

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/2/17

Florence, New Jersey
August 2, 2017

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 Lovenduski at 8:00 PM. The State Commander of the American Legion led the Salute to the Flag. A Moment of Silence was observed in honor of Martin Eckert, Sr., who passed away last week. He was the father of Marty Eckert, Jr., the Township Recreation Coordinator.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was sent to the Trenton Times for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board; placed on the web-site on January 5, 2017; and advertised in the Burlington County Times on January 8, 2017.

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

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Attorney; James Biegen, Township Engineer; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mathias Cross, New Jersey Boys State Governor

Mayor Wilkie noted that there were many people in attendance this evening to recognize the accomplishments of Mathias. There was also a group of people who attend regularly. They are doing what citizens have the right to do. They come see government in action and they speak up. The Commander of American Legion Post 194 was also in attendance. The post was Mathias's sponsor. Also in attendance was the Department Commander of the State of New Jersey. Mayor Wilkie noted that former mayor George Sampson served as Department Commander and devoted much of his time to Boys State. He would be very proud. The community is very proud of Mathias. Mayor Wilkie recognized many of the veterans who were present this evening.

Mayor Wilkie thanked Mr. Cross for attending this evening. No one from Florence Township has ever been the Governor of Boys State and that is a great accomplishment. He said it was an honor to present the proclamation to Mathias. He read the proclamation into the record.

Councilman Sandusky suggested a sign be placed outside of the legion honoring Mathias. He earned a great achievement and it would be a nice way to honor him for that.

The American Legion Commander said that Mathias is also a person who does not give up.

Mathias said the recognition was very humbling and he thanked everyone for the honor.

The Commander thanked all of the other sponsors involved with the legion who helped make Boys State possible. He thanked the township for their support also.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/2/17

MINUTES

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

- Township Council Regular Session – July 19, 2017
- Township Council Closed Session – July 19, 2017

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Woolston to approve the **Treasurer’s Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Social Affair Permit for New Jersey State Bar Association – Networking Event
September 13, 2017, 5:30pm-7:30pm, Investor’s Bank, 2150 Route 130 N.

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the permit. All ayes.

APPLICATIONS

- A. Florence Township H.S. Band Boosters, 1050 Cedar Lane, On Premise 50/50
Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 2017 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Nov. 23, 2017 – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- B. Roebling Museum, 100 Second Avenue
On Premise Merchandise Raffle, Sept. 23, 2017 – 6 :00 p.m. to 10 :00 p.m.
Off Premise Merchandise Raffle, Oct. 14, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.
On Premise 50/50, Oct. 14, 2017 – 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

It was the Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to approve applications A & B.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

AYES: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Ron Zalegowski, American Legion Post 39, said the Commander and officers of the post would like to thank Mr. Eckert and the Mayor and Council for the support of the veteran’s health care that they had two weeks ago. It was a success. A couple of the veterans who took advantage had

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/2/17

heart conditions and they would not have come if they had not seen the sign the township helped the legion get. He thanked them again for helping.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, said at the National Night Out in Roebing he was asked a question he could not answer. He asked if there was an ordinance that prevents squatters from camping out in different areas of the township. Administrator Brook said he didn't believe there was a specific ordinance but someone is only permitted to live in a dwelling that is considered to be habitable. In New Jersey people are not permitted to just live in a tent or live outside in the woods. When this happens there are two objectives. One is to get the person the accommodations they need and the other is to make sure someone is safe.

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

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-175
Authorizing Approval with Conditions
of 2017-2018 Renewal of
Plenary Retail Consumption License to
Brian W. Hofmeister, Assignee for the Benefit of Creditors of
River Rock Bar & Grille, LLC
ABC License No. 0315-33-008-005**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-176
Authorize the Assistant Township Administrator and
Township Engineer to Prepare Plans and Solicit Bids for the
Demolition of 1501 Hornberger Avenue and
1511 Hornberger Avenue**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-177
Extension of Time for Payment of Tax Bills**

It was the Motion of Ostrander and seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution Nos. 2017-175 through 2017-177.

On the Question

Councilman Sandusky asked that Administrator Brook explain Resolution No. 2017-177. Many people have approached him saying they haven't received a tax bill and are confused about when they are due. Administrator Brook explained that no municipality can mail out tax bills until the county and the state finalize their budgets. Once that occurs the tax rate is struck. Florence received its rate late last week. It takes about two weeks to get the bills done. The township anticipates they will be mailed on or before August 14. The due date is generally twenty-five to

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/2/17

thirty days from then. The township tries to make the deadline a little more generous. The due date this year will be September 11.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP'S WELL #6 IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP, APPROPRIATING \$160,000 THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$152,000 IN WATER & SEWER UTILITY BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE SAME

(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)

Council President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2017-22. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Ostrander to close the public hearing. All ayes.

