

Florence Township Council Regular Session 3/6/24

Florence, New Jersey
March 6, 2024

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Council President Baldorossi at 7:00 p.m. Council President Baldorossi 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, 2024; published in the Burlington County Times on January 7, 2024, placed on the Township website and given to the Trenton Times for information on January 7, 2024.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Joseph Frappolli, John Fratinardo, Nicholas Haas, Talaya Loftin, Frank Baldorossi

Also Present: Mayor Kristan I. Marter; Thomas A. Sahol, Township Administrator; Robert Wright, Esq., Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk; Jenise Silinsky, Deputy Township Clerk

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Executive Session of February 14, 2024
- Regular Session of February 21, 2024
- Closed Session of February 21, 2024

Motion of Loftin, seconded by Frappolli to approve the Minutes.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Frappolli, Fratinardo, Haas, Loftin, Baldorossi
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Motion of Haas, seconded by Loftin to approve the following correspondence. Voice Vote – All Ayes.

- Municipal Court Administrator’s Monthly Report for February 2024

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

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Frappolli, Fratinardo, Haas, Loftin, Baldorossi
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Letter from the Willits Hogan Tonne Unit 39 American Legion Auxiliary requesting sponsorship of one delegate from Florence Township to New Jersey Girls’ State

Motion of Haas, seconded by Frappolli to approve the correspondence.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Frappolli, Fratinardo, Haas, Loftin, Baldorossi
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

APPLICATIONS

- A. On-Premise 50/50 on April 27, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Roebing Museum, 100 Second Avenue, Roebing, NJ 08554
- B. On-Premise Merchandise Raffle on March 29, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Riverbank Charter School, 1300 Hornberger Avenue, Roebing, NJ 08554

Motion of Frappolli, seconded by Fratinardo to approve the applications.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Frappolli, Fratinardo, Haas, Loftin, Baldorossi
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Thomas Floyd, 8 Church Street, stated that about a year and a half ago he came before Council with concerns regarding marijuana use in the parks shortly after marijuana was decriminalized. The Board acted quickly to pass an ordinance to make public use of marijuana in all forms illegal but since that time he has not seen any change, in fact it seems to have gotten worse. He stated that he spends a lot of time outside and, in particular at Wilkie Park and every day at lunchtime someone is smoking marijuana in their car in the parking lot or they are going down to the river to smoke. He spoke to other parents, friends and community members and they are all seeing the same at different parks and throughout the community. He stated that what was done a year and a half ago does not seem to be working. He stated that in Wilkie Park there are no signs at all indicating that this activity is illegal so he thinks that no one is aware. He also stated that there are cars at the parks after dark as well, which is when the parks are supposed to be closed.

Mr. Floyd said that he spent a little less than an hour last week walking through Wilkie Park and filled a 50-gallon trash can with more than 60 beer cans and airplane shooter bottles, and more than 30 vape

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containers, marijuana baggies and blunt wrappers. His sense is that it is going to get worse as the weather breaks and asked Council for help to get this rectified.

Administrator Sahol stated that he will make sure the missing signs get back up in the parks and that it is concerning the number of materials that Mr. Floyd had picked up in the park. Administrator Sahol stated that he would speak with the Chief of Police about enforcement of the ordinance.

Mellissa Bond, 14 Amboy Avenue, stated that the signs at the park say “dawn to dusk” and she had rented the FAAD park building in Roebling and had to end her party before it got dark. She was told that the park and the building were the same, only open from dawn to dusk.

Administrator Sahol stated that there is sufficient lighting at the FAAD park and he can understand the park/tot lot being vacated at a certain time where there is no illumination and it is not intended for that, but if it is not clear, one would not expect that that was the case at the FAAD park. He asked Ms. Bond to give him a call so that he can get more details so he can see if there is a way to implement a process so that the building could be more conveniently available for people.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, it was the Motion of Frappolli, seconded by Haas to close the public portion of the meeting. Voice Vote – All Ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-71

Approve Payment #1 for Waterworks Playground & Wilkie Park Improvements

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-72

Negotiate Trash Contract

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-73

Appoint Jeffrey P. Smith as Water Superintendent

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-74

Approve Current Estimate No. 2 for Hornberger Pump Station

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-75

Award Contract for the 2023 CDBG Sidewalk Improvement

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-76

Approve Change Orders Nos. 2 & 3 for Public Works Fuel Station

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-77

Authorize Refunds of Certain Tax Overpayments

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-78

Emergency Temporary Appropriation

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-79

Authorize RFP for Engineering and Design Services for PFAS Treatment System

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-80

Authorize Mayor to sign NJDEP TWA permit for Blk. 160.01, Lots 4, 11.01, 11.02 & 24

