

Florence Township Council Regular Session 6/15/22

Florence, New Jersey
June 15, 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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-123 Honoring Rita Carnival for Her Twenty Years of Service to the Florence Township Community

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Resolution No. 2022-123. Voice vote – All ayes.

Mayor Wilkie explained that there is a long history of volunteers at the library and read Resolution 2022-123 into record, honoring Rita Carnival for her twenty years of service to the Florence Township Community. He presented Mrs. Carnival with the Resolution and Council President Garganio gave her flowers on behalf of Mayor and Council.

Mrs. Carnival thanked Council for the recognition and for all that they do for the library.

Mr. Joseph Frappolli stated that Rita Carnival has been a leader for all of the time that he has been a trustee on the board at the library and you could not ask for a better volunteer and more dedicated person. He stated “I am so proud to serve with her, as I am with the other members that are a part of the board, and thank you all very much for honoring her because you have honored a super, super community person.”

Council took a five-minute recess at this time.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Session of June 1, 2022
- Closed Session of June 1, 2022
- Regular Session of June 8, 2022
- Closed Session of June 8, 2022

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

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Marter to approve the following correspondence and the Treasurer’s Bill List.

- Township Clerk’s Monthly Report for May 2022
- Tax Collector’s Monthly Tax Report for May 2022
- Tax Collector’s Monthly Water and Sewer Report for May 2022
- Court Administrator’s Monthly Report for May 2022
- 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. Letter from Florence Township Housing Authority recommending re-appointment of Anant Patel as Commissioner

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to approve the re-appointment.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

APPLICATIONS

- A. Social Affair Permit for American Legion Post 194, 6th and Broad Street, Patriotic Day Celebration on July 9, 2022 from 12:01 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. (rain date July 10th)

Motion of Marter, seconded by Baldorossi 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

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Garganio opened the meeting to the public at this time.

Jeanne Ondusko, 10 Olive Street, voiced her concern about an ongoing problem in her neighborhood. She stated that they have been dealing with stray cats and they are reproducing and becoming a nuisance. The ACO was asked to come out and trap the cats but she was told that she must sign a form stating that they will lend her a trap but that she must do the trapping and be totally responsible for the trap and any animals caught in the trap. They also give specific times and conditions as to when the traps can be set. She stated that according to N.J.S.A. 4;19-15.16, Bordentown Ordinance #2021-4, Bordentown's code chapter 6.12, Florence Township's code chapter 41 and the duties of the Animal Control Officer posted on Bordentown's website, it states the safety of residents, domestic pets, and wildlife are most important goal the officers work to maintain. It also states that the ACO enforces the laws governing domestic pets and wildlife and traps and transports feral cats, feral dogs and lost pets to local shelters and that the ACO responds to resident's complaints 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is not being done and therefore they are failing to meet the needs of the people in the town and perform their duties. She stated that the health and safety and their pet's health and safety is being ignored and in jeopardy. When she refused to sign the form because she felt it was a safety and health issue for herself, she was told that they could not help her with the problem.

Administrator Fazekas stated that he will look into what can be done about this. Council President Garganio thanked her for coming in and stated that we will get back to her early next week.

Seeing no one else 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. 2022-124

Renew ABC License The Parker House Bar LLC

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-125

Renew ABC License American Slovak Citizen Club

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-126

Transfer ABC License Florence Wine & Liquor to Vahin, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-127

Award Contract 2021CDBG Sidewalk Improvements to Diamond Construction

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-128

Approve Application for NJDOT Municipal Aid Program – Broad Street

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-129

Approve Application for NJDOT Municipal Aid Program – Hornberger Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-130

Renew ABC License Pipa Holdings LLC

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-131

Authorize the preparation of Bid Specs and obtain bids for Radio Read Water Meters

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RESOLUTION NO. 2022-132

Authorize the preparation of Bid Specs and obtain bids for Sodium Hypochlorite

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-133

Award Contract 2022 Local Road Paving Program to Earle Asphalt Co.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-134

Approve Partial Payment 5 for Potts Mill Road Phase II

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-135

Approve Partial Payment 3 for Potts Mill Road Phase III

RESOLUITON NO. 2022-136

Authorize Filing a Municipal Alliance Grant

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-137

Approve Renewal Application 2022-2023

ABC Plenary Retail Consumption License Tina's Tacos Inc.

It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to approve Resolution Nos. 2022-124 through 2022-137.

Administrator Fazekas explained that Resolution #2022-133 is the awarding of the contract to Earle Asphalt which is our 2022 paving and road program and it is quite extensive. Bids came in under what was appropriated so Council is being asked to pass this resolution so a precon meeting can be scheduled and the 2022 road program can get underway.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-08

**Authorizing the Sale of Block 143.01, Lot 1.02 to the Florence Township School District
(2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adoption)**

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 hearing portion.

