

Florence, New Jersey
January 22, 2003

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 President Hofflinger at 8:00 PM. President Hofflinger led the Salute to the Flag.

The Township Clerk read the following statement: "Notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was published in the Burlington County Times on January 5, 2003 and given to the Register News for information. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board."

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

John Hofflinger, President
Frank Baldorossi (Late)
John Fratinardo
Bruce Garganio
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

Michael Muchowski, Mayor; Richard Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas Sahol, Assistant Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; Ellen Kearns, Township Solicitor; Joy Weiler, Township Clerk

PRESENTATION – RETIRING OFFICERS

Mayor and Council presented Sergeant Thomas Centofanti, 25 years of service, and Sergeant Joseph Fabritz, 21 years of service, each with a clock/plaque in honor of their retirement. Mayor Muchowski presented Mrs. Centofanti and Mrs. Fabritz each with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Township.

The Mayor stated that Sergeant Centofanti and Sergeant Fabritz served the community with dignity and as gentlemen. He thanked them for their hard work and wished them well.

Chief Gordon Dawson thanked Sergeant Centofanti and Sergeant Fabritz and wished them well.

Sergeant Fabritz thanked Mayor and Council and the members of the audience.

PRESENTATION – PROMOTIONS

Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman Michael Cipriano, Sr. and Patrolman Ray Williams promoting them to the position of Sergeant.

Mayor Muchowski praised the Police Department and wished Sergeant Cipriano and Sergeant Williams well in the rest of their career.

Sergeant Cipriano thanked everyone for coming this evening. He stated that he is happy and proud to serve.

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Sergeant Williams thanked everyone for coming out this evening. He stated that they have worked hard to get to this position and will work hard to make improvements.

MINUTES

Sandusky made a MOTION; seconded by Fratinardo to approve the following minutes. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Regular Session

December 18, 2002

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Garganio made a MOTION; seconded by Fratinardo to approve the Treasurer's Bill List. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Fitzpatrick, 204 Wilbur Henry Drive, discussed a situation involving his neighbor and their barking dog. He asked Council to look at amending the noise Ordinance to give the Police Department the authority to issue a ticket for a barking dog opposed to a resident having to file a complaint and go to court. He suggested that Council look at Mt. Laurel's noise Ordinance. Administrator Brook will meet with the Chief of Police to look over the noise Ordinance.

Nick DiLullo, 416 E. Fourth Street, stated that when the snow was plowed from in front of the stores on Front Street two weeks ago, it was piled up in front of his sister's house. Mayor Muchowski stated that is a piling area and the pile should be removed after the cleanup is complete. He will speak with the County and the Public Works Director.

NOTE: 8:45 PM Council Member Baldorossi present.

Mr. DiLullo discussed the behavior of the school children as they walk past his house after school. He stated that they use foul language and smoke cigarettes. He feels that the Police Department should do something about it. Council Member Garganio explained that police presence at the school would help in the immediate area, but the problem is the upbringing of the children. Discussion followed regarding the changes in society since Mr. DiLullo was young.

Dennise Yurcho, 708 Broad Street, discussed a problem with the water pipe in front of her house. She explained that as her husband was leaving the house this morning there was water bubbling up in the front lawn. A plumber was called out and after digging up in the street found that the pipe was broken in two places. The Water and Sewer Department was also called out to shut off the water; they advised Mrs. Yurcho that the break was on her side of the main and was her responsibility.

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Mrs. Yurcho discussed the Ordinance, which states that the customer shall maintain all connections, service lines and fixtures in good order. She does not believe that she could have maintained lines that are in the Township's street and she could not see. She stated that the estimate for repair, which includes paving the street where it was dug up, is in excess of \$5,000. She feels that the Ordinance needs to be amended.

George Yurcho, 708 Broad Street, asked why the lines were not checked 2 ½ years ago when the roadway was opened? Administrator Brook explained that the laterals are not usually replaced during a road program; they are replaced when the main is replaced.

Mayor Muchowski stated that this has happened to other residents and the governing body understands their hardship. He explained that the Ordinance has been this way for the last 15 years or so and has been discussed many times. If the Ordinance were to be amended, the rate payers would absorb the cost.

Council Member Sandusky asked Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, to look at the pipe to see if it could have been damaged during the roadwork 2 ½ years ago. Mr. Guzzi does not believe that the damage could have occurred that long ago and just started to bubble up today.

Administrator Brook stated that if the Ordinance was amended to have the Township maintain the lines, the water and sewer rates would have to be increased. Mayor Muchowski stated that the governing body would review and discuss the Ordinance again.

Discussion followed regarding the change in the Ordinance to make the homeowner responsible for the pipe from the main to the house. This amendment occurred around 1980 and may have been due to financial difficulties with the utility at that time.

All residents having an opportunity to be heard, MOTION by Fratinardo; seconded by Hofflinger to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-38

**APPROVE PAYMENT OF CURRENT ESTIMATE NO. 5 FINAL
FRONT STREET/DELAWARE AVENUE SIDEWALK PROJECT
ASSOCIATED CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS
P.O. BOX 857, NEWFIELD, NEW JERSEY 08344**

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-39

**RENEWAL OF ABC LICENSE FOR
WEDNET, INC. FOR 2002-2003 AS PER ABC SPECIAL RULING
LICENSE NO. 0315-33-011-004**

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-40

TRANSFERRING CERTAIN 2002 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-41

**RESOLUTION TO CANCEL TAXES
ON PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinardo that Resolutions 2003-38 through 2003-41 be adopted.

