

Florence Township Council Regular Session 6/3/20

Florence, New Jersey
June 3, 2020

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting via teleconference on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Sandusky at 7:00 PM. Council President Sandusky led the Salute to the Flag.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice was published in the Burlington County Times on April 3, 2020; placed on the Township website, and given to the Trenton Times for information.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Bruce Garganio, Paul Ostrander, Dave Woolston, Jerry Sandusky

Also Present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie, Stephen Fazekas, Township Administrator, Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Administrator, Kelly Grant, Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None at this time.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

- Tax Collector's Monthly Tax Report for April 2020

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve the reports to receive and file. Voice vote – all ayes.

Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Garganio, to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous vote – Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Letter from Judith L. King requesting the use of the 3rd St. Firehouse on September 19, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the Florence Historical Society Open House

Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Ostrander to approve the letter for the Open House. Voice vote – all ayes.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 6/3/20

- B. Letter from Anthony G Arecchi, 2nd Grader (Age 8) regarding an idea for a playground at Spruce and Fifth and the bike path on rail tracks.

Mayor Wilkie explained that the area in question will be a new connection with Fifth Street. He is going to draft a letter of response to the young Mr. Arecchi.

- C. Letter from Ritchard Woolston, Chairperson, Florence Township Housing Authority regarding expiration of term for Kimberly Mattson on July 2020.

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Garganio to receive and file letters B and C. Voice vote – all ayes.

APPLICATIONS

- A. Application to renew Transient Merchant License to Alfredo DaRocha dba Interstate Caterers

Motion of Garganio, seconded by Ostrander to approve the application.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Sandusky opened the meeting to the public at this time.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, asked how the disinfectant mentioned in Resolution No. 2020-115 will be used and will it affect the people who drink the water?

Mayor Wilkie explained that it has been part of the water treatment process for many years and it will not affect the drinking water.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, a motion was made by Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to close Public Comments. Voice vote – all ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-112

Approve Current Est. No. 3 for Florence-Columbus Rd. Water Tower

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-113

Appoint Contacts for Employment Liability Attorney Consultation Service for BULCO/JIF

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-114

Authorize Filing 2019 Recycling Grant

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-115

Authorize Preparation of Specs and obtain bids for Sodium Hypochlorite Solution

Florence Township Council Regular Session 6/3/20

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-116

Authorize Preparation of Specs and obtain bids for Radio Frequency Read Water Meters

Motion of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution No. 2020-112 through 2020-116.

Councilman Garganio asked on Resolution No. 2020-112, if we receive certified payrolls before we approve any of the payments for the contractors for the outside work? He also asked if an evaluation is done to ensure the proper rates are being paid or is it just to receive and file?

Clerk Erlston explained that that we do receive certified payrolls and that they are sent to the Clerk's Office and filed in the contract file.

Administrator Fazekas said that when the invoices and paysheets come in he looks them over as well as Alaimo Engineering, who is overseeing the project. Alaimo signs off, certifying that they are all correct before it is even sent to him for review.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-04

**Approve Redevelopment Plan 2001 Route 130, Block 159.02, Lots 6.01, 9 & 10
(2nd Read & Public Hearing)**

Mayor Wilkie explained that this is the last property on the right side going south on Route 130 toward Burlington Township. It is referred to as a “flag lot,” meaning the front is very narrow and goes back so many feet before it opens up. A small warehouse business is being proposed, about 60-70,000 square feet with possibly two occupants. Because of the shape of the lot we chose to move forward in this direction.

Council President Sandusky opened the meeting up to public at this time. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, a motion was made by Ostrander, and seconded by Sandusky to close public hearing on Ordinance No. 2020-04.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

None at this time.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 6/3/20

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie sadly reported that the summer parks program is canceled this summer. We are still in Phase I, where they are allowing summer programs but many of our days were to be spent going to different facilities. The Police Department's Youth Academy program has also been canceled for the same reasons. We will be reaching out to the participants to both programs to let them know.

Mayor Wilkie attended the Memorial Day services. Post 194 did their traditional salute to the Veterans starting at the Oak & Fifth Streets Monument, then to the cemeteries and ended at the Eagle Monument on Broad Street. Post 39 had their service at the Legion and then went to the locations throughout Roebling as well as the cemeteries. The services were videotaped and are being broadcast on Channel 19 and he hopes to get them up on the township website as well.

