

Florence, New Jersey
May 6, 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 Deputy Township Clerk: Notice was 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. It was also provided to the now defunct Register News for information.

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

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Administrator; Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Solicitor; James E. Biegen, Township Engineer

Note: The Township Clerk was absent due to illness.

MINUTES

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

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FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was the MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Woolston to receive and file the Tax Collector's Report for March and the Court Administrator's Report for April. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion Carried.

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Lovenduski 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.

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APPLICATIONS:

- A. Social Affair - June 13, 2015 Francis W. Robbins Post 194 American Legion
12:00pm – 7:00pm, American Legion Riders Picnic
- B. Social Affair – June 20, 2015, Francis W. Robbins Post 194 American Legion
12:00pm – 7:00pm, Annual Music Fest/Pig Roast

It was the MOTION of Baldorossi; seconded by Woolston to approve applications A & B. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, read an article in the newspaper that was about buildings being built in Camden and Cherry Hill. Subaru just moved out of Cherry Hill. There are tax dollars being wasted. He provided a copy of the article to Mayor and Council.

Mayor Wilkie said this is a development plan that will help South Jersey. Historically the plans benefitted North Jersey because that area competes with New York City. This plan helps our area. It is cleaning up the blight. He reviewed the projects in town that were receiving the tax credits. There is no money coming out the State of New Jersey. It is money that the corporation is able to use to reinvest in the facility as opposed to sending it to Trenton. The Republicans and Democrats put a program together that is not costing the State of New Jersey money. The state is not getting certain funds but it is going back into the community. Sometimes one big business comes and it attracts other businesses. Garelick Farms is the only dairy in the area and there are three or four businesses that are here because of that. There are some pieces that are the “carrots.” The article did not reflect the whole story.

Debra Partyka, 705 Baird Drive, referenced a letter she had written to Mayor and Council. She is requesting that the alley behind the former Duffy School be named after Richard “Dicky” Dennison. She is asking because the school was named after Marcella Duffy for many years and now the senior housing facility is named after her. It is her opinion that it is logical to name it after him for everything he has done. He is seventy-five years old, he has been serving the community for fifty years. He has done a lot for the residents of the community. Many other people have been honored. Wilbur Henry Drive is an example.

Council President Sandusky explained that in 2013 the alley was named Duffy by ordinance. He said it is true that Mr. Dennison has helped a lot of people in town. His name can be added to the list the township already has for future street names. Many of the developments have streets named for soldiers who didn't come home from serving their country.

Ms. Partyka asked why it wasn't taken into consideration to name the alley after Mr. Dennison. She thinks it was the logical thing to do. She asked if it was already named Duffy Way?

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Mayor Wilkie explained that in December of 2013 Council introduced the ordinance to name the alley. Two weeks later at the Council meeting there was a public hearing for the ordinance. There were a large number of people in attendance because two employees were being honored for their retirement. There were no comments from the public regarding the ordinance and Council adopted it. Mayor Wilkie then signed the ordinance, making it law. Technically right now the actual name is **Marcella L. Duffy Way**.

Ms. Partyka felt that Marcella Duffy had been honored enough and thinks Mr. Dennison deserved to be honored for all that he has done. She asked if the name could be changed again? East Seventh Street was changed to Wilbur Henry Drive. She wanted to know why this one could not be changed? She said the alley wasn't really a real road until now. Mayor Wilkie explained when an application for a project is going through normally the streets are named before they are actually built. An example is the Pulte development. The street names were identified by the township. There was a change there because Winter Street was running all the way through. The township changed the loop of Winter Street to Seaman Drive. Joseph Seaman was killed in World War II. His name was supposed to be used in a development on Bustleton Road. It appears that development will not be built, so his name was used in the Pulte development. The Bustleton Road development was also supposed to have roads honoring Judge Hughes and Judge Kramer. There are names still waiting to be used.