It was a Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Marter to approve Ordinance No. 2022-08.

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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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

Council Representative Baldorossi mentioned that on June 6th the Recreation Committee brought up safety concerns regarding not having a fence on West Sixth Street at the park. He also mentioned that the former Public Works garage needs estimates to have the floor leveled and it has to go out to bid because it is over the threshold and they are asking when the bid preparation will be done.

Administrator Fazekas stated that he spoke to Public Works and they have fencing in the garage and it is on their list to install the fence there. And, in regards to levelling the floor in the public works garage, quotes came in well above our bid threshold. We would have to go out to bid and funding will have to be put in place in order to do that. We received \$70,000 for the grant that Marty applied for and we have used some of that money for other projects in there. As soon as we get the funding together for that, we will proceed with the bid and the Township Engineer will assist with getting bid specs together.

Council Representative Baldorossi also mentioned that the committee asked about the park planner and the scope of work that he is going to be doing and if other park and playground improvements are going to continue to happen while we are waiting because there are safety concerns.

Administrator Fazekas explained that any safety issues will be addressed immediately.

Council President Garganio asked, in regards to the floor in the public works garage, if there is a chance that we can go out to one of the co-ops so we don't have to go through the whole bid process and just get state contract pricing on that? Administrator Fazekas stated that we are looking into that and researching different co-ops to see if we can do that but we may be incorporating the funding with that to some other projects so it will be tied into one. Mayor Wilkie stated that he prefers that the architect be brought in.

Council Representative Marter stated that she is getting a lot of complaints about the speed in which vehicles are coming around the corner at DC Fabricators on West Front Street. She is wondering if we can put a police officer in that area and if it would help to have a speed sign on Front Street before they get to that corner. She also mentioned that she is getting complaints about the speed people are travelling on West Fifth Street.

Council President Garganio asked if speed humps would be a good option for slowing traffic coming around that corner and if that is something we can ask the county to do? Administrator Fazekas stated that he is not sure if they do speed humps on county roads but he is meeting with Joe Brickley and he will ask.

Council Representative Marter met with Rashauna Johnson, the owner of the Burlington Thorobreds basketball team, and she requested that we set up a basketball game with our Police Department and/or Fire Departments. She put a call in to Marty to see if we can get something organized in our town. She stated that at a press release recently she learned that they play internationally, not just locally within the state and she thinks that anything we can do would be a great help. She also mentioned that they are having a tryout that is open to everyone on July 10th.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie thanked Council for passing Ordinance No. 2022-08 and explained that this was the Holy Assumption carnival grounds which has now been transferred over to the school district. This was the goal when that property was purchased almost 10 years ago. Mayor Wilkie said that the school has mentioned putting bus pick up and parking there and the long-term goal is to construct an early childhood center on Parish Lane. It is not in next year's school budget but it is the ultimate goal.

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Mayor Wilkie mentioned that the Bike Rodeo is Saturday, June 18th sponsored by the Police Department. The Roebing Garden Tour being put on by the Museum is on Saturday as well. Our Patriotic Day celebration will be held on July 9th with the flag raising starting at 11:00 a.m. at Oak and Fifth Streets and the parade starting at 12 p.m. And at 5:00 p.m. the vendors and concerts will be starting at the Municipal Complex with fireworks at dusk.

Administrator

Administrator Fazekas explained that we were awarded \$75,000 for the CDBG grant and project. Our base bid came in at \$104,000 so we are going to use money out of another ordinance that was just passed. He and Ted Lovenduski met with Ms. Hiros from the county and submitted paperwork to them. We will be awarded an additional \$20,000 from the grant so we will get \$95,000 total in grant money. He thanked the county and Ms. Hiros for working with us so we can continue with that project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Township Website

Council Representative Marter explained a few issues that she noticed with the township website to include not being able to search for topics easily, the information generated from the search is not current or relevant and they are no longer receiving email updates when something new has been added to the website. Rob Blanda along with his associate Laurie Steidle of Caddisart agreed to look into these issues and try and come up with solutions sometime in the next few days or so.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Representative Baldorossi asked what can be done about the old trees that are coming down and dropping branches and posing a threat to the community? Administrator Fazekas said that the tree service is out in Roebing trimming trees and getting all of the dead branches out but he will check with Ted Lovenduski and get an update for him.

Council Representative Baldorossi also stated that there are a lot of cars on the Avenues in Roebing and asked to have the curbs on the corners painted yellow to prevent people from parking too close to the corners and making it hard for drivers to see around them. Mayor Wilkie stated that we will see what can be done this year.

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, offered Council some advice and solutions on a few of the things that were discussed regarding the website.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

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Motion of Haas seconded by Marter to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
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