

Florence, New Jersey
September 19, 2007

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

The following statement was read: "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 7, 2007; 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:

Frank Baldorossi, President
John Fratinardo
Bruce Garganio
Elizabeth Ryan
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

Mayor Michael Muchowski; Richard Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor

MINUTES

None at this time.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Ryan; seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Chief of Police report, the Township Clerk's report and the Court Administrator's report for August. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nothing at this time.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-157

**APPROVE CURRENT ESTIMATE NO. 2 FOR
WELL NO. 6, WELL PUMP, BUILDING & APPURTENANCES
B&H CONTRACTING, INC., 1022 BLACK HORSE PIKE,
FOLSOM, NEW JERSEY, 08037**

It was on the MOTION of Fratinaro, seconded by Sandusky that Resolution 2007-157 be approved.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Fratinaro, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-158

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
BURLINGTON COUNTY LEASE BANK PROGRAM**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi that Resolution 2007-158 be approved.

On the Question

Council Member Ryan asked why Council was being called upon to endorse this program? She feels that if the Burlington County Freeholders want to enact it, the township can take advantage of it. She stated that if it is to persuade the Board of Freeholders, the program should be approved on its own merit. Administrator Brook is not sure of the interaction between the Board of Freeholders and the Burlington County Bridge Commission. He explained that the Bridge Commission sent a survey to municipalities asking if they would want to participate in this type of program. Administrator Brook sent back a "yes" reply. After that, the Bridge Commission called and stated that the Freeholders are trying to gauge the interest of the municipalities in a more finite manner and they are asking, if the township was interested, that they pass a Resolution. He is not sure if there is an issue between the Freeholders and the Bridge Commission. Administrator Brook feels it is a good idea and that ultimately it's a way for municipalities to move some of their costs into debt service and deal with the tax levy.

Council Member Sandusky asked what was some of the equipment that the township may be interested in getting through this program? Administrator Brook stated that it could be a street sweeper, a truck or anything that would fit into the five (5) year capital program.

Council Member Ryan thought that she read in the newspaper that this was controversial between the Freeholders and the Bridge Commission. Administrator Brook suggested that the Resolution be

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 09/19/07

TABLED and offered to call and ask the Bridge Commission if there is something he is not aware of.

Now that Council Member Ryan mentions it, Mayor Muchowski remembers there being a split on the Freeholder Board. He sees from an administrative view point that there is value to the municipality to the program but if the Freeholders and the Bridge Commission are having a battle and the Bridge Commission wants to poll for municipal support to put into the face of the Freeholders, the township does not want to be a part of that. Administrator Brook stated that he can write the Bridge Commission stating that the decision of the Freeholders rests on the merits of the program.

Sandusky rescinded his original MOTION to approve and made a MOTION, seconded by Ryan to **TABLE Resolution No. 2007-158.**

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Fratinaro, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-10
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE IN BURLINGTON
COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, CREATING THE POSITION OF MUNICIPAL
HOUSING LIAISON FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING THE
FLORENCE TOWNSHIP AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM
PURSUANT TO THE NEW JERSEY FAIR HOUSING ACT**

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2007-10 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

No public comment.

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

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 09/19/07

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Fratinaro, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-11
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 134 OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
CODE TO ESTABLISH PARKING
RESTRICTIONS ON FIREHOUSE LANE**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve Ordinance No. 2007-11 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

No public comment.

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

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Fratinaro, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-12
(1st Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 134 OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
CODE TO ESTABLISH PARKING
RESTRICTIONS ON PORTIONS OF SUMMER STREET**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinaro to approve Ordinance No. 2007-12 on first reading and set adoption for October 3, 2007.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 09/19/07

On the Question

Mayor Muchowski asked if the second reading could be postponed until the first meeting in November? He has concerns with a part of the restrictions on a portion of Summer Street that he would like to discuss with the Chief of Police, who is on vacation. Solicitor Kearns stated that if there is a potential that the terms of the Ordinance may change, introduction of the Ordinance should be delayed.

Sandusky rescinded his original MOTION to approve and made a MOTION, seconded by Ryan to **TABLE Ordinance No. 2007-12.**

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Fratinaro, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-13
(1st Reading)**

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

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinaro to approve Ordinance No. 2007-13 on first reading and set adoption for October 3, 2007.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Fratinaro, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-14
(1st Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING
THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE BY REPEALING CHAPTER
124 – STREET CLOSINGS AND BY AMENDING SECTION 134-34 –
SCHEDULE II: NO PARKING CERTAIN HOURS BY REPEALING
THE PROVISION FOR SECOND STREET ON THE NORTH SIDE
DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2007-14 on first reading and set adoption for October 3, 2007.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 09/19/07

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Fratinaro, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Nothing at this time.

