

Florence, New Jersey
February 17, 2016

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 Trenton Times for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board; placed on the web-site on January 7th, 2016. Notice was advertised in the Burlington Co. Times on January 3rd, 2016 and January 10th 2016.

Present: Paul Ostrander, Jerry Sandusky, David Woolston, Ted Lovenduski
(Note: Frank Baldorossi absent due to a prior commitment)

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Attorney; 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. Unanimous approval.

- Township Council Regular Session – December 16, 2015
- Township Council Closed Session – February 3, 2016

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Ostrander to receive and file the Court Administrator's and Tax Collector's Report for 2016 Tax Sale Date and Tax Report for January. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion Carried.

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander; 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.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE None at this time.

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APPLICATIONS:

- A. Annual Easter Egg Hunt, March 19th (Rain date: 3-26) 10:00 a.m.
(Florence Township Fire Company and Boyd's Pharmacy)
- B. Civic Assoc. - Night at the Races, April 8th, 6:00 pm – Midnight
at American Legion Post 39, benefits: American Legion Post 39
- C. Civic Assoc. - On Premise 50-50: American Legion Post 39, April 8th, benefits
American Legion Post 39
- D. Off-Premise 50-50: Muchowski Field, April 29th, 5:00 p.m., benefits:
Florence HS Softball Boosters
- E. Off-Premise 50-50: Coates Field, May 30th, 4:00 p.m., benefits:
Florence Baseball Association

It was the MOTION of Woolston; seconded by Ostrander to approve Applications A through E.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The meeting was opened to the public at this time.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-64

Authorize Refund

Tax Lien Overpayment

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-65

Approve Request for Extension of Time for

Release of Performance Bonds

#5014838, 5014839 & 5014840

Legacy at Meadowcroft

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RESOLUTION NO. 2016-66

**Authorizing Refund
Tax Overpayment**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-67

**Authorizing an Online Auction with
Govdeals for
Disposal of Municipal Property**

It was the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Ostrander to approve Resolution Nos. 2016-64 through Resolution No. 2016-67.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-03

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, IN
THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY,
PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF 851 RAILROAD AVENUE
IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP,
APPROPRIATING \$190,000 THEREFOR, AND
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$180,500 IN
GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS OR NOTES OF THE
TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE SAME
(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)**

Mayor Wilkie explained this was an opportunity to improve blight in the community. This property was in dilapidated condition. The township worked with the owner to acquire it. It is adjacent to another property that the township recently cleaned up. It was part of the long range plan to try and clean up Railroad Avenue. One ordinance gave the authorization to purchase the property and the other puts the money in place to make the purchase.

President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public at this time regarding Ordinance No. 2016-03. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the Motion of Sandusky; seconded by Ostrander to close the public hearing.

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It was the Motion of Sandusky; seconded by Ostrander to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-03.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-04

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY
KNOWN AS BLOCK 147.01, LOT 3.04 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE FOR
RECREATION AND POTENTIAL ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PURPOSES
(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)**

The meeting was opened to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2016-04. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Woolston, to close the public hearing.

It was the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-04.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-05

**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)
(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)**

Council President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2016-05.

Administrator Brook explained that every year the State of New Jersey has two caps. One is what's called the Tax Cap Levy and the other is related to the Appropriations Cap, or how much the municipality is allowed to spend inside the cap. It is limited to a certain percentage every year. They also give a municipality the ability to increase it. This year it was zero increase but if done by ordinance it could be up to 3.5%. It doesn't mean it would be used or that the municipality was going to spend more money, it just means that the ability is there to spend additional funds if necessary.

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

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It was the Motion of Woolston; seconded by Sandusky to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-05.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carried.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers:

Administration

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie said Council President Lovenduski attended an **Eagle Scout** presentation on Sunday. It went well and was well attended. The recipient's father let him know that he was very pleased with the presentation from the township.

The **Florence Fire Department** did a great job on Saturday morning putting out the fire at Palermo's. There was a major fire inside the establishment. Luckily there was no structural damage, according to the Construction Code Official. The Police and Public Works Departments responded and did a very good job.

Council Member Sandusky said everyone acted very professionally and the township should be very proud of all those involved.

Mayor Wilkie said there would not be a Council Meeting on March 2, the next meeting would be on March 9. On March 1 the Mayor and Council are attending a JIF sponsored meeting. The township will receive a reduction on the rate for attending. On **March 9 the budget will be introduced**. It meets the goals of the township and has a stable tax rate, the same as last year's. That was difficult because ratables were lost. The budget books will be prepared and delivered to Council. He advised them to reach out to Administrator Brook to review them.

On Friday night **Officer Nate Tompkins** is being **honored by the 200 Club of Burlington County**. He saved a man's life last year while off-duty in Hamilton Township.

Saturday from 2:00pm-9:00pm is the Fire District Election. They are held at the Fire House. It was in the Township Calendar and it is posted on the display board at the Fire House.

