

Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/4/22

Florence, New Jersey
May 4, 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 (Late 7:04 p.m.), 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 April 20, 2022

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

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Tax Collector’s Annual Report of Taxes Not Collected

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

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

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

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REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING OF 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Council President Garganio opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting at this time.

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

Mayor Wilkie explained that there was a \$0.02 increase in the tax rate, which was the first increase since 2012 and no change in the water and sewer rate. Salaries reflect what was negotiated, with the police at 2 1/2 %, CWA at 3% and the non-union continuing to follow the CWA rate at 3%. Bond payments are part of the issue this year so we went to permanent bonding and took advantage of the lower rates and we are saving money by doing so. Another issue impacting the budget this year is that Court revenue was down. But the budget is in overall good shape.

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

Council Representative Haas arrived to the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-92

Read Budget by Title Only

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-93

Adopt Municipal Budget

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-94

**Partial Payment No. 2 for Pine Grove Lane Remediation
and Storm Water Improvements**

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-95

Authorize Sale of General Improvement Bonds

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-96

Current Estimate No. 5 Sewer Treatment Plant Screw Press Upgrade

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-97

Approval of Visioning Statement & Authorize Submission to State Planning Office

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-98

Approving Right-of-Way Use to Cross River Fiber

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It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to approve Resolution Nos. 2022-92 through 2022-98.

Regarding Resolution No. 2022-98, Administrator Fazekas thanked Township Solicitor Bob Wright for negotiating with Cross River Fiber and they have agreed to pay \$1,000 toward the expenses that the township incurred to have our attorney review everything.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-07
Bond Ordinance for Roads and Sidewalks
(Intro. & 1st Read) (2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adopt 5/18/22)**

Administrator Fazekas explained that there are a lot of sidewalk projects that need work. We have used up the funds from previous ordinances so this allows us to go out and do some bigger sidewalk projects that the township employees cannot handle, like the developments that are 25-30 years old that are in need of major sidewalk work. Also included in the ordinance are costs for engineers to go out to bid if we have any bigger projects. This will also be supplementing the CDBG grant.

It was a Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Marter to approve Ordinance No. 2022-07.

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 Haas explained that the Economic Development Committee is still putting together the spreadsheet of businesses and areas of potential redevelopment. They have looked at West Front and Broad Streets and will be moving over to Roebbling and Route 130 in the next phases. They will be putting that together over the summer and then presenting to Council later this year for redevelopment. Council Representative Marter asked if that will only be the brick and mortar type of businesses or all businesses within the township that will be listed. Council Representative Haas stated that it will be the businesses that are in need of the most repair right now.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie stated that on Saturday April 30th the Roebbling Museum held their car show and there were between 200-250 cars in the show. It was a heavily attended event. The Blue and Gold Banquet was later that same afternoon where Cub Scouts become Boy Scouts. There are 9 new Boy Scouts. Also, the Bag Up New Jersey bags were distributed throughout the community this week.

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Mayor Wilkie mentioned that on Saturday, May 7th, as part of Arbor Day, the Shade Tree Commission is dedicating Michael's Grove at the end of Second Avenue. This is in memory of Michael Geary who passed away a few years ago. He had dedicated a lot of his time to the community and is going to be honored there.

Mayor Wilkie explained that at the April Planning Board Meeting they looked at the last elements in the Master Plan. The new Master Plan will be brought up at their May and June meetings with public comments. Once passed, the Master Plan will come to Council who will then move forward with putting ordinances in place to implement it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council Representative Marter stated that she got a call from Congressman Kim's office wanting to double check the projects that we are most interested in with the Route 130 Corridor and to make sure that the one that we are focused on is the Route 130/Florence-Columbus Road along with the bypass. She passed along Joe Brickley's information so they could connect to make sure that it is on the top of the list to help us receive some of the infrastructure grant funding that is available.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Representative Marter stated that she received a request online to find out when the balance of homes on Potts Mill Road will have the availability of a water line hookup.

Mayor Wilkie stated that notices went out last year and residents were told to reach out to the township if they were interested. There was some interest but he has not spoken to the water department recently about it. The hope was that the motel would hook in because, if they did, we then felt that the volume would sufficient to keep the water quality high.

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.

ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

- Resolution No. 2022-99 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Township Council and Support Staff to meet on Closed Session and Authorizing the Exclusion of the Public from that Portion of the Meeting Dealing with Specific Issues Requiring Non-Public Discussions – Negotiations – Block 126.02, Lot 1.01 Potential Property Acquisition

Motion of Haas, seconded by Marter to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:15 p.m. where no action will be taken. Voice vote – all ayes.

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ADJOURNMENT

Council returned to the Regular meeting at 7:21 p.m. No action was taken. Motion of Marter seconded by Baldorossi to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
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