Law Nothing at this time.

Division of Engineering Nothing at this time.

Unfinished Business Nothing at this time.

New Business

Council President Sandusky noted there were some new businesses in town. Barone's opened on Broad Street and there is a new deli on Cedar Lane near Firehouse Lane.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said the orthotic footwear business is opening again.

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Public Comments: Open to the Public

It was the MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Ostrander to open the meeting to the public at this time. No comments. It was the MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Lovenduski to close the public portion of the meeting. Roll call vote – all ayes. Unanimous approval.

8:21 PM MOTION of Lovenduski, seconded by Ostrander to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:21 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/aek