

Florence Township Council Regular Session 12/7/22

Florence, New Jersey
December 7, 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. Council held a moment of silence in honor of the attack on Pearl Harbor 81 years ago.

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: Nicholas Haas, Kristan Marter, Paul Ostrander, Bruce Garganio

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

Absent: Frank Baldorossi

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Session of November 9, 2022
- Closed Session of November 9, 2022

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas 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.

- Court Administrator's Monthly Report for October 2022
- Township Clerk's Monthly Report for November 2022
- Treasurer's Bill List

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Haas, Marter, Ostrander, Garganio
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: Baldorossi
- 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 up to the public at this time.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, stated:

“I'd like to offer a public service comment... There are people in Washington who say that the Covid pandemic is over. This is not the case. Even though both my wife and I are fully vaccinated and boosted, we both contacted the Covid virus last month. We know where and when we caught the virus. But that's another story. The five days we had the virus were not very pleasant. So, if someone tells you the pandemic is over, be vigilant and take the appropriate precautions. Thank you.”

Seeing no one else 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.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-203

Approve Partial Payment No. 3 2022 Local Road Paving Program

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-204

Approve Fire District Compensation

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-205

Authorize Refund of Certain Tax Overpayments

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-206

Authorize Refund of Certain Overpayments of Water & Sewer Dept.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-207

Canceling Tax Overpayments Less than \$10.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-208

Approve Partial Payment No. 5, Potts Mill Rd. Phase II to Earle Asphalt

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-209

Approve Partial Payment No. 3, Potts Mill Rd. Phase III to Earle Asphalt

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-210

Cancel Unexpended Balances of Capital Improvement Authorizations

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-211

Cancel Unexpended Balances of Utility Improvement Authorizations

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-212

Approve C.O. No. 1 and Final Payment of No. 2 for Sidewalk Replacement

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Mayor Wilkie asked Council to Table Resolution No. 2022-204 to Approve Fire District Compensation until he can meet with the Commissioners. He is concerned because meeting minutes from 2019 and 2020 still have not been posted and there is three years of the same audit recommendation. He wants to touch base with them to understand what is going on before approving this resolution. Council agreed.

Administrator Fazekas explained Resolution No. 2022-210 stating that when there is money in a project that has been completed and all of the payments have also been completed, the remainder of the balance for the project will not be bonded. Canceling these unexpended balances will help bring the debt ratio down.

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to approve Resolution No. 2022-203, and Resolution Nos. 2022-205 through 2022-212.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-15

**Bond Ordinance for Acquisition of Water & Sewer Vehicles and Equipment
(2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adoption)**

President Garganio opened the meeting up to the public at this time. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, motion was made by Ostrander, seconded by Haas to close the public comment portion. Voice vote – All ayes.

Motion of Haas, seconded by Marter to approve Ordinance No. 2022-15.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-16

**Bond Ordinance Supplemental Appropriation for
Replacement of Above Ground Storage Tanks
(Intro. & 1st Read) (2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adopt 12/21/2022)**

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-17

**Bond Ordinance for Rehabilitation and Improvements to Township Owned Property
(Intro. & 1st Read) (2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adopt 12/21/2022)**

Motion of Haas, seconded by Ostrander to approve Ordinance No. 2022-16 and 2022-17.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Haas, Marter, Ostrander, Garganio

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- NOES: None
 - ABSENT: Baldorossi
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

None at this time.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie explained that moving forward with renovations with the old squad building and the old public works garage will allow us to finally be able to update the municipal building to meet the modern needs of the police department. Funding was also received for Hornberger Avenue which is mainly the paving and curbing. Mayor Wilkie stated that he had a meeting with the engineer and other professionals from the town and asked them to put a plan together to improve the entrance into Roebbling. There have been conversations about creating a boulevard, particularly between the bridge and the railroad tracks, calming devices to soften up the area and parking for residents on Hornberger Avenue. \$270,000 was received in state funds which is mainly for paving but additional ideas are being requested to see what can be done there. Project Freedom received funding and they will be doing work and we will be moving the pump station from one side of the street to the other so things will be changing and moving forward.

Mayor Wilkie stated that on Friday, December 2nd there was a great crowd in attendance at the tree lighting that evening. Saturday, December 10th will be a busy day in Roebbling with a lot of activities with their tree lighting starting at 5:30pm and the high school band will be in attendance.

Also, in accordance with the affordable housing rules, a number of summaries were posted on the Township website which give a good history and snapshot of where we are with affordable housing and the money that we have set aside as well as the money we are preparing to use for 2025.

In honor of Pearl Harbor Day, Mayor Wilkie stated that in 1991 Veterans of WWII took the lead to have the monument built at 5th and Oak Streets. Then in 2016, we had the 75th Anniversary and, on Wednesday we worked with the Legion on some programs and held a nice service. There were very few, if any WWII Veterans in attendance. It was mainly friends and/or colleagues that were much younger and it was a humbling experience to see that. He mentioned that former resident and Councilman Lou Bontya recently wrote a book about Pearl Harbor and had a book signing a few weeks ago at the Roebbling Library. He wanted to acknowledge that there are some personal connections in town that live on.

Administrator

Administrator Fazekas explained that the RFQ/RFP for the Roebbling Mill Site have a due date sometime in the middle of January. He received an email from one group asking for 2 more weeks which would extend the deadline for everyone and would also have to be posted. His recommendation was to allow two more weeks. Council agreed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH

None at this time.

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MISCELLANEOUS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Bryan Hewitt, 1080 Grove Street, stated that he hopes we look for a qualified candidate that has a graphics and/or marketing background for the new part-time social media position that was posted. He believes the best option for that position would be someone who really knows how to design and put data together.

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

ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

Resolution 2022-202 A 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:

Contract Negotiations – CWA

Attorney-Client Privilege – PB#2021-07

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:17 p.m. where no action will be taken. Voice vote – All ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to return to the Regular meeting at 7:44 p.m. No action was taken. Motion of Haas seconded by Marter to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/js