Mayor Muchowski

- Mayor Muchowski advised Council that Assistant Administrator Sahol will be discussing a letter received by the New Jersey State Police regarding the fingerprinting procedure.
- Mayor Muchowski stated that there was an **Assessment Commission meeting** earlier this evening with the residents of **Tall Pines**. It was a very productive meeting and the residents had the opportunity to be heard. One of the residents asked if the cost of the assessment, either the principal or the interest, was considered tax deductible for tax filing purposes. It was a very good question, which no one had an answer for.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook stated that he will provide a formal report in early October with a recommendation from the **Assessment Commission** regarding the **Tall Pines Development** assessment. A meeting will then be set up with the residents where Council will consider the recommendations of the Assessment Commission.
- Administrator Brook stated that the response to the **Eighth Avenue** residents in regards to the **striped parking** issue that was discussed at the September 12th meeting will be hand delivered to each resident. The letter gives a clear answer and addresses the questions regarding Green Acres.
- Administrator Brook stated that there was an article in the newspaper about Senator Diane Allen putting together a coalition of municipalities to get together to discuss **“quite zones” in communities that the New Jersey Transit Light Rail travels through** and blows the horn. Her office contacted Administrator Brook and asked why Florence Township was not attending this evening’s meeting. He explained, and he will also send a letter, that the meetings always seem to be held on a Wednesday evening when there is a Council meeting. In the future if the “quite zone” meetings are on a night other than a Wednesday it is not a problem but if they are on a Wednesday, if Council wishes, Administrator Brook or Assistant Administrator Sahol will attend. That way there is representation at the meetings for the two (2) stops in Florence Township.

Assistant Administrator

- Assistant Administrator Sahol discussed the correspondence from the New Jersey State Police. They are looking to implement a change starting March 15, 2008 where the township will no longer be able to process the **fingerprints for the volunteer’s background checks** locally. It will also affect firearm identification card and employment application

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 09/19/07

fingerprints. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the township has processed fingerprints for over 300 coaches, which must be done every two (2) years. When the coaches come due for another background check they will have to drive to one of these remote facilities and pay directly to the third party that the NJ State Police have engaged.

Council Member Ryan asked the name of the company that will be processing the fingerprints? Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that it is Sagem Morpho. Council Member Ryan feels there will be delays. She stated that healthcare professionals have to get background checks and there are tremendous backups. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that every State Department and Agency will have to be accommodated through this facility.

Mayor Muchowski stated that it has been difficult at times to get volunteers to come to dispatch in the municipal building to get fingerprinted. Council Member Garganio does not believe the volunteers will go to Cherry Hill or Ewing to get fingerprinted and the background check program will be ruined.

Council Member Sandusky asked who to contact to protest the situation? He suggested circulating a Resolution to the other municipalities. Mayor Muchowski agrees but would like to find out exactly how this started and the appropriate person to contact. The township is taking protective measures and now it will be more difficult for the volunteers to adhere to.

Mayor Muchowski asked Assistant Administrator Sahol if David Dennison, Recreation Director, was equipped for the renewals coming up this spring? Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that Mr. Dennison has identified the people that need their renewal and has ordered the supplies from the NJ State Police. After the supplies were ordered this letter was received. The coaches with background checks that expire this coming spring will be asked to come in this winter to be fingerprinted.

Council President Baldorossi asked how many volunteers were originally fingerprinted? Assistant Administrator Sahol is not sure originally, but to date there have been approximately 320 total.

Council Member Ryan deals with this fingerprinting company in her employment and has experienced issues with this company and feels they are presently overwhelmed. To hear that municipalities will be added to their workload is disheartening. Council Member Ryan does not want to give up. Mayor Muchowski stated that Assistant Administrator Sahol is prepared to move forward and advocate the governing body's position that the volunteer program will be ruined.

Administrator Brook feels it is best to act now. He feels there will be more impact by going to the NJ League of Municipalities and Legislators then going to the Colonel of the NJ State Police. Council in agreement to act right away.

- Assistant Administrator Sahol updated Mayor and Council on the **zip code consolidation process**. He reported that the US Postal Service is looking to implement the consolidation separately, meaning they would poll the Burlington route in October for a transition in February, and then poll the Bordentown route in February for a transition in June. Merging

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 09/19/07

both the Burlington and Bordentown routes at the same time would overwhelm the Florence Post Office.

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the new Crossroads Developments will be addressed: Florence. Mayor Muchowski feels that is a step in the right direction and a validation of the request.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, updated Mayor and Council on **Marter Park**. He stated that everything looks good and the soccer fields are finished and have been seeded and watered.
- Mr. Guzzi is waiting for the list of issues from **Greenbriar's** homeowner's association. As soon as he receives the list he will finalize the **punch list** and provide a copy to the developer as well as Council. Council President Baldorossi asked the status of the trees? Mr. Guzzi stated that the trees are scheduled to be installed next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Muchowski discussed **fishing in the creek in Roebling**. There used to be signs posted but he does not recall exactly what they said, whether it was: "no fishing", "do not eat the fish" or "restricted fishing." No one seems to remember exactly who initiated it. The EPA recalls doing a sediment test and the County Board of Health says they do not deal with that. Administrator Brook will contact NJ Fish and Game and request that they take a sample and report back. Mayor Muchowski wants the area to be posted properly.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council Member Sandusky mentioned at last week's meeting that the "Schools Open, Drive Carefully" signs were not posted. He noted that they are posted now and thanked the responsible party.

8:47 PM MOTION by Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to adjourn meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

8:47 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD A. BROOK
Deputy Township Clerk

/mab