

Florence Township Council Regular Session 3/16/22

Florence, New Jersey
March 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 in person or electronically via Zoom.

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 March 2, 2022
- Closed Session of March 2, 2022
- Executive Session Meeting of March 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 February 2022
- Municipal Court Administrator's Monthly Report for February 2022
- Tax Collector's Monthly Tax Report and Monthly Water & Sewer Report for February 2022
- Municipal Treasurer's Monthly Cash Reports and Budget Reports for February 2022

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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Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Marter 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.

APPLICATIONS

- A. Social Affair Permit for Florence Township Education Foundation on April 9, 2022 from 5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Florence Township Community Center, 69 Main Street, Roebling, NJ
- B. Transient Merchant License for Big Sid’s Southern Cuisine Food Truck to be located at the Liquor Barn, 1051 Florence-Columbus Road, Fridays or Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- C. On-Premise 50/50 Raffle for the Roebling Museum, on April 30, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. located at 100 2nd Avenue, Roebling, NJ

Council Representative Haas stated that he wished to abstain from voting on the Social Affair Permit for the Florence Township Education Foundation.

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

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Marter, Ostrander, Garganio
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
 - ABSTAIN : Haas
- 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 Haas to close the public portion of the meeting. Voice vote – All ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-74
Authorizing Refunds of Certain Tax Overpayments**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-75
Authorize Agreement between Florence Township and Burlington County
for the Disposal of Wastewater from the Burlington County Resource Recovery Complex**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-76
Emergency Temporary Appropriation**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-77
Refund FAAD Park Permit Fees**

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RESOLUTION NO. 2022-78

Approve Current Estimate No. 4 for Sludge Dewatering Screw Press Upgrade

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-79

Current Estimate No. 14 for Water Treatment Plant, Chemical Building Exp., Phase 2

Administrator Fazekas explained that regarding Resolution No. 2022-76, the Emergency Temporary Appropriation resolution needs to be authorized because we are still working under the Temporary Budget and we need to pay bills before the budget is approved.

It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to approve Resolution Nos. 2022-74 through 2022-79.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-03

**Bond Ordinance for 2022 Road Program
(2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adopt)**

Council President Garganio opened the meeting up 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.

Council Representative Marter mentioned that she drove by the storefronts on Main Street where Council had discussed adding parking, and she thinks that it will make it look like a strip mall. She is afraid that, if parking is added there, there won't be much room left for tables, awnings, etc. If parking can be added to the sides on Fourth and Fifth Avenue, that is a better solution to keep the look of the town and maybe get the same number of spaces on the sides and keep the front to make it more of a "café" type of look.

Mayor Wilkie explained that there will be no parking improvements being done there in this Road Program. Main Street will be paved and, after discussions, striping may be added for parking in front of the stores. The parking on Fourth and Fifth Avenues will be considered with the next Road Program when those Avenues are paved. We will have to figure out how much of that is our property and how much is the property of the businesses there. We can look at those things in the future and hopefully some businesses will want to get involved.

It was a Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to approve Ordinance No. 2022-03.

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

Council Representative Marter asked if the deadline for the visioning survey online can be extended because she put notice about the survey on the Florence Facebook pages and many people were unaware it had been posted.

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Mayor Wilkie explained that it was supposed to go through the schools and there are currently over 250 completed surveys which is a good response. It is time sensitive because we need to get this done in order to move forward on the Master Plan. We are trying to cut it off tomorrow because next Tuesday is the Planning Board meeting and Mark Remsa has to crunch the numbers and get all of that information to them. We can always circle back if people want to make comments when the survey results are publicized, their comments are always welcome.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie explained that the Moores Hotel is the Florence Hotel where our municipal building was from 1950-1979. Around 1915 or so it moved to the Firehouse on West Third Street where the committee meetings were from 1915 until around 1950 when they moved to the hotel where the township offices were until it was destroyed by fire in 1979. Mayor Wilkie read an excerpt from the minutes of the April 19, 1872 meeting.

Division of Law

Solicitor Bob Wright mentioned that in late January Adam Greenberg of Honig and Greenberg, LLC, filed an In Rem foreclosure on the property at 219 Iron Street on behalf of the Township. It is anticipated that it will take 6-9 months and should be completed by the end of the year.

Division of Engineering

Township Engineer Ted Wilkinson spoke about the Engineer's Report of a few weeks back and explained that the 2021 Municipal Aid was authorized by the Township and the State to go out to bid for Wilbur Henry Drive and it will be advertised in the newspaper next week. There should be a start date for construction no later than the end of April/beginning of May. Meetings with traffic control and the school board will be set up and we should be able to get Wilbur Henry Drive pretty much built in the late spring, early summer. The plan is to try and get the Roebing Road Program completed within the next 60 days so they don't overlap too much. The local road program might actually be ready for bid by May and that could be a summer time project.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) sidewalk project for 2021 is a \$75,000 grant and the engineering for that is about 90% complete which is good news. Engineer Wilkinson stated that he is going to meet with Ted Lovenduski and Administrator Fazekas to go over the final plans and they should be able to advertise that one once we get Township authorization as well. The NJDOT also gave us funding for 2022 for Ninth Street which will include a sidewalk interconnect out to Firehouse Lane plus a pedestrian crossing at the intersection. We are going to try and get that one designed and get county permits by June and we may possibly be able to get that out to bid in the summer time and possibly have that one completed sometime between August through October. There is a lot to do in the next 6-8 months.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Representative Garganio asked if there is a standard code for outdoor seating in front of commercial businesses in the town? Is this something we need to revisit? Administrator Fazekas stated that it is in current codes and he will review it with Code Enforcement.

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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 Marter to close the public comment portion of the meeting. Voice vote – All ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Marter seconded by Baldorossi to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
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