

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 1/16/19**

Florence, New Jersey  
January 16, 2019

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey.

Council President Sandusky said last week a township employee, Kenny Babula, passed away. He asked that everyone remain standing after the Salute to the Flag.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Sandusky at 8:00 PM. Council President Sandusky led the Salute to the Flag. A moment of silence was held to honor Kenny Babula.

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 posted on the municipal bulletin board on January 3, 2019; published in the Burlington County Times on January 6, 2019; placed on the Township website, and given to the Trenton Times for information on January 3, 2019.

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Ted Lovenduski, Paul Ostrander, Dave Woolston, Jerry Sandusky

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie, Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator, Thomas Hastie, Esq., Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk

**MINUTES**

Woolston made a MOTION; seconded by Baldorossi to approve the following minutes. Voice vote – all ayes. Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

- Township Council Regular Session – December 12, 2018 and December 19, 2018

**FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

It was the MOTION of Lovenduski, seconded by Ostrander to receive and file the Township Clerk's Monthly Report for December 2018, Tax Collector's Tax Monthly Report and Water & Sewer Monthly Report for December 2018 and the Court Administrator's Monthly Report for December 2018. Voice vote – all ayes.

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Lovenduski to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

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**REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE**

None at this time.

**APPLICATIONS**

None at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, said the township and its associates did an excellent job removing the train tracks from West Front Street, Broad Street and Railroad Avenue. He said his question is are the tracks on Olive Street on any schedule to be removed. Mayor Wilkie said they are not scheduled right now to be removed. Those tracks are Conrail's. The ones that have been removed were owned by Griffin Pipe. The township has an application for Rails to Trails to possibly do some of the work. Administrator Brook said Assistant Administrator Thomas Sahol is working and trying to get that track removed also, along with some of the other crossings that are in town. It would be a plus to have that section removed. It is falling apart. The township is examining the condition of the roadway from Sixth to Fifth as part of its Road Program.

Mayor Wilkie said last year when Railroad Avenue was closed Assistant Administrator Sahol spoke to Conrail about taking the crossing out at that time. They agreed. He has a good relationship with them. It is in the process but there is no schedule right now.

It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Ostrander to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-41  
Tax and Water & Sewer Payment Plan for  
Block 55, Lot 16  
26 East Fifth Street**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-42  
Approve Current Estimate No. 14 for Contract for  
Water Treatment Plant Upgrades  
To: MBE Mark III Electric, Inc.  
213 Main Street  
Madison, NJ 07940**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-43  
Approve Request for Release of  
Maintenance Bond for Phase 3 Sitework and  
Deny Request for Maintenance Bond Release for**

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**Phase 1B Basin  
The Estates at Oak Mill, Pulte Homes**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-44  
Authorizing 2019 Temporary Capital Budget for the  
Township of Florence**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-45  
Authorize Purchase of a Chevrolet Tahoe and  
Ford Utility Interceptor,  
Cooperative Pricing System Purchase**

It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution Nos. 2019-41 through 2019-45.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-01  
MODEL ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET  
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK  
(1<sup>ST</sup> Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 2/6/19)**

It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Lovenduski to approve Ordinance No. 2019-01 and set the public hearing and adoption for February 2, 2019.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**REPORTS**

**Committees, Boards and Officers:**

**Administration**

**Mayor**

Mayor Wilkie said he felt he has to share his frustrations that he and Council have been criticized on social media. Someone is trying to take credit and claim they are the only person who is trying to do anything about the traffic in Florence Township. It is frustrating, being a lifelong resident and being involved in this community as many are. This person came and said they provided ideas and

