

Florence, New Jersey
May 3, 2006

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

The following statement was read by the Township Clerk: "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 8, 2006; 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 Fratinardo, President
Bruce Garganio (Late)
Elizabeth Ryan
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

Mayor Michael Muchowski (Late); Richard Brook, Township Administrator (Late); Thomas Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator (Late); Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

MINUTES

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

Regular Session	April 5, 2006
Executive Session	April 12, 2006
Closed Session	April 5, 12 & 19, 2006

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Ryan; seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Township Clerk's report for April 2006. Roll call vote—all ayes. Motion carried.

Ryan made a MOTION; seconded by Sandusky to approve the Treasurer's Bill List. Roll call vote—all ayes. Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time.

APPLICATIONS

Nothing at this time.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Mognancki, 904 Walnut Street, asked if Council has reviewed the school budget yet? Council President Fratinardo stated that Council has had a chance to review it individually but has not discussed it as a group. Council Member Ryan stated that Council has until the last meeting in May to take action.

Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, read a letter to Mayor and Council on behalf of the Florence Township High School Marching Band Booster Association, who were unable to attend this evening due to an arts function at the school. Since the School Budget was voted down and Council now has the difficult task of reviewing the budget and deciding where to make cuts, the Band Booster Association is asking that Council take into consideration the line item (\$10,000) for new marching band uniforms. In the letter they explain that an anonymous donor has donated \$10,000, which is half the uniforms cost, with the stipulation that the money is only good for the 2006-2007 school year. If this line item is removed from the budget and the uniforms are not purchased, the money must be returned. It would take years for the Band Boosters to raise that kind of money. The uniforms the Marching Band are currently using are over 15 years old and in disrepair. The Band Boosters and Marching Band members thanked Mayor and Council for their help and continued support of the arts program.

NOTE: 8:10PM, Mayor Muchowski, Council Member Garganio and Administrator Brook present at this time.

It was on the **MOTION** of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to receive and file the letter from the Florence Township High School Marching Band Booster Association dated May 2, 2006 and hold until the hearings on the school budget.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-85

**CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR GAS SERVICE
BETWEEN THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOARD
OF EDUCATION AND THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

It was on the **MOTION** of Sandusky, seconded by Garganio that Resolution 2006-85 be approved.

On the Question

Council Member Ryan stated that the Resolution does not reflect what rate the school will be billed at. Administrator Brook stated that they are billed the same cost as the township. He explained that once all the costs are in and analyzed for the new fuel system, a separate Interlocal Service Agreement for the school and fire district will be brought before Council for payment back to the municipality as part of their gallonage. A

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tentative agreement with an approximate percentage has been reached with the school and fire district.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinaro

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carries.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2006-12
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 76 (FIRE PREVENTION) OF THE
FLORENCE CODE**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Garganio to approve Ordinance No. 2006-12 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

Council President Fratinaro opened the meeting to the public for comments at this time.

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to close the public hearing. All ayes—motion carried.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinaro

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2006-13
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 15 (FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE
FLORENCE CODE)**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve Ordinance No. 2006-13 on second reading for adoption.

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Public Comment

Council President Fratinardo opened the meeting to the public for comments at this time.

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Fratinardo to close the public hearing. All ayes—motion carried.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinardo

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2006-14
(1st Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING
CHAPTER 114 OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE TO PROVIDE
DISTINCT DEFINITIONS AND REGULATIONS REGARDING TRANSIENT
MERCHANTS AND TEMPORARY BUSINESSES ALONG WITH
REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO EACH**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Garganio to approve Ordinance No. 2006-14 on first reading and set adoption for May 17, 2006.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Sandusky, Fratinardo

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Ryan

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carries.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Nothing at this time.

Mayor Muchowski

- Mayor Muchowski stated the **school budget** is before the governing body and discussed the letter that was received and filed earlier in the meeting from the Band Boosters. He stated that the band does a fabulous job in the community.

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They have pride and have grown in stature throughout the arts community. He concurs with the letter and hopes to be able to work through the numbers.

- Mayor Muchowski thanked **Thomas Layou**, Code Official, for filling in as **Acting Mayor** in his absence.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook asked if the governing body had the opportunity to read the memo from Assistant Administrator Sahol regarding the **nerve gas** and if they would like the township to reiterate the **municipality's objections**? Council in agreement to reiterate their objection.
- Administrator Brook stated that Assistant Administrator Sahol is wrapping up the figures for **displaying the quilt Mr. Mognancki donated** and verified that the governing body would like to display it in the Roebing Firehouse, which will be the new community center. Council in agreement to display at the Roebing Firehouse. Administrator Brook will report back to Mr. Mognancki.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, gave Clerk Weiler the last list of roads that Council discussed for next week's packet. The **Transportation Trust Fund Grant application** is due in June and asked that be added to next week's Agenda. It is not only for the roads, but also the bike path grant and sidewalk grant, Safe Streets to School Grant.

