

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION

January 13, 2016

8:00PM

CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE

Council President Lovenduski called the meeting to order and led the Salute to the Flag.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was sent to Trenton Times for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board; placed on the web-site on January 7, 2016; and advertised in the Burlington Co. Times on January 3rd and January 10th, 2016.

ROLL CALL

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public.

Joseph Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, had previously spoken to Administrator Brook about the use of the GSA warehouse. He wanted to know if there was any information available? Administrator Brook said he reached out to the administrator in Burlington. When he gets a response, he will contact Mr. Csik. Mr. Csik said he heard there were helicopters moving people out. Administrator Brook said Mr. Csik heard that the building was going to be used to process individuals for deportation. This came as a surprise because Burlington communicates with some frequency and his understanding was there was only permission for a temporary office space. Burlington and Florence both made it clear they would oppose using the building to deport people.

Council President Lovenduski asked if the township would have any real say since it is a federal building? Administrator Brook thought a use variance would be required. Mayor Wilkie said the federal government doesn't own the building, they are leasing it. Administrator Brook will provide information as soon as it is available.

Fred Scheetz, 12 Church Street, asked if there was dredging currently on the Delaware River? He asked about a boat that goes back and forth continuously day and night. Mayor Wilkie said there is dredging being done. Based on what he has seen on Facebook, the workers are transported from Tullytown. Mr. Scheetz suggested a quieter boat. Mayor Wilkie noted it was the Army Corp of Engineers. There are many complaints about the noise.

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

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BUSINESS

Township Water and Sewer Engineer

Burlington Coat Factory W&S Performance Bonds, Release Conditionally

Administrator Brook said there was a report in the packet from the Water & Sewer Engineer authorizing the release. There will be a resolution for the next meeting.

Township Engineer

2016 Road Program

(Engineer Biegen was unable to attend due to a death in the family)

Mayor Wilkie provided a highlighted document with some strikes through. He explained the strikes were the original numbers that were given and the numbers in bold are the current number being given. The red numbers are additions. Some went up and some went down. There was a section of West Fourth Street that was supposed to be included but was not picked up in the original. It was added. Unfortunately that section is really in need of attention. Chestnut Street is going to go further than originally planned. He looked at the street and noted it really needed repair and asked for pricing to include the additional section. On Winter Street, repairs will run from Riverview to Summer Street. The amount went down, but sidewalks need to be added. He recommended the Municipal Building parking lot be removed from the list. He spoke to Administrator Brook and both of them spoke to Police Chief Bunce a few weeks ago and the laws have changed and may necessitate adding on to the police station. When the building was built in 1982 there were no female police officers. Female officers have since been added to the department. There was a temporary building that the township was renting. The township needs to look at the building's facilities and uses. Ten years ago there was a plan to expand and accommodate the requirements that are now in place regarding the police and courts. This is the time, while the township is working on the budget, to look into expanding. The only place to really expand is to the back of the building. It wouldn't make sense to repair the parking lot if there could end up being an addition on that site. It won't happen this year, but it's time to start the conversations.

Council Member Woolston asked if it was a matter of having a facility for the female officers? Mayor Wilkie explained there were other observations. Juveniles have to have certain supervision and be separated from any adults. Interrogations have certain requirements, there are many issues to address.

Administrator Brook said Chief Bunce told him a good example is when someone is sitting in a jail cell and someone is brought in for questioning and the person in the cell can hear and will yell out things like "don't answer that question." The Chief will be coming to Council to introduce some new programs they are implementing.

Mayor Wilkie said when the building was built, technology was not where it is today and things have changed. The township needs to look at everything and figure out the needs.

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The Road Program is estimated at \$1.1 or \$1.2 million. That is below the previous estimate. What is not included is what Council Member Sandusky suggested for Broad Street. He suggested widening it for parking near the athletic fields. That would be about \$35,000. It could be included as an add-on. Broad Street will be done From Ninth Street to Broad Street.

On Hornberger Avenue from Delaware Avenue to Riverbank Drive, the estimate is at \$163,000, up about \$30,000. From Riverbank Drive to Parrish Lane is \$177,000. He would like to leave it as an option to see if the numbers are off. Last year the prices were very good.

Some parts of the bid concerning Riverview were not complete. Township Engineer Biegen will finalize it. There may be additional costs. Administrator Brook said discussions will start in early summer about the 2017 Road Program. Council President Lovenduski said by then they will be able to see what was left from this program and see how much can be added.

Release Maintenance Bond: NFI Real Estate

Administrator Brook said NFI is doing very well and moving along with the other building. They will also be starting their third building shortly. Hopefully, there will be an end user later this year.

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie said he went to the **Environmental Commission** meeting last week and **Linda Panzanella** was there. She was also at the commission meeting the previous month. She is the former organist for Holy Assumption and lives at Duffy School. He would like to appoint her to the commission: **Alt. No. 1, term expiring 12/31/2016**. He is also appointing **Christopher Lovenduski, effective February 1, 2016: Alt. No. 2, term expiring 12/31/2017**. He will fill the Recreation Committee spot at the next meeting.