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no one else has. This is something that the township has been working on for a very long time. It is hard to document, but if it was necessary the township could. He mentioned the GSA Warehouse in Burlington Township. The driveway is angled toward Burlington Township because Florence made it clear it did not want the traffic coming into town. There has been cooperation between Florence and Burlington Township for many years. The recent approval of Carson, that is going to be adjacent to the Water & Sewer Plant, includes directing the traffic to Burlington Township. He said he knows since he took office in 2012 the township has been working on traffic issues. The Township Engineer was directed to find the best option for Hornberger Avenue. As part of that there needs to be some work done on Florence-Columbus Road and Route 130, which has now been taken on by the State of New Jersey. There is a developer that is going to be doing improvements on Cedar Lane. It is nice to say something should be done, but it comes down to money. There are two traffic reports. It doesn't happen overnight. Some people say there should not be any trucks here, and that's fine. The township needs to think of where it has been. It is ancient history to some people but think of what the township was like in the 1960's. Griffin Pipe was operating for 100-plus years. The Roebling Steel Mill was almost in its sixtieth year, and the township was very happy that A&P decided to put their warehouse at Railroad Avenue and Cedar Lane. That operated for many years. We all know in the early seventies the steel mill closed. Unfortunately, then A&P closed. When he took office, all of the major employers were closed and people needed jobs. The township had to spur the economy and had to take traffic into consideration. It is not easy to balance and it takes time. Things can't happen overnight. It is frustrating when people champion that they are the ones doing it. The reality is that Council are the ones doing it, spending the time and making the effort. It is frustrating and it doesn't make sense and it is obvious the person is not familiar with what they are talking about.

He said the next Council meeting is February 6. Martin Luther King Day is next Monday. It is a day of service for a man of peace. He thanked everyone for attending this evening.

Mayor Wilkie said prior to his becoming Mayor, the township honored Judge Paul Kramer but the development with the designated street name did not move forward. When the Pulte development was built the name was moved there. He would like to do something nice for the family in the Spring and have a small dedication ceremony.

He would also like to honor Paul and Loretta Varga. He is thinking about Earth Day, considering all of the beautification they did in the community. It will be held at the Roebling Park.

Mayor Wilkie said he grew up near Kenny Babula and Kenny was best friends with his brother. It is very sad any time someone passes, especially when you consider all he went through. He was at work the day before, that is the kind of dedication he had. He is deeply missed. Mayor Wilkie expressed his sympathy to Kenny's family and coworkers.

### Municipal Administrator

Administrator Brook said Marty Eckert has been working with the carnival company on renewing the agreement and it will be brought before Council in February.

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A representative from B&H Photo called today. They have been a very welcome addition to the community. As some may have read recently, they stepped right up and helped the Police Department around Christmas time when a family had a car stolen with all the children's gifts inside. They were very willing to help that family have a nicer holiday. They called to invite the Mayor and Council to an Appreciation Event next Wednesday. They would like the township officials to stop by so they can just say thank you. He will mention it to some of the staff members the company deals with also.

### **Assistant Municipal Administrator**

#### **Division of Law**

#### **Division of Engineering**

#### **Unfinished Business**

##### **New Business**

Council President Sandusky there is a lease with the Yacht Club that expires February 28, 2019. He asked if there needs to be approval to renew it. It is a five-year lease. Administrator Brook said Clerk Erlston put it on the agenda this evening for consideration. She was very alert to the timing. He just wanted to see if Council was in agreement to renew the lease. The agreement has been in place for quite a while.

It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Lovenduski to move forward with renewing the lease with the Yacht Club.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Administrator Brook said legislation to put the lease in place will be provided for the next meeting.

### **Board of Health**

#### **Public Comments: Open to the Public**

Council President Sandusky opened the meeting to the public.

Joe Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, asked if anyone considered putting a light at the Amazon warehouse. Mayor Wilkie said during the busy season police are there for traffic control.

Mr. Csik asked if the police vehicles that are replaced available for public purchase. Mayor Wilkie said normally, after they have been in the Police Department they are rotated to another township department and then eventually go to public auction.

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It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to close the public comments. All ayes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

8:16 PM MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Woolston to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC  
Township Clerk  
/aek