Ms. Partyka said the alley goes right behind the funeral home; she wondered if that one block of alley behind the business could be named for Mr. Dennison? She said it is common sense. She presented information from social media from people who agree with her. She said it is not a big deal to change the name; it was done before. She said Ms. Duffy has gotten so much, it makes sense to honor Mr. Dennison. She asked why it couldn't be changed like Wilbur Henry Drive was?

Council President Sandusky said he was on Council when Wilbur Henry Drive was changed. That was the last person that had a street named after them while they were still alive. He said this week it is Mr. Dennison, next week it could be someone else. The township does not have the streets available. Ms. Partyka asked how many signatures she would need on a petition to get the name changed.

Council President Sandusky said he was not in favor of changing the name. She asked his reasoning. Council President Sandusky said it is already named and Council has gone through the procedure to name it. There are other people in town, including Mr. Dennison who are deserving of being honored. He named some distinguished residents who he believes are also deserving.

Mayor Wilkie said it is very difficult because you don't want to hurt people's feelings when trying to determine who to honor. Ms. Partyka asked why Duffy was used for the senior housing and the alley?

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Mayor Wilkie said it helps identify the facility. Ms. Partyka thinks it would make sense to use Dennison because his business is on the alley.

Council President Sandusky said he believes Mr. Dennison should be added to the list of names the township has now. Right now the street is Duffy Way and he is staying with Duffy Way. Ms. Partyka asked for the opinions of the other Members of Council.

Member Lovenduski said he does not want to be the person who calls the Duffy family to tell them the township is changing the name of the street. He said if it had been brought to his attention before the road was named, he might have considered it. He also agreed he would like to add Mr. Dennison to the list of names. Member Baldorossi echoed the sentiments of Member Lovenduski. Member Woolston said the ordinance is in place that was adopted a couple years ago. He doesn't know what the legalities are to change it. He also agreed it would not be fair to the Duffy family. He also agreed Mr. Dennison should be added to the list for future recognition.

Carol Kinney, 210 East Fourth Street, asked if there were any members of the Duffy family still in town? Mayor Wilkie said he does not know the answer. Ms. Kinney asked if he knew how to contact anyone from the family? Mayor Wilkie said he does not. Ms. Kinney said the senior housing is already named after Duffy, and the township does not know how to contact them, how would the township let them know it was changing the name of Duffy Way. She said if the family was contacted, they could be told the senior housing is named after their relative; the alley should be named for Dennison. If it was her, she would not need her name all over town. She asked how an ordinance can be changed? Mayor Wilkie said he does not know the history, but he believes the funeral home used to be Holloway before Mr. Dennison had it. He doesn't know how long the Holloway's had the facility. Mr. Dennison first opened somewhere else.

Mayor Wilkie suggested putting together a request and list what Mr. Dennison has done. He could be added to the list. There was discussion regarding when the school was named for Ms. Duffy and what the wording on the building says.

Ms. Kinney asked again what needed to be done to get something named for Mr. Dennison. Mayor Wilkie said there has to be a process established. It should not be something that can be easily changed. It needs to be something that has a lot of thought and discussion. The Koschek family goes back many years. Many streets were named for doctors in town. In the mid-nineties it was decided to honor those from the township who gave their lives in battle. At this point all of those names have been used. Council has always looked to try and find something that can be above and beyond politics. It is not politics.

Ms. Kinney asked if the people of the town decide they want the street name changed, what is the process? Is the process to write a letter talking about how important he is to the town? She noted that Council agreed he is important to the town and has been very generous to the town. She asked what happens once the letter is submitted.

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Mayor Wilkie said there is no process in place at this point. If five Council Members agree to it, an ordinance would be introduced and then two weeks later there would be a public hearing and adoption of the ordinance. Then the Mayor would sign it and it would become law. That is the legal procedure. Mayor Wilkie said a commitment has been made, and at this time Council does not feel that at this time it is appropriate to name the alley behind the funeral home after Mr. Dennison.

