

Florence Township Council Regular Session 2/16/22

Florence, New Jersey
February 16, 2022

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey. Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting electronically, in person attendance was not encouraged.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Garganio at 7:00 p.m. Council President Garganio 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 7, 2022; published in the Burlington County Times on January 19, 2022, placed on the Township website and given to the Trenton Times for information on January 19, 2022.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Nicholas Haas, Kristan Marter, Paul Ostrander, Bruce Garganio

Also Present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Stephen Fazekas, Township Administrator; Robert N. Wright, Jr., Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk; Jenise Silinsky, Deputy Township Clerk

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of January 12, 2022
- Regular Meeting of January 19, 2022
- Closed Session of January 19, 2022
- Closed Session of February 2, 2022
- Closed Session of February 9, 2022

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the minutes as submitted. Voice vote – all ayes.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Motion of Haas, seconded by Marter to approve the following correspondence.

- Township Clerk's Monthly Report for January 2022
- Municipal Court Administrator's Monthly Report for January 2022
- Tax Collector's Monthly Tax Report for January 2022
- Tax Collector's Monthly Water & Sewer Report for January 2022

Motion of Ostrander seconded by Haas to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Haas, Marter, Ostrander, Garganio
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

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REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

- A. Florence Township Memorial H.S. PTO (2 Licenses), On-Premise Merchandise Raffle and On-Premise 50/50 Raffle on March 27, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 69 Main Street, Roebling
- B. Florence Township Memorial H.S. PTO (2 Licenses), On-Premise 50/50 Raffle and On-Premise Merchandise Raffle on April 29, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at 1050 Cedar Lane, Florence Township
- C. Florence Township Riverfront School PTO (1 License), On-Premise Merchandise Raffle, on March 18, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. at 500 East Front Street, Florence
- D. Application for Use of Facilities – Goals Start Now requests the use of Marter Park Parking Lot for a rest stop for the Propel 100 Charity Bike Ride on June 25, 2022, 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Administrator Fazekas explained that regarding The Goals Start Now application., he and Chief Boldizar are going to request assistance from the Burlington County Fire Police Association to handle the intersections the day of the event. They had asked to put up a few signs and things in the roadway and, because it is a county road, they will be directed to the Burlington County Engineer’s office for approval.

Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Haas to approve the applications.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Haas, Marter, Ostrander, Garganio
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Baldorossi to close the public portion of the meeting. Voice vote – All ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-64
Approve Release of Three (3) Performance Bonds, 1950 River Road

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-65
Approve Current Estimate No. 3 for Sludge Dewatering Screw Press Upgrade

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-66
Authorize On-Line Auction with GovDeals

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-67
Authorize Filing a Municipal Alliance Grant

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-68
Change Order No. 1 STP, Sludge Dewatering Screw Press Upgrade

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It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to approve Resolution Nos. 2022-64 through 2022-68.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Haas, Marter, Ostrander, Garganio
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-01

**Bond Ordinance for Supplemental Appropriation for Improvements to Wilbur Henry Drive
(Intro & 1st Read) (2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adopt 3/2/22)**

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-02

**Model Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Appropriation Limits and
to Establish a Cap Bank (COLA Ordinance)
(Intro & 1st Read) (2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adopt 3/2/22)**

In regards to Ordinance No. 2022-01, Council Representative Marter asked if flat, raised crosswalks are proposed and not speed bumps. Administrator Fazekas confirmed that raised crosswalks will be installed at Walnut and Chestnut Streets.

Mayor Wilkie explained that Ordinance No. 2022-02 is one of the original ways that the state of New Jersey used to put restrictions on items on the appropriations side of the budget. They put a 2.5% cap in place and, if you wish to go to 3.5%, they require an ordinance be put in place.

It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to approve Ordinance Nos. 2022-01 and 2022-02.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Haas, Marter, Ostrander, Garganio
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

REPORTS OF COMMITEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

None at this time.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Wilkie explained that, as part of our State Route 130 Endorsement, a vision statement is required to be presented to the Planning Board. In order to put that together there will be a public hearing and, obviously in the middle of Covid, the recommendation was to instead put out a questionnaire. A questionnaire has been developed by the Planner and that will be circulated, compiled and presented at the Planning Board meeting in March. It will be posted on our website and we will be reaching out to the schools in order to get as much information out there.

Administrator Fazekas stated that the NJDOT did go out to Route 130 and Delaware Avenue and increased the timing of the signal there during the evening hours coming from Delaware Avenue. He thanked Mr. Kamienski for his email and for going out to double check and confirm that the timing was indeed increased and 8-9 cars are getting through that intersection now compared to only four cars previously.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Main Street Parking Options

Mayor Wilkie explained that Main Street was originally planned to be paved on just the Hornberger Avenue side, but both sides are in deplorable condition from Second Avenue to Fifth Avenue (Main Street circle). In a conversation last week with the engineer, we asked if we should take the island out to provide more parking in that area. Eliminating the island would result in seven additional parking spaces. This is only a concept plan; no cost estimate has been done yet. If Council agrees and is serious about this, it would be included as an alternate in the Road Program. If Council does not wish to change the historic nature of the Village of Roebling, then we just leave it but he wanted to give Council a chance to discuss this.

Council Representative Ostrander stated that he thinks it disrupts and destroys the historic nature of the Village. Council Representative Marter had a different thought, she stated that this would at least allow parking in that area where we have a business district where parking is a real issue. Council discussed different ideas as to how to add parking in that area without changing the historic nature as well as the space issue.

After discussions, Council President Garganio asked Mayor Wilkie to look into who owns the concrete area in front of those buildings to see if parking would be a better idea there instead of disrupting the island. He also asked the mayor to find out where that right-of-way is on that road. Mayor Wilkie agreed.

Council Representative Haas asked if we were to go with what the engineer had drawn up, are we trying to get this in now as part of the road program or is it just a true alternate that we can get a price for and see what the options are? Mayor Wilkie explained that it is an alternate and that it has to be done as part of the road program. You can't do one without the other.

Mayor Wilkie will have the engineer take a look at some of Council's suggestions and ideas and it will be revisited.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH

None at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was a motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to close the public comment portion of the meeting. Voice vote – All ayes.

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Marter to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:21 p.m. where no action will be taken. Voice vote – all ayes.

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ADJOURNMENT

Council returned to the Regular meeting at 7:41 p.m. No action was taken. Motion of Ostrander seconded by Haas to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
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