NOTE: 8:19 PM, Assistant Administrator Sahol present.

Mayor Muchowski stated that since the present middle school/high school will be restructured and younger kids will be attending school in that building to have the gaps in the sidewalks on some of the more heavily traveled secondary streets done under the sidewalk grant. Council Member Garganio suggested surveying to see which street the school children use the most and prioritize that way.

Council Member Sandusky feels that the main entrance should be moved from the front, which is on a main street, to the rear of the building. Mayor Muchowski also discussed crossing guards for that building.

Council Member Sandusky stated that at the end of a day on a Friday **construction equipment** was left in front of Fifth Street residents homes. Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, was notified by Assistant Administrator Sahol and spoke with the contractor. There is a designated spot in the township to store construction equipment and vehicles the contractor should have utilized. Mr. Guzzi will have each site checked on Friday afternoons to make sure that does not happen again.

Council Member Garganio asked if tickets are being issued for construction vehicles being parked on a residential street? Administrator Brook stated that tickets should have been issued.

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Assistant Administrator

- Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the **Recreation Committee** received a **request** from the **Football League** to add \$35 to the township's \$10 registration fee, the \$35 would be sent directly to the Football League. The Recreation Committee does not have the ability to approve or deny, only to recommend, and they recommend against it. The Recreation Committee did vote in favor of allowing a buyout option. This would allow a parent to pay the \$35 to the league in lieu of participating in the fundraiser.

Assistant Administrator Sahol reviewed the cost to outfit each child for football and cheerleading.

Mayor Muchowski feels the football league should be approaching Mayor and Council opposed to the Recreation Committee. He will invite the league in to talk to the governing body. Council Member Garganio is not a proponent of raising the fees but is willing to listen and discuss with the league. Council Member Sandusky would also like to meet with the league.

Mayor Muchowski asked Assistant Administrator Sahol if he was able to meet with Coach Flynn regarding the **Patriotic Celebration 5k run**. Assistant Administrator Sahol has not been able to meet with him but will before the week is out and report back next week.

Assistant Administrator Sahol reviewed the **parade route**, which will run from Delaware Avenue (at Railroad Avenue) up Delaware Avenue to Broad Street to the municipal building.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Defeated School Budget

Mayor Muchowski stated that usually a sub-committee of Council works on the budget along with the Superintendent of Schools and School Board. Mayor Muchowski, Council President Fratinardo and Council Member Sandusky will serve on the subcommittee.

Cedar Lane – Speed Limit and Truck Route

Council Member Garganio received a letter from Gary Capritti, a resident of Cedar Lane, regarding the speed limit on Cedar Lane. His letter raised some of the same points that Council has raised to the County several times, with no response. With the new school opening soon on Cedar Lane, he feels it may be worthwhile to petition the County regarding the speed limit again and to possibly make Cedar Lane no longer a truck route. More truck traffic may be drawn to Cedar Lane with the improvement to the intersection at Old York Road. Mayor Muchowski suggested addressing the letter directly to the Freeholder in charge of the appropriate department.

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Mr. Guzzi explained that prior to the new school construction, studies and tests were performed and presented to the County. The County stated that it did not warrant lowering the speed limit.

Mr. Guzzi stated the speed limit is 50 MPH and by state law, it can only be lowered 15 MPH below the posted speed limit in a school zone, which would bring it down to 35 MPH.

Administrator Brook will write a letter to the Burlington County Freeholders on behalf of the governing body, with carbon copies to Mr. Capritti and the Superintendent of Schools. The improvements, studies and tests will be referenced.

Fire Department

Council Member Ryan commended the Fire Department for their hard work in fighting two very difficult fires this past week.

Recreation for Senior Citizens

Council Member Ryan was approached by some residents regarding the lack of recreation for senior citizens, except for walking paths. She asked if there was anything that could be done within the confines of the existing budget, such as shuffleboard. Mayor Muchowski suggested writing a letter to the two senior citizen groups asking what sort of recreation activity they would be interested in. The work could be done in house. Administrator Brook will draft a letter to the groups asking for ideas.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing at this time.

8:50 PM MOTION by Garganio, seconded by Ryan to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

8:50 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab