Florence Township Council Regular Session 10/21/2026

Florence, New Jersey
October 21, 2026

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 Vice President Loftin at 7:00 p.m. Council Vice President Loftin led the Salute to the Flag.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was posted on the municipal bulletin board, published in the Burlington County Times, and placed on the Township website on January 11, 2026, and given to the Courier Post for information.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: John Fratinardo, Fred Gabriele, Talaya Loftin, Gina Sullivan, Joseph Frappolli (via Zoom)

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Session of October 7, 2026

Motion by Fratinardo, seconded by Gabriele to approve the Minutes. Voice vote – All ayes.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

- Municipal Court Administrator's Monthly Report for September 2026
- Tax Collector's Monthly Water & Sewer Report for September 2026
- Tax Collector's Monthly Tax Report for September 2026

Motion by Fratinardo, seconded by Sullivan to approve the financial correspondence. Voice vote – All ayes.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

A. Water & Sewer Monthly Report Summary for September 2026
B. Police Chief's Monthly Report of August 2026

Motion by Gabriele, seconded by Fratinardo to approve the correspondence. Voice vote – All ayes.

Council Vice President Loftin mentioned that there are a lot of mental health related reports/responses in the Police report, and she acknowledged that patrol does a phenomenal job responding to mental health issues.

APPLICATIONS

A. Social Affiar Permit Application for Francis W. Robbins Post 194 American Legion for a Spare Rib Cook Off Indoor Event from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on November 15, 2026, at 601 Broad Street, Florence

Motion by Fratinardo, seconded by Sullivan to approve the application. Voice vote – All ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion by Fratinardo, seconded by Gabriele to open the meeting up to the public. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was a Motion by Gabriele, seconded by Fratinardo to close Public Comment. Voice vote – All ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-193
Cancel Taxes on Property Owned by a Totally Disabled Veteran, Coleman

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-194
Cancel Taxes on Property Owned by a Totally Disabled Veteran, Spatarella

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-195
Chapter 159, Chapter 159, FY 25 Safe Streets to Transit Grant

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-196
Chapter 159, DCA 2026 Local Recreation Improvement Grant

Motion by Fratinardo, seconded by Sullivan to approve Resolution Nos. 2026-193 through 2026-196.

Upon roll call, the Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Fratinardo, Gabriele, Loftin, Sullivan, Frappolli
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-22
Amending Chapter 91, Section 216 (Permitted Principal Uses) of the Township Code of the Township of Florence to allow for Drive Thru and Drive-In Cannabis Retail Establishments
(Intro. and 1st Reading) (2nd Reading & Public Hearing 11/4/2026)

Motion by Fratinardo, seconded by Gabriele to approve Ordinance No. 2026-22.

Upon roll call, the Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Fratinardo, Gabriele, Loftin, Sullivan, Frappolli
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS
None at this time.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION
Mayor
Mayor Marter thanked all of the volunteers that worked so hard to put the Fall Fest together and said it was a big event and was well received by everyone who came out. She also mentioned that the recycling center is going to have a change in hours for the fall/winter season; starting November 2nd through April 3rd, it will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will remain closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

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
Motion by Fratinardo, seconded by Sullivan to open the Public Comment. Voice vote – All ayes.

Kim Bernardon, 23 Amboy Avenue – asked for clarification on Ordinance No. 2026-22. Administrator Sahol explained that it modifies the Land Use code so that a drive-thru would be a permitted use for a cannabis retail establishment. Initially it was not contemplated by the Governing Body and there is interest in the industry to be able to have the drive-thru. He went on to explain that not anyone can drive up and order like at a fast food establishment, there is a very detailed process. You have to be authorized to place an order, pay up front, and provide identification and proof of payment and then the exchange would take place at the window. This ordinance authorizes that this be added to the original ordinance which would then allow a facility to have a drive-thru.

Ms. Bernardon also thanked Council for the clean-up day in Roebling and for having the sink hole under the swings fixed in the playground on Railroad Avenue.

Mark Hollern, Front Street – mentioned truck traffic on Front Street and also the intersection at Route 130 and Florence-Columbus Road and asked for a status update on those situations. Mayor Marter explained that the bypass on River Road is scheduled to be completed sometime in the spring of 2027 and that Front Street will then be delisted as a truck route and only trucks with a bill of lading for Florence Township will be permitted or they will be cited. She also explained that the Rite Aid intersection has been funded and it also is in the works.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, motion by Gabriele, seconded by Fratinardo to close the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Voice vote – All ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Sullivan, seconded by Gabriele to adjourn. Voice vote – All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
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