

Florence Township Council Regular Session 10/07/20

Florence, New Jersey
October 7, 2020

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey. The public was welcome to attend in person or to participate virtually.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Sandusky at 7:00 PM. Council President Sandusky 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 September 27, 2020; 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, Bruce Garganio, Paul Ostrander, Dave Woolston, Jerry Sandusky

Also Present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie, Stephen Fazekas, Township Administrator, Kelly Grant, Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk; Martin Eckert, Recreation Director

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Session of August 5, 2020
- Regular Session of August 12, 2020
- Closed Session September 16, 2020

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

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

- Tax Collector’s Water and Sewer Monthly Report for August 2020
- Township Clerk’s Monthly Report for September 2020
- Court Administrator’s Monthly Report for September 2020

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Garganio to approve the reports to receive and file. Voice vote – all ayes.

Motion of Woolston, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the **Treasurer’s Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried.

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REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, asked if there has been a drop off location established in the township for ballots in the upcoming election. Municipal Clerk Erlston explained that there is not a ballot box in Florence Township and the nearest drop boxes are located at the Burlington Township Municipal Complex on Old York Road and also at the Mansfield Township Municipal Building on Route 206 in Columbus. She said that the completed Vote-by-Mail ballots can also be brought to the polling location on Election Day if preferred.

Mr. Kamienski also asked about a rumor that there will be parking for workers of the new warehouse on McCay Drive so that they can get a fast exit at the end of their shift. Mayor Wilkie said that he had not heard that but he does not believe there will be easy access to that. He said he has not looked at the plans because it went through the Zoning Board and this is the first he is hearing of it, but if it were to become an issue it will be addressed in some way.

Loretta Montiero, 219 Woodlawn Avenue, asked to address a few concerns on Woodlawn Avenue: speed bumps, stop signs, residents only parking on the new parking lot and for the 11:00 p.m. noise ordinance to pertain to roadwork. Regarding the speed bumps and the stop signs, she said that both would be to deter speeding and to cut down on thru traffic, which she anticipates will get worse when the warehouses open and people start using it as a short cut to Broad Street. She said speeding has always been an issue on Woodlawn. She has police reports and video footage and her car has been hit 2 times in front of her house and one time it was hit with such force that it was pushed into the soccer field. She is hoping that speed bumps and a stop sign would act as a deterrent. She also stated that dirt bikes speed down her road and ride straight through the soccer fields.

For the new parking lot, she is requesting "residents only" signs because the lot is attracting transients and is becoming a problem. And her final issue is regarding the sound ordinance. She is asking to have the code changed from 11:00 p.m.

Mayor Wilkie said that he believed the ordinance for outside work is from 7 or 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Administrator Fazekas mentioned that there is a nuisance ordinance that states that if anything is an inconvenience to a resident, they can call officers to address it. The Mayor said that speed bumps are not ordinarily installed because it is an issue for maintenance when it comes to snow plowing and things of that nature. It would also be an issue for those residents that would have the speed bump in front of their homes. Regarding the stop sign, he explained that if people are not stopping when they go to make that left there, that is more of a careless driving concern. They should have to stop to make the turn. He understands her concerns and they will look into them. The Mayor also said that he will look into the parking situation there.

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Councilman Sandusky added that he was under the impression that the parking behind the homes on Woodlawn Avenue was an overflow parking for the residents there. He does not want it to become a storage facility for vehicles. He has already noticed a pop-up camper there.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, a motion was made by Ostrander, seconded by Garganio to close Public Comments. Voice vote – all ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-175
Authorizing The Placement of Liens for Property Maintenance Violations**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-176
Appoint Additional Contact for EPL Attorney Consultation Services**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-177
Renew ABC License Brian W. Hofmeister Assignee for the Benefit of Creditors of
River Rock Bar & Grille LLC**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-178
Cancel Certain Capital Improvement Appropriation Balance of Completed Projects**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-179
Appoint Holman Frenia Allison P.C. as Municipal Chief Financial Officer**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-180
Authorize Refund of Tax Sale Certificate**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-181
Cancel Taxes on Property Owned by a Totally Disabled Veteran**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-182
Cancel Taxes on Property Owned by a Totally Disabled Veteran**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-183
Payment No. 1 2020 CDBG**

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution Nos. 2020-175 through 2020-183.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried.