Ms. Kinney said there has been precedent in Wilbur Henry Drive. Mayor Wilkie said that street name was changed thirty years ago. Ms. Kinney said no one even knows if there are members of the Duffy family still in town. Council Member Lovenduski said it is not safe to assume that no one will know about it.

Council President Sandusky said he was a member of Council when Wilbur Henry Drive was named. It was hectic because everyone signed a petition that they were in favor of the name change. Then everyone learned they had to change their deeds & their licenses; anything dealing with an address had to be changed; they weren't happy. Ms. Kinney said that there are no homes that would be affected.

Council President Sandusky said this is the first time he said this at a public meeting and he would like the audience to think about it. He has been a Council Member for thirty-four years; served on the school board for three years and has given his whole life to Florence Township, just like Mr. Dennison. It's a shame that the township cannot name more streets after people of Mr. Dennison's caliber. Other people on the list that has been established are also the same caliber as Mr. Dennison. Mr. Dennison is well worth naming something after him. He doesn't know when in the future it would be, but there are other people on this list who have been waiting.

Ms. Kinney said naming something Dennison Way out in the country doesn't make sense. The alley is the spot and this is the time.

Ms. Partyka asked about the street sign. She said there was not one there with the street name. Mayor Wilkie said that usually only public streets with residences have street name signs. Ms. Kinney asked who orders the signs? Mayor Wilkie said the developer orders the signs. Ms. Kinney asked if it had been ordered? Administrator Brook said the building is not occupied yet and won't be for about another month or two. He does not know if a sign was ordered. Normally the developer orders and installs the sign, so if there is going to be a sign, it will be installed in the near future.

Lisa Rockhill, 604 East Sixth Street, said she didn't realize the alley had been named in 2013. If there was a petition with one thousand signatures, would that be something that Council would look at?

Council President Sandusky said Council reviews every petition it receives, regardless of the number of signatures. It would be a decision of Council to change the name. Ms. Rockhill said if there were a large amount of signatures, is it something Council would consider?

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Mayor Wilkie said he thinks Council is trying to say there are many people that should be honored. The difficulty is finding the right place and time. Ms. Rockhill said the alley is the right place. Mayor Wilkie said Mr. Dennison would probably be honored to have the alley. Other people may think an alley would not be appropriate as it isn't really a street or park.

Ms. Rockhill asked if there were a large number of people in favor of it, would Council consider changing it? There are a lot of people talking about it. Mayor Wilkie said he is aware and has seen the issue on social media; he was surprised there weren't more people at this meeting.

Council Member Ostrander asked if Mr. Dennison was aware of this effort? Ms. Partyka said no, he was not. Council Member Ostrander said he knows Mr. Dennison very well and he is a humble man. He thinks Mr. Dennison would not want it. He likes to do good things for people and that is his nature but he really doesn't like publicity.

Council President Sandusky said he believes the process would be if a petition were brought to Council and there was some consideration there would need to be a motion and a second and then a vote on the motion.

Mayor Wilkie said any ordinance of the township is published in the Sunday edition of Burlington County Times. All the ordinances are posted on the website on first reading. Once they are approved and signed they are law.

Ms. Partyka questioned the two years since the ordinance was passed, does it normally take this long? Mayor Wilkie said it can sometimes take longer than that. There was a development that was approved well before he was Mayor. There were three street names that were approved and that development isn't happening. Pulte put street signs in when they finished the back end of the development.

Ms. Kinney asked how to get a name on the waiting list? Council President Sandusky said if that is what she would like it is on there. Ms. Kinney said it is a start, and if there is anything she can do to push the name up on the waiting list she was willing to do it.

Mayor Wilkie said the letter that was sent is part of the file. He would like them to think about details that support their reasoning. There is nothing happening right now that would require the naming of streets. Ms. Partyka said they want the alley named for him. Down the road there could be something that would require names. The developer can review the list and the supporting documentation along with the historical commission. Ms. Partyka asked how many names are currently on the list? Mayor Wilkie said the last one he saw had the veteran's names and hadn't been updated. The judges were added and there are other community members that were added.

