

Florence Township Council Regular Session 2/2/22

Florence, New Jersey
February 2, 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; Kelly Grant, Township Solicitor; Nancy Erlston, Township Clerk; Jenise Silinsky, Deputy Township Clerk

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Reorganization Meeting January 5, 2022

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

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Municipal Treasurer’s Cash Reports and Budget Reports for December 2021
- Tax Collector’s Annual Statement of Receipts

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

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

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APPLICATIONS

- A. Social Affair Permit, Francis W. Robbins Post 194 American Legion, Night at the Races at 6th and Broad Streets, Florence, March 11, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 11:30 pm

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

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. 2022-55
Extend deadline and temporarily waive late fee for pet licensing**

Administrator Fazekas explained that the deadline to register pets has been extended until the end of April due to Covid. He also mentioned that the rabies clinic will be held in April as well.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-56
Deny Release of Performance Bonds, 1950 River Road, Carson Companies**

Administrator Fazekas stated that this is being denied until we receive the necessary documentation. Everything has been done but they have not given us the as-built plans.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-57
Consenting to the transfer of a 5-year tax abatement following sale of 1301 Hornberger Avenue**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-58
Consenting to the transfer of a 5-year tax abatement following the sale of Harkins Lane Plaza**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-59
Approve Partial Payment No. 1 for Pine Grove Lane Remediation
and Stormwater Improvements**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-60
Approve Emergency Temporary Appropriation**

Administrator Fazekas explained that the CFO and Township Auditor recommended we do a temporary appropriation so that we can pay upcoming insurance costs.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2022-61

Approve Request for Farmland Preservation Carty Farm, Block 170, Lot 11.01

Mayor Wilkie explained that application has been made to the State of New Jersey for Farmland Preservation of this property.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-62

Appoint Special Traffic Engineering Services Contract

It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to approve Resolution Nos. 2022-55 through 2022-62.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCES

None at this time.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

Council Representative Haas stated that at the Economic Development Committee meeting they discussed building a database for vacant properties, properties out of business, for sale or in need of repair. It will be passed along to Mark Remsa and to the Township to try and start to help fund these properties.

Council Representative Marter explained that she was at the traffic light at the Route 130 and Delaware Avenue intersection at about 6:30 pm the night before and it took five lights before they got through that intersection. That light is so short at times that it is challenging to clear out the traffic that is backed up down Delaware Avenue.

Council Representative Marter also made mention of an Amazon tractor trailer on River Road at 7:58 pm that did not have any trailer lights on. She had taken video and asked that it be brought to the attention of Amazon at the upcoming meeting. Administrator Fazekas asked for her to forward along the video so he can bring it to their attention.

Mayor Wilkie explained that the light at Route 130 is a state issue and we will follow up. Years ago, if there was a power outage, it would reset that light to an original setting and it would have to be readjusted, but he is unsure if that is the issue at this time.

Administrator Fazekas stated that he had a conversation with the consultant that is doing the NJ/DOT work on Route 130 on Monday and they said that they would check into that.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

None at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

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NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Amendments to the Burlington County District Solid Waste Management Plan

Mayor Wilkie stated that there is a Solid Waste advisory committee that meets as needed and the mayors of the two host communities are included. He shared a document that showed where they are proposing Landfill #3 and if they get approval to do Landfill #3, it will get life through 2040-2045. The document is available to view on the County website and a hard copy will be on file in the Township Clerk's Office.

Council President Garganio explained that this part of the landfill was approved during the initial phases and this is an extension into what was already run by the state but they still have to go through the paperwork to get the approvals.

Council Representative Marter asked if that will increase the amount of traffic on Columbus Road? Mayor Wilkie stated that this is going to allow them to continue and the amount of tonnage that they get each year should stay the same.

Council President Garganio stated that he thinks the town receives the most benefits to include over one million dollars a year, free trash dumping at the landfill and our town doesn't have to put out a lot of the things that a lot of the other communities in Burlington County have to. He asked the Administrator if we can get that agreement and break down the most benefits that we receive, because he thinks it would be good, especially for the new members, to see what the plan looks like. Administrator Fazekas agreed.

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.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, stated that, in December the NJ/DOT sent an email to Florence Township stating that the traffic lights would be adjusted before Christmas, which did not occur. On January 13th, Administrator Fazekas sent an email to NJ/DOT asking for an update and, as far as he is aware, he has not heard the current status of what NJ/DOT said to Mr. Fazekas. He asked if a response was ever received as to what their revised plan is?

Administrator Fazekas explained that he spoke to the consultant on Monday but they have not given him anything in writing and he has not heard back from him. He assured Mr. Kamienski that he will forward any information that he receives to him.

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

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:19 p.m. where no action will be taken. Voice vote – all ayes.

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ADJOURNMENT

Council returned to the Regular meeting at 7:54 p.m. No action was taken. Motion of Ostrander seconded by Haas to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
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