He mentioned that the next Council meeting will not be held until June 17th.

Council President Sandusky mentioned that at the Memorial Day service at Post 39, a new organization, the Odd Fellows, joined in the ceremony.

Administrator

Administrator Fazekas explained that on the doors in the municipal building there are signs posted "Stop, Authorized Personnel Only Beyond This Point" on several doors leading in to the Administrative side and the Police Department side. This is something that, before COVID-19 took effect, where some groups were trying to enter municipal buildings and they were stating that nothing was posted to keep them out so they were trying to enter areas that are restricted to the public. You will now see the signs when the building is open to the public.

He explained that today, June 3, 2020 was the last Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting. This group has been together since COVID-19 started that comprised of the Fire Department, EMS, Emergency Management, Public Works, Water & Sewer Department, the Recreation Department, the School District, the Charter School and the Administration. They have met every week on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. and discussed all aspects of COVID-19 and how it affected the community and came up with decisions as the Governor was allowing different venues to open to the public, how it affected the town and then put out the weekly press release. As of today, it was decided that it will suspend meeting every week and stay in communication back and forth. It has been an excellent working group and the entire group has committed to meeting a few times a year and continue discussions about all aspects of the township. He thanked everyone on the committee for the time that they invested to that.

Administrator Fazekas also mentioned that, as of this morning, the Burlington County Health Department had notified us that we have 85 positive cases of the virus in the township and unfortunately, we have had 5 deaths.

There has been a lot happening on social media and the Police Department is aware and actively pursuing and doing their due diligence with investigations.

Today we had storms come through, and we had a few trees come down throughout the township. Public Works has been cleaning them up and will be back out again tomorrow. Damage to any buildings and structures in the town are being assessed.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 6/3/20

Assistant Municipal Administrator

Assistant Administrator Tom Sahol spoke about the DOT-TAP Grant that was approved for the township to develop the track path from Front Street up to about Spruce Street along Fifth Street. When you take a look at the federal projects that are funded by these grants and the parameters that are set, the grants are actually extraordinarily overwhelming when it comes to the amount of time that you have to spend just to administer the grant before you even get shovel ready. If we were to talk about a shovel ready on something like this, we are looking at 2-3 years before you hope to be able to get your project started. When you look at what we have as far as the current process that is taking place by the developer, the municipality and all of the progress that we have made over the years, especially in the way of road programs, sidewalk improvements, pedestrian improvements and even just ADA accessibility. He thinks it is in the town's best interest at this point to move forward without being bridled by the federal requirements and to just simply do the project on our own in a much quicker timeframe without the constraints of the design that come along with the federal standard that you have to use for a pathway like this. Our paths have been very successful, they have been well used and we have never really heard complaints, only compliments on our paths. He thinks internally administered, internally engineered and funding through our current programs would be much better in the long run and in a much shorter timeframe hopefully being able to implement the path. At this point it is his recommendation of the governing body that we send a letter thanking the DOT for the funding opportunity and extinguish the grant and move forward on our own projects and our own timelines that we see fit.

Motion by Garganio, seconded by Woolston to withdraw from funding.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried.

Assistant Administrator Tom Sahol said that there is a really small house on Old York Road on a triangle-shaped lot that is near the Turnpike overpass. The residence has the benefit of water in front of the property but they do not have sewer along the frontage. Sewer has been investigated in the past, and it would be available to the house by way of a private pump station, not unlike you see on some pump septic systems, and it would pump out to a manhole on Filipponi Court. The resident has passed away and the estate holder for the resident is seeking this so that they can either use it for some of the estate family members or possibly sell it so it doesn't have the constraints of the failing cesspool system. Council at the time was in agreement and he just wanted to reverify that they would be in agreement if this resident were to move forward getting their own engineer to call out a legal description for an easement, have the easements prepared so that our engineer can review them. It's a simple ordinance. Solicitor Kelly Grant can authorize the easement for this purpose and then recording of the easement.

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to approve the request.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 6/3/20

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH

None at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Sandusky again opened the meeting to the public at this time.

Seeing no one wishing to be heard, a motion was made by Garganio, seconded by Woolston to close Public Comments. Voice vote – all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Baldorossi to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/jns