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ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-09
Bond Ordinance for Police Vehicles
(Intro. & 1st Read) (Public Hearing & Adopt 10/21/2020)**

Administrator Fazekas explained that two vehicles are purchased each year to keep the fleet up to date and the maintenance costs down. Last year's vehicles were approved through Council and they were only just received three weeks ago. To do this now, we will hopefully then get these vehicles by late spring, early summer of next year. One year we did not purchase vehicles and the following year we had to purchase four which causes a problem with the budget.

Motion of Woolston seconded by Baldorossi to approve Ordinance No. 2020-09.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

None.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie mentioned that Blake Dimon put the harvest plants in around the municipal complex. He wanted to share this because on Monday, Virginia Dimon, Blake's mom, passed away. A few years ago, Blake was bringing his mom to the Township and she looked at the landscaping and encouraged him to do something. Ever since then he has been taking special care of the municipal building. Mrs. Dimon was on the Economic Development Committee in the 90s and early 2000's and he wanted to recognize them as an important business in our community.

Mayor Wilkie voiced his frustrations with Channel 19 and how difficult it has been to maintain. He said there have never been videos of our school programs nor have we had a lot of the things that he had hoped for. He was told we need new equipment and needed to renew with Comcast in order to get the equipment for free and he is frustrated that it continues to be a problem. The school district has been keeping it updated and he has asked them to shut it down. Comcast is the only cable company that we are able to operate with because Verizon won't put the money into the town. He is hoping to meet with some of the residents that have some knowledge in this area who do videos. One gentleman recorded the PILOT program for us back in February and made mention of Channel 19 and some of the other internet TV channels that are out there that can offer public access to it. The bottom line is there needs to be a program to draw people to it so they want to watch.

Mayor Wilkie shared that in 2022 our town will be celebrating it's 150th anniversary. One of the things that he would like to do is have a place so that the recordings of the past can be put up there and people can look at them. But we need to put a program together in order to draw folks there so whether it's Channel 19 or some other type of mechanism to do that. At this point he wanted Council to know that the station is being shut down and it is going to take a while. It has been frustrating him for his 8+ years here and he just wants them to know that he is fed up with it.

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Mayor Wilkie noted that the annual purchase of police vehicles goes back to the '90s when we did not buy a police vehicle because of economic problems and we ended up having to purchase 3 or 4 in one year. A decision was made in 1997 or so to go to Tahoes because the cars weren't lasting. And we began doing it every 2 years from that point on. We found that if we don't do it, we ended up having to pay a lot more in the end so we moved away from that.

Administrator

Administrator Fazekas stated that the Special Olympic Torch Run will be coming through Florence Township on Friday, October 9, 2020. They should be arriving around 8:00 a.m. on Route 130 from Mansfield heading toward Burlington. We have several off-duty officers participating in the run.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Fazekas explained that it is the time of year for the 2020 Best Practices Inventory. This year we needed to score at least 16 points to get 100 percent compliance and we have 21 ½ points. Most of the new questions have to do with COVID-19 and the affects on the Township. He and CFO Sandy Blacker went through it and checked the previous answers from previous years and updated the answers on a few things and there are no deficiencies in this. We do have to review that with Council at a meeting and we will file it with the state tomorrow morning.

BOARD OF HEALTH

None at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilman Garganio mentioned that with the issues with Channel 19 it may be a good idea to have a standing technology committee to continue with the changes. This way we can communicate better with our residents and, in the future, it could even be as important as our planning and zoning boards.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, congratulated those involved with fixing the IT problem that had occurred the past few meetings. He was able to hear very clearly tonight.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, a motion was made by Ostrander, seconded by Garganio to close Public Comments. Voice vote – all ayes.

Mayor Wilkie echoed Mr. Kamienski's sentiments and he thanked Administrator Fazekas for staying on top of the issues with the technology for the meetings as well as Marty Eckert and Jenise Silinsky. The two of them volunteered to assist in making sure this worked and they continued to stay on top of it to make sure everything was done properly.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/jns