

Florence Township Council Regular Session 11/4/20

Florence, New Jersey
November 4, 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 November 1, 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 October 7, 2020

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

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

- Municipal Treasurer's Cash Reports for September 2020
- Municipal Treasurer's Budget Reports for September 2020

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

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Garganio 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

- Letter from Duffy School Tenants Association dated October 26, 2020 thanking Mayor and Council for hearing their concerns regarding various issues at the Duffy School Apartments at the recent Council Meeting.

Motion by Woolston, seconded by Ostrander to receive and file the letter. Voice vote – all ayes.

APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Alisa Paykos Thor, 117 5th Avenue, asked about a town hall posted by a group called Fight to Exist, and talked about a skate park. She said that Mayor Wilkie mentioned that one of the companies that had done some development had given the municipality some money and she would like to follow up on that.

Mayor Wilkie explained that from what he understands is that the Oak Mill development had \$100,000 that was put aside for a skate park. He asked recreation to identify where that would be located. There has never been a location agreed upon and he suggested that maybe she communicate with the recreation director, Marty Eckert to give him some ideas of what she has in mind. He's not even certain that the money will cover what is being looked at. He knows that in some instances in other communities and insurance had become an issue. We have tried to do different things and then things like insurance come up.

Ms. Thor said she is going to reach out to Marty. She has done a lot of research as far as cost and is aware of the insurance aspect of it and the next time she comes to Council she hopes to have a little better plan. She really thinks that it is something that a lot of people would love to have here in the township.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-187

Canceling Taxes on Property Owned by a Totally Disabled Veteran

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-188

Authorize Refund Permit Fee for South Street Recreational Vehicle Lot

Motion of Garganio, seconded by Ostrander to approve Resolution Nos. 2020-187 and 2020-188.

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Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

None at this time.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

None.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie stated that he wanted to make sure everyone had a safe Halloween. There was an accident on Olive Street and Cedar Lane and he said it brought back bad memories of the incident from last year where a mother and child were injured there. But he did see on Facebook through the Fire Department that the mother and daughter had visited the firehouse that night and were glad to be in much better shape than they were last year.

He stated that there were no issues here with the local election. The Veteran's Day services will be held next Wednesday, November 11, 2020. American Legion Post 194 will be conducting services at 11 a.m. at Broad and Front Streets at the old monument. And at 11:30 a.m. there will be services at Veteran's Park.

As mentioned, the township offices are closed and there is no township Council meeting next week, nor is there one for the rest of the month. Mayor Wilkie wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. The tree lighting is scheduled for December 4, 2020. He also recognized "no shave November" so if any of our police officers look a little "shaggy" they are raising funds in support of cancer research.

Administrator

Administrator Fazekas explained that a closed session is needed at the conclusion of the meeting for contractual discussions. He also mentioned a letter for the Burlington County Resource Recovery about an air pollution control permit. He spoke to the county about that letter and they explained that they are putting in a new diesel motor and with the new motor they have to have certain air quality testing so they had to get a permit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Sandusky stated that starting next month and continuing into 2021, the Council meeting start time will change to 7:00pm. He also commended the Roebling Historical Society for the entry signs coming into Roebling.

Councilman Garganio asked if there was any further information regarding the letter that was received from the Duffy School Tenants Association.

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Administrator Fazekas explained that he and Township Solicitor Grant have been working with Marybeth Lonergan, our COAH representative and they have a list of items that the tenants were discussing during the meeting. Solicitor Grant is writing both Conifer and MEND a letter on behalf of the Township and we will be requesting to meet with them virtually to have an open discussion about the issues.

Councilman Garganio also explained that he had a conversation regarding the flag box at Post 194 for old and used flags, where they would dispose of the flags in a flag ceremony at the Post. There was a conversation that there seems to be some issues with the fire district and the town and setting up that flag ceremony. He is asking if someone can take a look into it.

Administrator Fazekas said that he will contact the fire official Brian Richardson and he will get an update on that.

BOARD OF HEALTH

None at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Kristan Marter, 220 East Front Street, wanted to acknowledge the Historical Society for the scarecrow contest but also to acknowledge the Township Public Works Department for doing everything that they did in order to be able to get the scarecrows back up as quickly as they did. To have it destroyed was disheartening but a good job was done by all to put it back together quickly and it really meant a lot to the town.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, motion by Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to close the Public Comments. Voice vote – all ayes.

Motion of Woolston, seconded by Garganio to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:18 p.m. Voice vote – all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Council returned to the Regular meeting at 7:28 p.m. No action was taken. Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/jns