Ms. Partyka asked what she would do if she had a petition? Mayor Wilkie said she could bring it to the meeting or file it with the Township Clerk who would provide it to Mayor and Council. He recommended presenting it at a meeting.

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Administrator Brook said it would be placed on a workshop agenda for discussion. Any resident would be welcome to come and speak.

Ms. Partyka asked why it was not put on the agenda when she sent a letter? Mayor Wilkie said it was correspondence and was provided to Mayor and Council in their packets. Had the residents not come tonight, one of the members could have said they wanted to discuss it and it would be placed on the next workshop agenda.

Joseph Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, said a few months ago he commented at a meeting about Comcast. After the meeting he got a call from Comcast. He didn't know if anyone contacted Comcast on his behalf, but he thanked them for getting it all straightened out.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, it was the MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Lovenduski to close the public comment. All ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-106
Deny Release of the Maintenance Bond for
The Manors at Crossroads
Phase II
Bond No. 1089040

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-107
Reappointing Tax Assessor

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-108
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
Chapter 159, P.L. 1948

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-109
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
Chapter 159, P.L. 1948

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RESOLUTION NO. 2015-110
Approve Current Estimate No. 1 for
Conversion of Digesters to Sludge Holding Tanks
JEV Construction, LLC
116 West Main Street, Floor 2, Clinton, NJ 08809

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-111
Resolution to Withhold Future Installments for Special
Assessment from the 2015 Tax Sale

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-112
Approve Current Est. No. 1 for
Library Roof Replacement and Related Work
Laurant Construction Co., Inc.
3 Meadows Court, Pennington, NJ, 08518

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-113
Authorizing Refund
Zoning Fees Erroneously Charged

It was the MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution Nos. 2015-106 through 2015-113.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCES None at this time.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

Administration

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie reminded everyone that the following day at noon Florence Township would be holding its annual **National Day of Prayer Service**. The Florence Fire Department Chaplain, Deacon Gary Richardson, is scheduled to lead. It will be held at the Veterans' Memorial. He apologized he could not attend; he will be out of town.

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May 15th is Peace Officers Day. The flag is to be at half-staff. The day is a Friday and normally the flag is lowered Friday and raised the following Monday. He believes the following day is **Armed Forces Day** and the flag should not be lowered for that. He suggested the flags at the Municipal Building be lowered for the day for Friday and raised at the end of the day.

May 16th is the **American Legion Post 194 Car Show** at Sixth Street and Broad Street.

May 23rd is the **Community Wellness Day** being held in conjunction with the Annual Police Department **Bike Rodeo**.

That is also **Memorial Day Weekend** and there are many events planned. On May 24th, American Legion Post 194 will be having their graves presentation. At 10:00am they start visiting all of the veteran's graves and monuments in the township.

On Monday, May 25th American Legion Post 39 will be holding a **Memorial Day** service at 10:00am at the legion post.

May 30th is the **Annual Mayor's Cup Softball Tournament** at 9:00am. Mayor Wilkie said he is remaining as impartial as possible because of ties to more than one team.

It has been two weeks but he wanted to mention that the reality of living along the river can be scary. Assistant Administrator Sahol noticed on his way in to work two Mondays ago that the river was brown and realized something major had just happened. Unfortunately, there was a washout and two families' homes are in peril. It was a crazy day and he appreciates all that the township as well as the professionals did in order to resolve the situation and get everything stabilized. Unfortunately, the homes were posted as uninhabitable. He received word that Burlington County will be offering to purchase the homes from the residents in order to address the situation with the bank. Burlington County cannot get to the problem with the homes being there now. There is concern about the rest of the bank but it is not to the severity as with the two homes. Florence Township will be looking at the riverbank to determine what it can do to be sure the community is protected.