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-22.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICE RELATED TO THE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP, APPROPRIATING \$150,000 THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$142,500 IN GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE SAME

(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/2/17

Council President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2017-23.

John Smith, 10 Boulevard, asked what the township wanted to do as far as renovations. Mayor Wilkie said the building is thirty five years old. The regulations concerning the courts and the police have all changed. Those are the main services that will be looked at because the spaces need to be adapted. Also there is a need for more space on the administrative offices section of the building. The township is evaluating each of the services. An example is that the police department does not have a female locker room and the building does not meet the requirements for when a youth is in custody. After the evaluation is done the township will see what kind of structural steps need to be taken.

Joe Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, asked if when it is decided what is being done will the costs be available to the public to review. Mayor Wilkie said there would be a design presented and shared.

It was the Motion of Ostrander to close the public hearing. All ayes.

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-23.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-24

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY
KNOWN AS BLOCK 177, LOT 1 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE FOR
REMEDICATION OF BLIGHT, OPEN SPACE AND POTENTIAL FUTURE
REDEVELOPMENT PURPOSES**

(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)

At this time Council President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2017-24.

Chris Musso, 418 Arnold Drive, wanted to know why the township was making the purchase. Mayor Wilkie explained it is a small piece of land that is trapped between what was once Griffin Pipe that will eventually become township property, and the Florence Township Housing Authority. It is very overgrown right now and it is a troubled area in the community. With the township purchasing it for \$4,700, it will have continuous ownership and will be able to clean the property up. There has been some police activity in the area and that will be less likely with the area being more visible to the police.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/2/17

It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to close the public hearing. All ayes.

It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-24.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers:

Administration

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie said next week's council meeting will be the last one until September 6. Next week Council will be presented with the preliminary 2018 Road Program. There is a lot of construction going on right now with the sizeable 2017 Road Program and the work PSE&G is doing. He explained the road programs have been very aggressive and much of the PILOT funds have been used to repair the town's roads.

Recently there was an article in the paper about the traffic coordination that is happening. It is a continuation of the conversations that have been ongoing for a number of years. The concerns are traffic congestion, making sure things move forward and protecting the communities. There is a lot of planning happening.

The work on Cedar Lane should be starting in the near future. There will be some temporary inconvenience because Railroad Avenue will be shut down for a number of weeks while the roundabout is constructed.

Mayor Wilkie had the honor of meeting with Kerry Pflugh, the Director of the Office of Local Government Assistance for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. He was able to speak with her about the Roebling Steel site and let her know what was happening in the near future. She was encouraged and very happy with the planning that was done. She praised the township Park Committee and made sure the township was going to utilize the waterway. He also shared concerns with her about the redevelopment of Griffin Pipe. The dirt has been piling up and nothing seems to be moving forward. She reached out to those involved and it is his understanding that all of the permits have been issued. He also shared with her the township's concerns about the Elcon site in Pennsylvania. She explained the restrictions between the New Jersey DEP and the Pennsylvania DEP. She said there are concerns and the township will have support. He knows there is support from the surrounding communities as well as the county in opposing it. She shared information about the Rails and Trails and gave some direction on how to move forward. It was a good meeting and she followed up within a week or so of the meeting.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/2/17

Mayor Wilkie said he would like to discuss the Community Development Block Grant. The township purchased the Friday property on Potts Mill Road a couple years ago. The township applied for the grant to make the bathrooms handicapped accessible. The money has been approved so the project will be moving forward. The building will be used by the scouts, although it is a public building. It will be converted from a residence to a public use facility that is handicapped accessible.

The township received a thank you letter from a resident. She had a medical emergency and acknowledged the police officer, Corporal Jason Shafer, and the assistance that he provided to her. It was nice to see that. He and Council sent a letter to Corporal Shafer thanking him for going above and beyond. That is pretty much the standard when it comes to the Florence Township Police Department.

Township Administrator

Administrator Brook said the drainage work on Front and Chestnut Streets will begin within the next ten days. The Burlington County Engineer's Office will be starting the work on Front Street where the sinkhole was. He wanted to thank the county. They have been instrumental and have worked well with the township, especially the Engineering Department there. It is a massive undertaking and it took a great deal of planning on their part.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

Nothing at this time.

Division of Engineering

Nothing at this time.

Division of Law

Nothing at this time.

Unfinished Business

Nothing at this time.

New Business

Nothing at this time.

Board of Health

Nothing at this time.

Public Comments: Open to the Public

Council President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Csik said he wanted to thank the township employees who helped when his sewer pipe was broken. He appreciated the work they did.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/2/17

Council President Lovenduski thanked him for the comment. The township appreciates hearing something good.

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

ADJOURNMENT

8:28 PM MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Sandusky to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston
Township Clerk
/aek