

Florence Township Council Regular Session 3/2/22

Florence, New Jersey
March 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 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. There was a moment of silence for former Council Representative Charlie Bauer, who passed away last week. Mr. Bauer worked at the recycling center, was a member of the Historic Preservation Committee for many years and dedicated his life to our town.

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, Bruce Garganio

Also Present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Stephen Fazekas, Township Administrator; Thomas J. Hastie, Jr., Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk; Jenise Silinsky, Deputy Township Clerk

Absent: Paul Ostrander

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of February 2, 2022
- Regular Meeting of February 9, 2022
- Regular Meeting of February 16, 2022
- Closed Session of February 16, 2022

Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Haas 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 February 2022

Motion of Haas, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the **Treasurer’s Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Haas, Marter, Garganio
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: Ostrander

Unanimous vote – Motion carried

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REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

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 the Motion of Marter, seconded by Baldorossi to close the public portion of the meeting. Voice vote – All ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-70

Award of Administrative Services Contract, Tax Office to J.H. Services Inc.

Administrator Fazekas explained that this resolution is in regards to a contract for a part-time assistant to the Tax Assessor and is approved every year.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-71

Amend Water Tower #1 Cellular Lease Agreement with T-Mobile

Administrator Fazekas explained that this lease is with T-Mobile as was discussed at last week's Council meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-72

Transfer ABC License Bungalow Corporation to Tina's Tacos Inc.

Administrator Fazekas explained that this resolution is regarding the transfer of the liquor license from Bungalow Corporation to Tina's Tacos Inc.

It was the Motion of Haas, seconded by Marter to approve Resolution Nos. 2022-70 through 2022-72.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-01

**Bond Ordinance for Supplemental Appropriation for Improvements to Wilbur Henry Drive
(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 Marter, seconded by Haas to close the public comment portion.

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It was a Motion of Haas, seconded by Marter to approve Ordinance No. 2022-01.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-02
Model Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Appropriation Limits and
to Establish a Cap Bank (COLA Ordinance)
(2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adopt)

Mayor Wilkie explained that this cap is to keep taxes down. It's not the 2% cap that was done by Governor Christie and Senator Sweeney that puts a cap on your tax levy, this is for certain items within the budget that are called in cap and out of cap. You are restricted at 2 ½% but if you put an ordinance in place it allows you to go to 3 ½%. The net impact on the residents is insignificant.

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 Baldorossi, seconded by Haas to close the public comment portion.

It was a Motion of Haas, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Ordinance No. 2022-02.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-03
Bond Ordinance for 2022 Road Program
(Intro. & 1st Read) (2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adopt 3/16/22)

Mayor Wilkie stated that we had identified roads for the Road Program and there are a number of roads in place. We need to get the funding in place so we can go out to bid so we can try and get the work done this year as opposed to having to carry it. Last year, we ended up having to roll the Potts Mill Road project into the next year so we want to get this out to bid ASAP.

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

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

Council Representative Haas stated that during the Economic Development Committee meeting they reviewed Tina's Tacos, zoning on the Keating property and he mentioned that the survey is online and encouraged the community to take the survey to help with the Master Plan. The information that the committee is putting together on vacant lots and potential businesses is moving forward.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie stated that Monday, March 7th will mark the 150th Anniversary since the incorporation of Florence Township. He read an excerpt of the minutes of the first recorded meeting that was held at Moore's Hotel on Monday, March 18, 1872. He explained a little about how the government changed over the years to the form of government we have today.

Council Representative Marter stated that on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. a sign will be installed on Hornberger Avenue honoring the town for 150 years. Mayor Wilkie added that there will be small emblems on the welcome signs around town as well.

Mayor Wilkie read the Arbor Day Proclamation into the record:

“WHEREAS, in 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig H. Wilkie, Mayor of the Township of Florence, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim April 29, 2022: Arbor Day.

In the community of the Township of Florence, I urge all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands to support our city's urban forestry program; and

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well-being of present and future generations.”

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Mayor Wilkie shared a chart showing the tax numbers from the Department of Community Affairs website. In Florence, the average taxes are \$3,409 for schools, in the county the average school taxes is \$4,654 and in the state is \$4,908. Our school district is doing an excellent job in keeping the taxes comparable to others. This information is on the Department of Community Affairs website and it will also be posted on the Township website if anyone has any questions.

Administrator

Administrator Fazekas stated that he will need Closed Session following tonight's regular meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Main Street Parking

Mayor Wilkie shared a design concept to add parking to Main Street in Roebbling. It included taking the islands that are there and adding parallel-type parking spaces as well as angled parking in front of the storefronts. It would only add about 4-5 10x18 foot parking spaces and it would be about \$100,000 without the acquisition of the property in front of those storefronts.

Council President Garganio stated that he would like to keep the islands as they are to keep the integrity of the village. Council Representative Baldorossi stated that he prefers the angled parking and the idea that we would still pick up 5 spaces. Mayor Wilkie stated that if Council would like to proceed with the angled spaces, we will get a design and work on getting all of the approvals in place but it will probably not be included as part of the road program because it will not be done in time.

Council agreed that they do not want to touch the islands. Mayor Wilkie stated that they will look into the angled parking and move forward with the project and continue to get ideas from the engineer as to a design there. Council Representative Baldorossi asked to have the engineer add angled parking to both and Fourth and Fifth Avenues on the side by the stores as an option instead of the front where the sidewalk would be compromised. This would leave room to have tables and chairs out there.

Mayor Wilkie also mentioned that the post office in Roebbling does not deliver mail to Florence Township, it all come through Bordentown. It is a possibility to relocate that post office, which is just walk up service and PO boxes right now, and create a parking lot there. This is not something that would happen anytime soon, because of long term leases, etc., but it is an idea for the future.

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.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, mentioned that he was at the intersection of Delaware Avenue and Route 130 the previous evening and the adjustments that the NJDOT had made to that light are "still working as advertised." He thanked Administrator Fazekas for his time and effort.

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

Motion of Haas, seconded by Marter to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:37 p.m. where no action will be taken. Voice vote – all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Council returned to the Regular meeting at 8:32 p.m. No action was taken. Motion of Haas seconded by Marter to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
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