Mayor Wilkie asked Council if they would agree to donate two **Recreation Department** certificates for the **Riverfront PTO Basket Bonanza**. It was the Motion of Sandusky; seconded by Woolston to approve the donation. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

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Administrator

Administrator Brook said Council would be receiving their **budget books**. He invited them to contact him with any questions. The budget does continue current services and expands them in some categories.

In the packet there was a letter from the Burlington County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund that mentioned that Florence Township received **Safety Incentive Funds**. Those funds are put back in to improve safety opportunities and awareness for the employees. He thanked the members of the Safety Committee and the employees of the township. Together they form a very high quality working relationship where the goal is to keep employees safe. It ultimately reduces claims, employees go home safely at the end of the day and the township is able to provide better quality services to the residents.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

Assistant Administrator Sahol said at the last **Wellness Committee** meeting they discussed putting adult exercise equipment along the walking paths in the parks. It is basically using your own body weight to exercise. It is common in some of the county parks. More and more the adult population is going out walking and taking jogs. Someone could stop and do a little bit of this type of exercise. If Council is interested, it can be brought to the subcommittee that is looking into the new park area at Roebing Park. This is something that may fit there along some of the walking paths. He said they would also be a good idea at Veteran's Park.

Mayor Wilkie said about five years ago Burlington City installed something similar. It would be interesting to know how much it is being used. The committee could talk about it. Council President Lovenduski said he has seen the equipment in Burlington City being used. Council Vice President Ostrander said if it was installed, there would need to be a way to let the residents know it was there. Council Member Sandusky said he liked the concept but there might a problem with children playing on the equipment. He asked how that would be prevented? Assistant Administrator Sahol said the equipment is not unsafe for anyone. There would be a stabilizing surface like what was installed at the tot lots. Council Member Sandusky didn't think that would prevent injury. He reiterated that he does think it is a good idea. Assistant Administrator Sahol said there would be signage showing how to properly use the equipment. There would be age appropriate labeling on it. It is usually spread out along the walking path and not all grouped together. All were in agreement to explore the option.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said another thing the Wellness Committee discussed is the way the wellness initiative goes beyond just the employees but also reaches out to the community. There will be a bike rodeo again this year and a Wellness Day. They also talked about eating fresh produce. They wanted to try and encourage a **local farmer's market**. It would be about eight to ten local producers and every weekend. It could be held in a park. Bordentown has a pretty successful farmer's market. There is also a nice one on Long Beach Island. There could possibly be one in Roebing and one in Florence. Mayor Wilkie said at the Environmental Commission meeting a few years ago there were discussions about having a farmer's market. There were discussions about using the parking lot at Nykita Field on Friday nights.

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Recently he brainstormed with Assistant Administrator Sahol and suggested it could be in the middle of Main Street by the businesses. Depending on the space that was needed, the vendors could be placed on both sides and just about everyone in the village could walk there. In Florence, it would be better to have it in one of the parks and people could drive over. Another option would be to have it at the high school. He said he was looking for some thoughts on the idea. All agreed it was a good idea. Mayor Wilkie suggested reaching out to Paul Ordog since he was one of the Environmental Commissioners who came up with the idea a few years ago. Assistant Administrator Sahol said the Environmental Commission would definitely be involved. They have a great interest in the community.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said the annual **Mayor's Cup Softball Tournament** was scheduled for **June 4**. It is a nice day, a great event and everyone participates. The Wellness Committee thought it would be a good idea to have a picnic at the event. It would be like a covered dish. Employees would sign up to bring something. There would be a couple grills. It would be a nice day for employees and their families. People don't have to play in the softball game to participate. He would like to see more people just attending.

Council Member Sandusky said many years ago there was a Citizen of the Year Award. That was a good night. Part of the cost was renting a hall. Now the township has its own hall. Another idea is to have a Mayor's Ball. He suggested having the Recreation Coordinator, Marty Eckert, look into them. He thought they would be good fundraisers.

Division of Law Nothing at this time.

Division of Engineering Nothing at this time.

New Business

Public Comments: Open to the Public

Fred Wainwright, 1011 Cedar Lane, said he remembered when a pair of local farmers used to have a horse and wagon and they would go up and down the alleys in Roebing every week selling fresh produce.

Fred Scheetz, 12 Church Street, said there used to be an Ethnic Festival at the St. Nick's Picnic Grove. He asked why it wasn't being held this year? Mayor Wilkie said it hadn't been held for a couple years because the membership at the church is down. It was replaced by the Roebing Museum Octoberfest at the end of September. They are hoping to start bringing in some of the ethnic foods. They attempted to last year but there was a problem with the vendor they were working with. The Roebing Museum is also bringing back the carnival this year.

Mr. Scheetz said Collingswood holds a farmer's market on Wednesdays or Thursdays.

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

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ADJOURNMENT

8:28 PM MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Sandusky to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes.
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy M. Weiler, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk
/aek