On the Question

Council President Hofflinger questioned Resolution No. 2003-39, Renewal of ABC License for Wednet, Inc. Mayor Muchowski explained that the renewal is due to a special ruling by the State because the owner of the license has a potential buyer. It does not allow the owner to reopen the business. If the business were to reopen, they would be subject to the Township's inspection. Administrator Brook will send a letter to the owner clarifying that this is a liquor license only renewal not a license to reopen and operate out of the current facility.

Council Member Sandusky asked where the license goes after it is renewed this evening? Clerk Weiler stated that she keeps the license in her office. If the owner comes to her stating that they are ready to open she checks with the Code Official and Administrator Brook to make sure that all of the inspections have been completed.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Garganio, Sandusky, Hofflinger
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2003-01
(1st Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
PATROLMEN
2002-2004**

**ORDINANCE 2003-02
(1st Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 134 OF THE FLORENCE
TOWNSHIP CODE TO PROVIDE THAT THE NO PARKING
RESTRICTION ON A PORTION OF BROAD STREET,
WEST SIDE, WILL APPLY ONLY DURING SPECIFIC
PORTIONS OF THE YEAR**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2003-03
(1st Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 53 OF THE CODE OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE TO PROVIDE THAT PERMITS
FOR THE BOAT RAMP AND DESIGNATED TRAILER
PARKING AREA SHALL BE FOR THE PERIOD OF
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2003-04
(1st Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 134 OF THE FLORENCE
TOWNSHIP CODE TO PROVIDE FOR HANDICAPPED
PARKING SPACES ON BROAD STREET**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Fratinaro to approve Ordinance No. 2003-01 through 2003-04 on first reading and set adoption for February 5, 2003.

On the Question

Council President Hofflinger questioned Ordinance No. 2003-04. Mayor Muchowski stated that this Ordinance is to insert the handicapped parking space that was requested by the Methodist Church.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinaro, Garganio, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

No reports from Council Committees, Boards and Officers at this time.

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Mayor Muchowski

- Nothing at this time.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook met with Whitesell to negotiate the installation of part of the new water main. They have agreed to install it by September 1, 2003 along with some other water improvements. The Resolution has been amended to include those conditions.
- Administrator Brook stated that one of the police cars has been totaled and a new one will need to be purchased. The Township will be reimbursed the cash value of the vehicle, which is determined by the Joint Insurance Fund.

Assistant Administrator

- Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that NJ Transit would be notifying the Township when they have the start up date. They may also meet with a committee regarding the barriers on top of the berms.

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that NJ Transit has requested permission to store some of the items that they will be using at the Park and Ride on the municipal lot by Keatings. Council Member Garganio suggested, since there would be no security in the municipal lot, that the items be stored on NJ Transit's property at the mill site. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that NJ Transit is not comfortable leaving the items on the mill site. Council Members in agreement to deny NJ Transit's request to store their items in the municipal lot.

Mayor Muchowski asked if NJ Transit has made the changes to the Phoenix logo?
Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that he has not seen any changes and will email NJ Transit to remind them that the logo needs to be changed.

- Assistant Administrator Sahol reported that Griffin Pipe has expressed an interest in contributing to the Patriotic Celebration this year in honor of their 200-year anniversary. They would like to have floats in the parade and also a Township wide picnic in the park. They would pay for the cost of refreshments and food for anyone who comes to the park after the parade. Mayor Muchowski asked that they coordinate with the Legion.

Discussion followed regarding the impact a free picnic would have on the usual vendors. Council Member Garganio suggested that the groups could find another way to make money since a free picnic would draw a large crowd.

Assistant Administrator Sahol asked if Council would be interested in Griffin Pipe donating money towards the fireworks? Council Members in favor.

Council President Hofflinger asked Assistant Administrator Sahol if he met with Griffin Pipe regarding the tracks? Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that they are working steadily on the tracks.

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- Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the soccer and softball recreation organizations have requested that a link to their sites be added to the Township's recreation site. Council Members in favor.

Council Member Garganio asked if the registration forms are available online? Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that they are.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Nothing at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Administrator Brook asked if Council would like to discuss the squad letters this evening or wait until February? Council in agreement for Administrator Brook to send out the letters as is.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President Hofflinger received a call from a resident on Maple Avenue. The resident stated that the Maple Avenue street sign on the left side of Delaware Avenue is missing. There is also a School Lane street sign missing. Administrator Brook will look into and proper signage will be installed.

Council Member Garganio discussed an article in the newspaper regarding Mansfield's Master Plan review. The State is giving them a problem because they are in a non-developable area on the State map. He stated that years ago the Township was in a highly developed area but got the Township into a lower tier. Council Member Garganio feels that it should be looked into again. Mayor Muchowski agrees and stated that he has spoken to Mark Remsa, Burlington County Regional Planning Coordinator on the subject. Council Member Fratinardo suggested a letter to the Governor's office also to get the residential standards changed.

Administrator Brook will write a letter to the State requesting a copy of the map as it pertains to Florence Township. Solicitor Kearns suggested checking the website for a copy of the map.

Discussion followed regarding several ideas that are being considered by the State for land use regulations. Solicitor Kearns explained that the League of Municipalities has sent a list of questions to the Governor but has not received a response yet. This list includes many of the questions that Mayor and Council are asking this evening.

WARDS AND DISTRICTS

Clerk Weiler stated that all parties have agreed on the Wards and Districts map and it will go to the County soon.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing at this time

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9:55 PM MOTION by Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to adjourn meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:55 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab