

Florence, New Jersey  
September 20, 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  
Elizabeth Ryan  
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

Mayor Michael Muchowski; Richard Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; Samuel Reale, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

### **MINUTES**

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

Regular Session	September 6, 2006
Closed Session	September 6, 2006

### **FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

It was on the MOTION of Ryan; seconded by Sandusky to receive and file 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**

- A. Social Affair Permit: St. Michael & Gabriel Romanian Orthodox Church, September 30, 2006, 6:00PM – 2:00AM, Fall Harvest Festival
- B. Boy Scouts: Sleep over at the FAAD Building, September 22, 2006

**Florence Township Council Regular Session: 09/20/06**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to approve the above applications:

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinardo

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carries.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Fred Wainwright, 1091 Florence-Columbus Road, reported that there are some street lights out in the community and gave their location. Assistant Administrator Sahol will look into.

Steve Mognanski, 904 Walnut Street, stated that the gates for the railroad crossing on Delaware Avenue are staying down a long time after the train goes by and suggested it be checked.

John Kent, 475 E. Front Street, paid his quarterly taxes and then received a notice that the bank also paid them. When he came to the tax office to get reimbursed, he was told that the governing body had to approve the refund by Resolution. Administrator Brook explained that in the State of New Jersey the governing body does have to approve reimbursement of duplicate payments or overpayments. Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, informed Mr. Kent that there is a Resolution before the governing body this evening approving the reimbursement to him and a check will be cut tomorrow.

Paul Varga, 20 Fourth Avenue, has noticed that the gates for the railroad crossing on Hornberger Avenue also stay down a long time. Mayor Muchowski has also noticed this and has reported the problem. He explained that NJ Transit needs to address the problem. Assistant Administrator Sahol will contact NJ Transit.

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, thanked Administrator Brook, Assistant Administrator Sahol and everyone else involved, for addressing his concerns regarding parking on Walnut Court. He has seen improvement and the area is being cleaned up.

Mr. Lotter congratulated everyone in the township that worked on negotiating the contract for the Roebling Steel Mill site. He believes it will be good for the township.

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. 2006-165**

**AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC SALE OF TOWNSHIP  
OWNED PROPERTY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2006-166**

**REFUND PAYMENT CONSTRUCTION CODE OFFICE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2006-167**

**AUTHORIZING REFUNDS OF CERTAIN TAX OVERPAYMENTS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2006-168**

**APPROVE CURRENT ESTIMATE NO. 2 FOR  
2006 PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
COMMAND CO.  
135 HARTFORD ROAD, MEDFORD, NJ 08055**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2006-169**

**APPROVE ANNUAL AUDIT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2006-170**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL HOUSING  
LIAISON**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2006-171**

**FORMALLY REQUEST NJDOT CONDUCT A TRAFFIC STUDY  
AT ROUTE 130 AND CEDAR LANE AND  
ROUTE 130 AND FLORENCE-COLUMBUS ROAD**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2006-172**

**AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING FOR AND OBTAINING PROPOSALS FOR  
BOND COUNSEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS  
ESTABLISHED BY FLORENCE TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION NO. 2005-227**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Ryan that Resolutions 2006-165 through 2006-172 be approved.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinaro

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carries.

**ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE 2006-23  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE ADOPTING AN  
OFFICIAL TOWNSHIP SEAL**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2006-23 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

No public comments.

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Garganio 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.

**REPORTS**

**Committees, Boards and Officers**

- Nothing at this time.

**Mayor Muchowski**

- Mayor Muchowski reported that the Public Hearing took place at the Planning Board meeting this past Monday regarding the **closing of the Church Street railroad crossing and opening a railroad crossing at the Boulevard** for the new development. The Public Hearing came about due to Council sending it back to the Planning Board based on NJDOT's observations and recommendations. The developer advertised the public notice so the public had a chance to discuss. The various township departments were given a chance to review to see if there were any issues; there were no issues. The developer had the traffic engineer supplement his traffic report based on the effect of the closing. No members of the public attended the meeting. No formal action was required of the Planning Board. The Planning Board did respond in writing that no members of the Board have any objection. It is now Council's final decision whether or not to go with DOT's recommendation to close the Church Street crossing and open a crossing at the Boulevard. Mayor Muchowski does not see any township related issues.

Administrator Brook reiterated that the Police Department, Fire Department and the Emergency Medical Services have all concurred that they have no objections to the closing. The public was given ample opportunity to return to the Planning Board to discuss. No calls concerning this matter have been received at the administrative building.

Council Member Sandusky questioned who is responsible for maintenance once the Church Street crossing is closed and the Boulevard crossing is opened? Administrator Brook responded that Griffin Pipe still owns the spur and they will still be responsible for the crossing. It will be included in the agreement that the ongoing maintenance for the new crossing will be the responsibility of Griffin Pipe.

Assistant Administrator Sahol reviewed the type of crossing that will go in, which must meet State approval. He suggested that once the Church Street crossing is abandoned, either the Township Engineer or Public Works Superintendent inspects it.

Council President Fratinardo stated that testimony was given that the Boulevard crossing will be open before the Church Street crossing is closed.

It was on the **MOTION** of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve the closing of the Church Street railroad crossing and the opening of the Boulevard crossing conditioned on the following:

- Griffin Pipe has future maintenance responsibility for the Boulevard crossing

**Florence Township Council Regular Session: 09/20/06**

- Church Street crossing will not close until the Boulevard crossing is open
- Church Street closing will be properly inspected and improved by the township or its engineer
- Construction of the Boulevard crossing will be reviewed in conjunction with DOT and approved by the township

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinardo

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

Mr. Craft of Craft Stewart Developers agrees with the conditions.

- Mayor Muchowski discussed the **acquisition of the land behind the Municipal Complex**. He feels it is one of the best moves that this governing body has made with the development of the soccer field and the football field. The township is in the direction of continually upgrading that property. This coming weekend marks the first time that Pop Warner Football will be utilizing the new field. After years of work the potential of the land is being realized. This is also the first time that Pop Warner Football has its own facility.

Mayor Muchowski reported that **plans for a concession/storage/restroom area** are close to being finalized. He believes it will go between the football field and the baseball field to serve those two facilities along with the soccer facility.

Mayor Muchowski stated that it has come to his attention that **soccer** has been using a small plastic storage shed for storage of balls and cones. He noticed, since the township acquired the Florence Emergency Squad building, that there is a **small outside storage shed** that is in good condition. It is not earmarked for anything and he asked if Council would mind letting soccer use it for the time being. Council in agreement to allow Soccer to use the storage shed.

- Mayor Muchowski **thanked the public for the positive comments** regarding the Roebling redevelopment. He stated that there is a long road ahead of the township. He has positive but guarded optimism that it will come to a successful conclusion. He stated that it is nice to hear that residents are aware of the strides that have been made. The township will continue to work hard as they have in the past to move that property in a positive direction.

With the improvements that have been made behind the municipal building, Council President Fratinardo **thanked Mr. Wainwright and Council Member Garganio** for their **efforts in the development of sports** in the community and their work to get the **fields for the community**.

## Florence Township Council Regular Session: 09/20/06

### **Administrator**

- Administrator Brook stated that the request concerning the **Delaware Avenue Firehouse** will be put on the **October Worksession** Agenda. The owners will be invited to the meeting to discuss the rezoning request.

### **Assistant Administrator**

- Assistant Administrator Sahol provided a memo regarding setting the **2007 Patriotic Celebration** date for July 7<sup>th</sup>, the Saturday after July 4<sup>th</sup>, and asked if there were any concerns? No concerns were raised regarding the date. Mayor Muchowski suggested that Assistant Administrator Sahol provide an agenda for the day's events, the course route and so on for discussion at the October Worksession. Assistant Administrator Sahol will begin putting the day's events together.

### **Township Solicitor**

- Nothing at this time.

### **Township Engineer**

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, reported that work has begun in Marter Park. The road has begun to be cut.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Council Member Garganio discussed the **traffic light at Route 130 and Cedar Lane**. A Resolution was approved earlier in the meeting requesting that NJDOT conduct a traffic study at that intersection. He asked, that in the meantime, a police officer manually control that traffic light when the high school kids are on their way to school so they are not backing up on the whirlybird. They are young, inexperienced drivers. Administrator Brook will talk to the Chief of Police and report back.

Council Member Sandusky offered **compliments regarding the walking path** outside of the municipal facility. He would like to bring it to the attention of the residents. He also suggested exercise points in the future. Council President Fratinardo suggested posting on the township's access channel. Mayor Muchowski agrees that the whole facility is coming together nicely and now there is much more activity, which is what was hoped for.

Clerk Weiler noted that there is a consensus that **Ward 3, District 3** will vote here in the **Municipal Building**, courtroom.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Nothing at this time.

**Florence Township Council Regular Session: 09/20/06**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Nothing at this time.

8:30 PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to adjourn meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

8:30 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER  
Township Clerk

/mab