Administrator

Administrator Brook said Florence Township purchased the **Nirdip Hotel** on Route 130 for the purpose of redeveloping the site and removing the blight. The building should be demolished by the mid-June.

Mayor Wilkie said he is wearing purple for **Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month**. Last year little Alexa Bongiorno attended a meeting. She suffered a pediatric stroke. He read into the record a proclamation for Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

Assistant Administrator Sahol said he heard from Waste Management regarding their enhanced nuisance control plan. He provided copies for the Environmental Commission for their upcoming meeting.

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The Commission is going to have a guest from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. It is one of the commissioners in charge of the permitting process. He has the authority to speak to the Waste Management application for continued operation at the **Tullytown Landfill**. If it is made part of the permit renewal, it will be made public on the township website.

The health fair information was provided to the Mayor and Council. It is being held in conjunction with the **Annual Bike Rodeo**. The Police Department and the FOP Lodge #210 officers do a really nice job. They register bikes, give out helmets, create an obstacle course and provide bike inspections.

To build on that effort, the township, through its **Safety and Wellness Committees**, decided to provide more for the public. There will be yoga, zumba, and other demonstrations. The Health Department will be there. There will be health screenings. There will also be information on mosquito awareness and tick borne disease awareness, a lot of that type of activities. The State Police will have a static display for the kids. There will be a boat and a helicopter. This is hopefully the start of a really nice program. There is also a 5-K being run by the school. The school is using it as an opportunity to raise funds for technology for the classrooms. All of the information will be posted on the township website and the Florence School District website.

About a month ago, he said he introduced a new key system to Mayor and Council. It will minimize the amount of keys employees have to carry. The electronic key was tested for about thirty days by Assistant Administrator Sahol. He said there was also a good demonstration done by a vendor. He spoke to some of the purchasers of these systems. He found it is an incredible resource for a municipality. This offers more opportunity than some of the other systems that are available. The township will be moving ahead, starting with the Water & Sewer Department. It is something that will benefit the township in the long run. It will reduce the number of keys and build a certain level accountability and track ins and outs.

Division of Law Nothing at this time.

Division of Engineering

Engineer Biegen said the **Road Project** is continuing. Much of it should be done by the end of next week. The areas near the school will be done when school lets out for the summer.

The **Bike Path Project** on Old York Road had stalled for a while because of wet conditions in one area but it seems to be dried out.

Council President Sandusky inquired about the **Library Roof Project**. Engineer Biegen said the project is moving along very quickly. Assistant Administrator Sahol said within the next seven to ten days they should start some of the build-up work. Right now they are working on some masonry where they have to raise some of the drip edges. He has been in contact with the architect regarding the progress of the project.

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Unfinished Business Nothing at this time.

New Business Nothing at this time.

Miscellaneous Nothing at this time.

Public Comments: Open to the Public

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

Ms. Rockhill said behind her house there are two basins with rocks that belong to Florence Township. Her husband cuts the grass there and he told her the weeds are coming through. She asked who could help her? Administrator Brook said the Township Water & Sewer Director would get in contact with her. Assistant Administrator Sahol said he would also make Public Works aware of the situation.

Ms. Partyka said since there are going to be more lights and sidewalk installed, she wanted to relay a problem she had with work done in front of her house. The contractor never came back to finish the landscaping work. Assistant Administrator Sahol advised her when she called that the contractor would be back out to finish. The contractor did come back out and said he would be back to take care of it. She and her husband ended up doing it themselves a few weeks ago. The contractor offered them hay mulch. She wanted to know how the township makes sure a contractor completes jobs? She was told the Township Engineer regularly inspects projects.

It was the **MOTION** of Ostrander; seconded by Lovenduski to close the public portion of the meeting. Roll call vote – all ayes. Unanimous approval.

8:55 PM MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Ostrander to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:55 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD A. BROOK
Township Administrator,
Deputy Township Clerk

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