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Motion of Haas, seconded by Fratinardo to approve Resolution Nos. 2024-71 through 2024-80.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Frappolli, Fratinardo, Haas, Loftin, Baldorossi
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01

**Amending Chapter 140 of the Florence Township Code Entitled Water and Sewers
(Introduction and 1st Reading) (2nd Reading, Public Hearing and Adoption 3/6/24)**

Motion of Fratinardo, seconded by Haas to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2024-01. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, a Motion of Haas, seconded by Fratinardo to close the Public Hearing.

Motion of Fratinardo, seconded by Loftin to approve Ordinance No. 2024-01.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Frappolli, Fratinardo, Loftin, Baldorossi
 - NOES: Haas
 - ABSENT: None
- Majority vote – Motion carried

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02

**Bond Ordinance Providing for the Acquisition of Police Vehicles
(Introduction & 1st Reading) (2nd Reading, Public Hearing & Adoption 3/20/24)**

Motion of Haas, seconded by Frappolli to approve Ordinance No. 2024-02.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Frappolli, Fratinardo, Haas, Loftin, Baldorossi
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03

**Bond Ordinance Providing for the Acquisition of Police Equipment
(Introduction & 1st Reading) (2nd Reading, Public Hearing & Adoption 3/20/24)**

Motion of Frappolli, seconded by Fratinardo to approve Ordinance No. 2024-03.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Frappolli, Fratinardo, Haas, Loftin, Baldorossi
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

Council Representative Haas stated that the Economic Development Committee met and reviewed the vacant properties list. That list also shows areas of potential redevelopment. There are some buildings

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and businesses in there that are operating but they are sending out letters to all of the inactive properties in April and another letter will go out to active properties to explain that there are grants and other opportunities that they can look for. They will then develop a plan for the Burlington County Commission for their June meeting.

Mayor Marter mentioned that we will be doing an event called DARE in June which is 50 mayors with 50 developers and the Economic Development Committee's list is going to be presented to showcase the different properties that we have available for development within the town. They are really looking for areas within the town where they can bring in new businesses. Something was put together for the mill which will be presented there but you need a unique developer for the mill.

Council Representative Haas mentioned that the Steel Mill Street Fair currently has 175 vendors already registered for the May 18th event and that Marty Eckert is working on the parking situation and how to get people in and out of the event.

Council Representative Loftin mentioned that the Environmental Commission went out and had the soil tested at the gardens in Florence and Roebing. Both gardens tested perfect, there is no lead or arsenic in the soil. They also tested the triangle because in the grant proposal they had asked for an extension of an orchard and that land needs additional testing. Some numbers came up a little high that would require another device to come out and scan before we can successfully plant anything. Administrator Sahol explained that there may be something we can do, maybe create a root well to plant those trees.

Council President Baldorossi mentioned putting in a speed bump on Hornberger Avenue by the deli at Amboy Avenue when they redo Hornberger Avenue this year. He stated that there are more and more kids crossing and there is a need for a safe crossing there. There is already a crosswalk there so he is asking for a raised crosswalk.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Marter announced a Proclamation of Vietnam War Veterans' Day on Friday, March 29, 2024, whereas, the Township of Florence will partner with all citizens of this great State and Nation to remember and honor our Vietnam Veterans, as well as their families for their courage, sacrifice and resolve. Mayor and Council thanked all of the Veterans for their service.

Administrator

Administrator Sahol explained that he received a call from the attorney that is representing Florence Township in the class action suit regarding PFAS, and they indicated that there is a settlement proposal and he is going to summarize that and put it into a Memo for Council. It looks very positive for the Township.

Mayor Marter mentioned that there were two cases with NFI projects and we won both of them and it is going to appeal. At this point in both cases Florence Township Zoning Board denials held in front of the judge but it will go to appeal and we will have to wait and see what happens on appeal.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

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BOARD OF HEALTH

None at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council Representative Frappolli confirmed with Administrator Sahol about getting the signs at the parks and having more police presence to monitor the marijuana usage and things of that nature.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Melissa Bond, 14 Amboy Avenue, asked about the crosswalk at Amboy and Hornberger Avenues and whether or not that will include lights like at Broad Street because it is a high traffic area. Administrator Sahol agreed to look into that.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, it was a Motion of Frappolli, seconded by Haas to close public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Frappolli seconded by Haas to adjourn. Voice vote – All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
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