

Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/18/22

Florence, New Jersey
May 18, 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

OATH OF OFFICE FOR PROMOTION

Nicole Bonilla – Police Sergeant

Sergeant Bonilla was sworn in by Mayor Wilkie. She thanked Mayor and Council, Administrator Fazekas, her family, Command Staff and the town. She stated that she was trained by some amazing officers who have made a big impact on her.

Jason Silk – Police Sergeant

Sergeant Silk was sworn in by Mayor Wilkie. He thanked Mayor and Council, Administrator Fazekas and Command Staff for their continued support and encouragement stating that he couldn't do it without them. Also the officers for standing behind him, both professionally and personally. Most of all he thanked his wife Morgan and their children for countlessly sacrificing day after day.

Chief Boldizar congratulated both officers stating that they really deserve it. He thanked Mayor and Council for their support over the years and he looks forward to seeing the two newly promoted Sergeants continue to succeed in their careers.

Mayor Wilkie thanked the families for their support and perseverance. He also thanked Council and Administration for the support and all of the officers for coming in day after day to do what is right. He stated that we are one of the safest communities and it is because of the police department and their leadership and guidance. He told the Department to keep up the good work, that we are here to support them and we appreciate all that they do each and every day.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of May 4, 2022
- Closed Session of May 4, 2022

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

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Township Clerk’s Monthly Report for April 2022
- Court Administrator’s Monthly Report for April 2022
- Tax Collector’s Monthly Report for April 2022
- Tax Collector’s Monthly Water & Sewer Report for April 2022

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

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

- A. Request from Sts. Stephen & Barnabas Church to close West Second St. from Broad St. to Spring St. and to restrict parking on Spring St. from Front St. to Third St. on September 24, 2022 for the 10th Annual Car Show (Rain Date September 25, 2022)

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

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

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 Ostrander, seconded by Haas to close the public portion of the meeting. Voice vote – All ayes.

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RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-100
Refund Water & Sewer Overpayment**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-101
Fixing the Compensation of Certain Officials and Employees of Florence Twp.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-102
Water & Sewer Payment Plan for Block 138, Lot 46**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-103
Current Estimate #15 Water Treatment Plant Upgrade to Eagle Construction**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-104
Appoint Risk Management Consultant, Steve Walsh, Barclay Insurance Group**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-105
Authorizing Lien on 307 Broad Street**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-106
Establishing Florence Twp. as a Stigma-Free Zone for Mental Health Awareness**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-107
Appointing Taylor Design Group as Landscape Architect for Park Planning**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-108
Approve Contract of Sale for Block 143, Lots 1 and 10 to Flo. Twp. Board of Ed.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-109
Deny Release of two (2) Performance Bonds, 2001 Route 130**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-110
Deny Release of two (2) Performance Bonds, 1401 West Front Street**

Regarding Resolution No. 2022-107, Council Representative Baldorossi asked for clarification as to what the plans are with this resolution. Mayor Wilkie explained that this is to hire a landscape architect to do the park planning. They will survey our current parks and identify what, if anything, needs to be replaced. They will also put a vision statement together as to where things should be going. The end goal will be to take care of the parks, to do an inventory and evaluation of the playgrounds that are 10+ years old and identify what should be going in and the age appropriateness. Right now, to his opinion, there is nothing for preschoolers or younger children, and there are also no handicapped/special needs playgrounds in the town. This is a certified landscape architect for the town for years to come to keep things moving.

It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to approve Resolution Nos. 2022-100 through 2022-110.

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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 (2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adoption)

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, second by Marter to close the public comment portion.

It was a Motion of Haas, 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

None at this time.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie stated that Resolution 2022-108 approved the sale of Block 143 Lots 1 & 10 which was commonly known as the Holy Assumption carnival grounds. Florence Township purchased these properties about 10 years ago because a previous group had decided to put apartments in there and we did not want that. At that time, he shared with Council that apartments next to the only elementary school we have will force a brand new school on some other property if we needed to expand or do something there. This purchase was made under Open Space and today we are transferring it over to the school and they have plans for an early childhood center as well as bus parking.

Mayor Wilkie mentioned that the American Legion Post 194 is having their Memorial Day service on May 29, 2022 with grave visitations starting around 10 a.m. Monday, May 30th Post 39 is holding a Memorial Day service at 10 a.m. at their post on Fourth Avenue followed by grave visitations in Roebbling and the monuments.

Mayor Wilkie followed up with Council regarding the water park, the Marconi Triangle and the RD Wood Tot Lot, stating that the engineer did a very good job in putting things together but he still does not have a report. There was very little response from the public with comments. He will share that report with council once he receives it. The other issue they have had is that there is a survey that needs to be done by our planner concerning Woodlawn, which he had not released because some of the software with the website still had to get updated. Those two pieces together gave him the idea that he needed to look a little differently at our parks. An landscape architect planner, which is a different specialty, is needed in order to keep our parks and playgrounds up to date and looking nice.

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Administrator

Administrator Fazekas congratulated both Sergeants on being promoted, especially Sergeant Bonilla as she is now the first female Sergeant of the Florence Township Police Department.

Engineering

- Township Engineer's Project Updates dated May 11, 2022

Council Representative Haas stated that he went through the engineer's report and asked if we can review the implementation of storm drainage process in a working meeting. Council President Garganio stated that we can put it on the agenda for the next work session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Representative Ostrander stated that he witnessed a truck coming out on Railroad Avenue and make a left onto Delaware Avenue. He asked if we can get a sign directing the trucks to Cedar Lane coming out of the warehouse. Administrator Fazekas stated that signs will be installed by the end of the week.

Council Representative Marter had noticed on River Road that IPT has a turning lane in the shoulder. She wants to know if this is legal. Mayor Wilkie explained that it is a county road and that is what the County must have dictated because they have jurisdiction there. It was decided to have the engineer take a look at this.

Council Representative Marter also mentioned the driveway coming out of the IPT West building on West Front Street and how it is directly across from a residence there. Her concern is the headlights going right into that home from cars coming out of that lot after dark. Council President Garganio stated that he had a conversation about that with Administrator Fazekas who had gone out after the last meeting with his car. Administrator Fazekas said that, when it was brought to his attention, he reviewed the final site plan and noticed when you are coming down from that parking lot it does pitch down. He went with his vehicle and had the headlights on and, with the pitch, the headlights go down towards the grass. The only way they shine into that house is if you have your high beams on.

Council Representative Haas asked for an update on the Roebing RFP/RFQ. Mayor Wilkie stated that there is a draft that he is reviewing and Mark Remsa is supposed to come to Council with that in June.

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.

Bryan Hewitt, 1080 Grove Street, thanked Council for having the meetings recorded and posted. He also thanked everyone involved in the tree dedication in Roebing Park stating that the shade is necessary in the summer because it is incredibly hot down there.

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Mr. Hewitt asked for the company's name that is working on the vision statement for the parks and where he can view other projects and parks that they have worked on. Mayor Wilkie stated that the name of the company is Taylor Design Group and they worked on Crystal Lake Park and were also involved in the County Heritage Trail.

Seeing no one else 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.

ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

- Resolution No. 2022-111 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 – Attorney-Client Privilege – ZB#2021-13 and ZB#2021-14

Motion of Haas, seconded by Marter to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:28 p.m. where no action will be taken. Voice vote – all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Council returned to the Regular meeting at 7:49 p.m. No action was taken. Motion of Haas seconded by Ostrander to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/js