

Florence Township Council Executive Session 3/12/25

Florence, New Jersey
March 12, 2025

The Florence Township Council held an executive meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Council President Frappolli at 7:00 p.m. Council President Frappolli led the Salute to the Flag.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was posted on the municipal bulletin board on January 3, 2025; published in the Burlington County Times on January 12, 2025, placed on the Township website and given to the Courier Post for information.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Frank Baldorossi, John Fratinardo (via Zoom at 7:03pm), Nicholas Haas, Talaya Loftin, Joseph Frappolli

Also Present: Mayor Kristan I. Marter; Thomas A. Sahol, Township Administrator; Thomas J. Hastie, Jr., Esq., Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk; Jenise Silinsky, Deputy Township Clerk

Absent: None

FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Haas to open public comment. Voice vote – All ayes. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, a Motion was made by Loftin, seconded by Baldorossi to close the public comment portion. Voice vote – All ayes.

BUSINESS

A. BurlCo JIF Safety Presentation

Joe Henry, Risk Management Consultant from Hardenbergh Insurance Company explained that the JIF develops a topic that they bring to Council to give an idea of what is going on with the Safety Committee. He stated that he has only been involved with Florence Township for a little over a year and the Safety Committee is as active and as good as any Safety Committee he has come across in his travels. This year's topic is "Heat Injury and Stress Prevention" and he explained that heat is the leading cause of death among all weather-related phenomena in the United States and is an occupational hazard. The OSHA Act of 1970 states that employers are required to provide their employees with a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that are causing or likely to cause death or serious harm to employees. OSHA has been developing a Heat Injury and Illness Prevention Standard which is expected to be finalized by the summer of 2025. The purpose of this policy is to recognize dangers of working in excessive heat, assess the situation and properly control the workplace to prevent heat stress related injuries and illnesses.

He went on to explain the different ways to control these situations, the supervisor's and employee responsibilities, training to help prevent any heat-related incidents, hydration, cooling mechanisms and types of heat illnesses and how to recognize them. Their safety team has developed a template to comply with OSHA's Heat and Illness requirements. The health and welfare of employees is paramount.

Florence Township Council Executive Session 3/12/25

Administrator Sahol explained that he had reached out to PEOSHA has an arm that will do a voluntary inspection to make sure that we are hitting all of the milestones and documenting things properly and they will take a look at the workplace. We made a request last year and we finally heard back from them and they are willing to come out and perform that cursory inspection in two of our biggest facilities, utility and Public Works which is scheduled for the 19th and 20th. We are asking them to come out and inspect because we really want to know if we have any deficiencies in the way we provide protection and services to our employees. Our Safety Committee is very active, we meet quarterly and we analyze any prior accidents, we do investigations on the accidents to determine what the causation was, what we could have done to correct the problem and, if there is anything we can do to prevent future problems.

B. Update: Cedar Lane Whirlybird Guiderail Repairs and Centerline Striping

Administrator Sahol explained that he reached out to the County and they are finally taking a position that the amount of asks and the type of asks that were coming to them most recently they are not going to be able to accommodate. Basically the Turnpike Authority reconstructed Cedar Lane as a whirlybird, which is the overpass where it once used to go straight out to the highway. The Turnpike Authority did this during the construction of the bridge and the entire highway system and they didn't do it to the standard that the County was willing to accept in the 1950s and they are still not willing to accept it this year. The County has said they are not responsible for the operation and maintenance of their improvement that they have yet to accept. So we are stuck between two bigger parties that are vying for who is going to handle what. There are some serious safety concerns with the lack of a center line, the guardrail which is nonexistent, some erosion that is starting to occur and he thinks at this point the best thing to do is make it a matter of a record and direct our correspondence to as many of our legislative representatives as possible.

C. Update: Debris Issues & Tractor Trailer Truck Parking Vicinity of Hunt Circus/Cedar Ln.

Administrator Sahol explained that there was an issue with debris in the vacant lot behind the Burger King and Wawa. They were turning a blind eye to some of the debris that was leaving their sites. He received a return phone call from the General Manager of the Wawa and, initially they were resistant to doing any clean ups in the further reaches of the property like on the Township right-of-way closer to Cedar Lane but today the GM indicated the willingness to have their environmental team maintain Hunt Circus Drive, the fence line along Fritz Wainwright's property behind the Wawa, clean up some of the dead and dying shrubbery, get it replaced and they also instructed their staff to be proactive about maintenance of their trash receptacles so that they don't have any overflow. At the same time, there was a question about the number of tractors that were parking in the Burger King lot and on Hunt Circus. After that meeting, he and the Chief and Command Staff went over some ordinances and there is a local ordinance buried in the Code which specifically prohibits any type of parking like that.

Council Representative Haas asked about an update in regards to the area across from Wawa on Route 130 as well. Administrator Sahol explained that the Public Works department has been working on that because the DOT won't send a crew out just for those two corners. Council Representative Loftin stated that Amazon has an environmental cleanup team and asked if we could get them and other local warehouses to help. Administrator Sahol will reach out to ask for assistance with that.

ACTION

A. Applications

- Off-Premise 50/50 for Riverbank Charter School on May 2, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. at 1300 Hornberger Avenue, Roebling, NJ

Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Loftin to approve the application. Voice vote – All ayes.

Florence Township Council Executive Session 3/12/25

B. Resolutions

- 2025-73, Payment Certificate #2 Final for Resurfacing of Hornberger Avenue
- 2025-74, Current Estimate #12 for Hornberger Avenue Pump Station

Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Haas to approve Resolution Nos. 2025-73 and 2025-74.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Haas, Loftin, Frappolli
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion of Haas, seconded by Loftin to open the meeting to the public at this time. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Haas to close the public comment portion. Voice vote – All ayes.

ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

Resolution 2025-75 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Township Council and Support Staff to meet in Closed Session and Authorizing the Exclusion of the Public from that Portion of the Meeting Dealing with Specific Issues Requiring Non-Public Discussions:

- Discussion of litigation related to Affordable Housing, possible acquisition of real property, and matters of attorney client privilege

Motion of Haas, seconded by Loftin to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:31 p.m. where no action will be taken.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Haas, Loftin, Frappolli
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Loftin seconded by Haas to Adjourn. Voice vote – All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
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