Mayor Wilkie said the new deli by the firehouse, Won Community Deli, is having a grand opening on January 22. He cannot attend. Martin Eckert, Economic Development Liaison will be there and will introduce anyone who does attend.

The Fountain of Life said they would like to make a donation to support the police, EMS and emergency services. It is about \$7,000, a very generous donation. There were some ideas and the recommendation at this point is a portable emergency sign, similar to the one that the township borrows from Burlington County. The price would be just under \$16,000. It is a nice size. A rendering was shared. Mayor Wilkie said it could easily be used for any of the functions the police, fire department and EMS are doing. It is in the budget to make up the difference.

Administrator Brook said when Fountain of Life called, they said they would like to do something that crosses the paths of all the emergency responders. After a collaboration of all of them it was decided this would be the best idea.

Assistant Township Administrator

Assistant Administrator Sahol said at the next meeting he will be providing a list of items for a winter auction.

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There are two 1994 dump trucks that were rotated out of the fleet. One is being kept as a backup emergency truck. The school district has an interest in the second one. He spoke to the superintendent and she spoke to school district's maintenance department and they have an interest in it. It is a big truck and would be great for plowing. If Council sees fit, it could be given to the school district as a contribution. Everyone was in agreement.

Township Administrator

Administrator Brook said in the packet there was information regarding body cameras for the police department. They applied for a grant and were very aggressive in their application procedure. They received a grant from the state. When they come before Council at a later date, they can go into greater detail. One thing that has slowed the process is that departments are waiting for guidelines to come down from the Attorney General. It will be a plus for the officers and the community to have body cameras.

Sometimes the Department of Defense has excess equipment that they will allow municipalities to receive at no cost. Police Chief Bunce asked about joining the group, so if there was equipment they could use, they'd be able to get it. Some towns bought items anticipating riots. For Florence it would only be items the department could use now as opposed to creating a frenzy. Clerk Weiler will be putting a resolution on the agenda for the next meeting.

Council Member Sandusky said a month ago he asked for a defibrillator to be placed in the Municipal Building. He noted it is there now. The second most used building in the township right now is the Community Center/FOP Lodge on Main Street. He would like to see one there also. There are times when there are quite a few people at that location.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said there are three that were purchased during this process. One will go to Water and Sewer, one will go to Public Works. The police department has several that they have rotated out of the mobile stock and are coming back into the building. After talking to the Police Chief and Recreation Coordinator he is going to approach the Recreation Committee about the possibility of putting some of those at the recreation facilities. If there is still some available, one can be put at the Community Center at Main Street. All were in agreement.

Council Member Baldorossi said when the building is closed, no one can get to it. Assistant Administrator Sahol said it is intended for the building. It is not intended for people to run in and use. It is for when the building is occupied and there was a concern about security.

Administrator Brook said the police have offered to hold CPR classes for all of the employees. Council Member Baldorossi said if something happened at the softball field for example, they would not have access to the equipment. Assistant Administrator Sahol said that is why he was mentioning the ones the police are taking from the mobile fleet. That's the next step.

Council Member Woolston asked if the CPR training could be held on a Saturday because he would be interested in attending? Administrator Brook said that would be no problem. He

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thinks it is good for everyone to attend to learn even the basics. Administrator Brook said the officers would like to have it whenever it is decided it should be held. They look forward to teaching life-saving techniques.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Csik asked if there was a defibrillator at Duffy School? Mayor Wilkie explained that would be the responsibility of the owner of the building. It is not owned by the township.

Mr. Scheetz said there used to be a River Safety Program but there no longer is one. He thinks it would be a good idea. Assistant Administrator Sahol said the only thing he had ever heard of was the Safety Patrol but that was a very long time ago. Council President Lovenduski said at one point there was a Boating Safety Program in the Fifth Grade.

Mr. Scheetz asked if the Road Program was going to include flashing safety signs on Broad Street? Mayor Wilkie said that would be on Front Street and it is not part of the Road Program. The township is putting correspondence together to send to the county requesting them to review it. It is a county road. The township is also going to request safety measures on Cedar Lane where the bike path crosses over and on Front Street at Summer Street and Winter Street.

Mr. Scheetz said before Dollar Tree opened, it was said that the stone side lot was going to be for employee parking. It was also stated that all deliveries were to me made early in the morning before business began. He has not seen anyone parking in the side lot and he has seen deliveries in the afternoon. It doesn't affect anyone but the township shouldn't let them do what they want when they want to. Mayor Wilkie said that was a Planning Board action. That's what was presented to the Planning Board, but perhaps they aren't typical deliveries. Council Member Woolston said in light of what happened there, it might be a good idea for the employees to not park there. Mayor Wilkie said he will follow up and look into the Planning Board Resolution.

Mr. Scheetz said most defibrillators installed in buildings notify EMS when they are used. Mayor Wilkie politely disagreed. He spent twenty years in school districts and had never seen that. Perhaps that is the case in an outdoor area. Assistant Administrator Sahol said he had never heard that either. This one has an alarm but it is localized.

MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to close the public comment. Roll call vote -all ayes.

8:40 PM MOTION by Woolston; seconded by Sandusky to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT 8:40 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

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