

## Florence Township Council Regular Session 11/10/21

Florence, New Jersey  
November 10, 2021

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 welcome to attend in person or to attend virtually 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: This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice was published in the Burlington County Times on January 10, 2021; placed on the Township website, and given to the Trenton Times for information.

### ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Paul Ostrander, Dave Woolston, Bruce Garganio

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

Absent: Jerry Sandusky

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Session of November 3, 2021

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve the minutes as submitted. Voice vote – 3 ayes, Baldorossi-nay.

### FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Woolston, Garganio
  - NOES: None
  - ABSENT: Sandusky
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

### REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

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**APPLICATIONS**

- A. Florence Township Civic Association, (3 Raffle Licenses) Night at the Races, On-Site Merchandise Raffle and On-Site 50/50 Raffle for the Florence Township Education Association on February 5, 2022 from 5:00 pm to 12:00 am at the Florence Township Community Center, 69 Main Street, Roebling, NJ 08554

Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Ostrander to approve the correspondence.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Woolston
  - NOES: None
  - ABSTAIN: Garganio
  - ABSENT: Sandusky
- 3 Yeas – Motion carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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, seconded by Baldorossi to close public comment. Voice vote – All ayes.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-204  
Appoint Special Counsel for Tax Lien Matters**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-205  
In Rem Foreclosure for 219 Iron Street**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-206  
Change Order No. 3, Local Level Hornberger Avenue, Phase II**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-207  
Final C.O. No. 1 & Final Payment No. 2 for Hornberger Ave. Phase II**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-208  
Authorize Placement of Liens for failure to Address Property Maintenance Violations**

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution Nos. 2021-204 through 2021-208.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Woolston, Garganio
  - NOES: None
  - ABSENT: Sandusky
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

**ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-25  
Restrict Parking on a portion of Roland St. for St. Nicholas Church  
(Intro. & 1<sup>st</sup> Read) (2<sup>nd</sup> Read, Public Hearing and Adopt 12/1/21)**

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Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2021-25.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Woolston, Garganio

NOES: None

ABSENT: Sandusky

Unanimous vote – Motion carried

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-26  
Bond Ordinance, 9<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements  
(Intro. & 1<sup>st</sup> Read) (2<sup>nd</sup> Read, Public Hearing & Adopt 12/1/21)**

Administrator Fazekas explained that this Ordinance is for the mill and overlay of Ninth Street and also includes a sidewalk from the Carriage Stop entrance on Ninth Street onto Cedar Lane and to Firehouse Lane. It also includes a pedestrian crossing and other sidewalks on Cedar Lane. We will be receiving \$235,000 from NJDOT for this project.

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2021-26.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Woolston, Garganio

NOES: None

ABSENT: Sandusky

Unanimous vote – Motion carried

**REPORTS OF COMMITEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS**

None at this time.

**REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION**

**Mayor**

Mayor Wilkie stated that the Veteran’s Day services will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the eagle monument by American Legion Post 194 and Florence Township’s ceremony will be at 11:30 a.m. in front of the municipal building at the Veteran’s Monument. He said that Captain Jacoby will be sworn in at December 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting 7:00 p.m. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> the tree lighting will be at 7:00 p.m. Due to Covid Santa will be outside in an area near the parking lot so that people can gather outdoors instead of indoors.

**Administrator**

Administrator Fazekas stated that during the monthly meeting with Amazon, there was a complaint about noise at night with back up alarms and the dropping and dragging of trailers. The daytime manager was going to stay that evening to speak to the nighttime manager to make sure that it is corrected. They have also informed us that they have authorized a landscaper to put in over \$30,000 of buffering between the Amazon warehouse, the firehouse and the opening that we can see through to Tollgate Condominiums. All of that is in progress and we hope to continue to keep communication open with them. They will still be meeting monthly into the foreseeable future.

Ninety-nine children were vaccinated at the pediatric clinic held at the Riverfront School and, in coordination with the health department, another vaccine clinic was set up from 4-8pm at the Riverfront School for 5-11 year olds this evening. He thanked the school district, the fire district for supplying the squad for it and the Township OEM office for coordinating it for the residents.

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Council President Garganio also thanked Administrator Fazekas stating that his relationship with various contacts have brought the clinics to the township from the county.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **A. Website Update**

Mayor Wilkie explained that a number of items are being completed and one of the school groups is going to be working on part of the website as well. He feels it safe to say that it will definitely be up and running by January.

#### **B. RD Wood Tot Lot and Path Improvements**

Mayor Wilkie stated that conceptual designs will be shared on the website with the information concerning the RD Wood Tot Lot. He is encouraging the public to respond by December 1<sup>st</sup> with comments. In a meeting with the Environmental Commission last week, plans were reviewed, the Commission offered some suggestions and they discussed tree plantings for shaded walkways. He would like to get suggestions from the Recreation Committee as well as Shade Tree and hopefully the public will participate in those conversations.

Mayor Wilkie explained that he reached out to the Planner about the Woodlawn property and asked them to develop a survey of questions that will be put on the website and distributed as best as possible to discuss the different possibilities there. It will be approximately a 5-minute questionnaire online.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Councilman Baldorossi stated that Kristan Marter has been attending Council meetings and wants to be a part of the community that she loves. In less than two months she is going to be sworn in as Florence Township Councilwoman Ward 3 and he asked Council to treat her with respect.

Council President Garganio explained that a meeting was held with the future Councilwoman and they are doing whatever they can to build a relationship moving forward.

Council President Garganio also stated that there is going to be a tree lighting at the Roebling Circle on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the middle of Roebling.

### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

None at this time.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

None at this time.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

Bryan Hewitt, 1080 Grove Street, asked for a status update on the situation with Amazon. He stated that prior to the recent election there were discussions about asking Amazon to leave. They have been a bad tenant and have gone in excess of the number of employees that they were supposed to have. He wanted to know if we are telling them that they need to get back to the numbers of people that they were supposed to have in that facility or if we are allowing them now to have thousands more employees and not doing anything about it.

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Mayor Wilkie explained that we are continuing to monitor them. The process requires the attorney and others to review the Land Use applications and approvals and to continue to document the information before we can take action. We asked them to leave but they are not going to leave voluntarily. They have a lease and the current property owner stated that they are selling the property so now we are in the process of working with new owner.

Mr. Hewitt asked if there is any information as to how many people are coming and going compared to how many were supposed to be coming and going and Mayor Wilkie said he did not know.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, it was a Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to close public comment. Voice vote – all ayes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion of Woolston, seconded by Baldorossi to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC  
Township Clerk  
/js