

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION

February 9, 2005

9:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Fratinardo called the meeting to order.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

The Township Clerk read the Opening Statement: Notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was published in the Burlington County Times on January 2, 2005 and January 16, 2005; time change notice published in the Burlington County Times on February 6, 2005; given to the Register News for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board.

ROLL CALL

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Bruce Garganio, Elizabeth Ryan, Jerry Sandusky, John Fratinardo

Also Present: Mayor Michael Muchowski; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; Russell Trice, Township Water and Sewer Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy Weiler, Township Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, asked if the Mayor vetoed Ordinance No. 2004-17, Truck Stops? Solicitor Kearns stated that he returned the Ordinance to Council for reconsideration. Mr. Bott asked Mayor Muchowski why he returned it to Council? Mayor Muchowski explained that as with any Ordinance that affects the community, he wanted the chance to discuss the pros and cons with Council. Council has decided to take the Mayor's concerns under consideration and cast a new vote this evening.

Mr. Bott asked if Council was going to do any rezoning for the new development going in on Griffin Pipe's property? Mayor Muchowski explained that the developer is utilizing a partial portion of the residential zone. The appropriate use of the remainder of the site is being discussed.

Mr. Bott offered to help deliver the notices in his neighborhood regarding the recent burglaries. Mayor Muchowski thanked Mr. Bott for his offer and will advise the Chief of Police.

All residents having an opportunity to be heard, MOTION by Ryan; seconded by Garganio to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

ACTION

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 2004-17

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING
CHAPTER 91 – LAND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FLORENCE
TOWNSHIP CODE TO DEFINE AND TO PROHIBIT TRUCK STOPS
WITHIN ANY ZONING DISTRICT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
FLORENCE**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Ryan to approve Ordinance No. 2004-17 as is.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinaro

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER ENGINEER

Water Allocation

Russell Trice, Township Water and Sewer Engineer, reported that DEP issued a draft Water Allocation permit. We are in the 30-day public comment period, which is up February 14th. Mr. Trice stated that DEP cut back the amount of allocation the Township requested and explained that DEP reran the data that the Township sent them and came up with a different conclusion. A meeting was requested with DEP; DEP refused to meet unless the Township had a technical report that justified DEP changing their opinion. There is not enough time to do within the 30-day public comment period. Mr. Trice explained that there are two options: accept the allocation that DEP offered or appeal DEP's decision. Mr. Trice recommends accepting the amount allocated and formally advise DEP that the Township will come back with a study. Administrator Brook feels that the study will help the Township with more than just allocation and will last 10 – 20 years.

Mr. Trice discussed the Sentinel Well, which will be installed on Front Street towards the river. DEP may set up the testing frequency?

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

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Current Estimate No. 15: RMS – Public Works Facility

Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, reviewed and recommends payment of Current Estimate No. 15. Due to the weather, work has slowed down but will be resuming shortly. A Resolution will be approved at next week's meeting.

Mr. Guzzi stated that a copy of the irrevocable letter of credit related to the floor in the new public works building was included in the packet. It is a sufficient amount for repairs that may be necessary; it will expire 11/30/2009. The letter of credit is in addition to the Performance Bond and Maintenance Bond. Solicitor Kearns reviewed the letter of credit and feels it is acceptable.

Stormwater Management Plan

Mr. Guzzi stated that he will be meeting with Administrator Brook and John Purakovics, Public Works Superintendent, regarding the Stormwater Management Plan that the Township has to put together. This would include updating the Land Use Ordinance as it relates to Stormwater Management for development. There also will be other necessary Ordinances, which Mr. Guzzi hopes to review at the March Worksession.

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

Virtual Television Networks

Mayor Muchowski was approached by Dr. Talarico, Superintendent of Schools, regarding a public access channel on cable television. Administrator Brook and Assistant Administrator Sahol met with Virtual Television Networks, a provider of public access channels, to see if it is something viable for the Township. It would be a joint venture with the township schools.

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the way the cable lines are laid out, only a Township resident would be able to view the channel. He showed a demo from Virtual Television Networks to the governing body. He reviewed the many items that could be included, such as: sponsorship, community events and newsletters; also, live broadcasts could also be carried.

An Agreement would have to be drawn up with the school.

Assistant Administrator Sahol reviewed the cost: \$12,000 down and \$12,000 a year for 3 years, which would be split with the school. Mayor Muchowski stated that \$6,000 to \$7,000 is spent a year on community notification, so if this were to take its place, funding would not be an issue for the Township. Council Member Garganio would want a guarantee from the school that the money is in the budget. Mayor Muchowski stated that the school has started preliminary conversations with some local business regarding sponsorships to offset the costs.

Mayor Muchowski suggested that Virtual Television Networks come and give a presentation to the governing body before a final decision is made.

Administrator Brook will speak with the school and report back.

10:05 PM: RECESS Motion made and seconded to approve a brief recess. All ayes.

NOTE: Council Vice President Ryan left meeting at this time.

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10:10 PM: MEETING RESUMED Motion made and seconded to approve resuming the meeting. All ayes.

Two Recreation Committee Appointments (as per Mayor)

Mayor Muchowski discussed potential openings on the Recreation Committee. Discussion followed regarding changing the criteria and length of appointments. It was suggested that each league president be appointed to the committee. Solicitor Kearns stated that the Recreation Committee is a locally created committee and can be changed. Assistant Administrator Sahol will speak with the league presidents to get their opinions.

VFW REQUEST: REZONING

Administrator Brook received a request from Steve Mognancki, VFW Commander, to meet with Council to discuss the possibility of rezoning a portion of the VFW's property from Residential to Neighborhood Commercial. The front portion of the property is already zoned Neighborhood Commercial. Mayor Muchowski stated that they should go before the Zoning Board for a sub-division and variance unless they have a viable plan for rezoning. Council in agreement.

2005 FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Assistant Administrator Sahol met with the Chief of Police to look at the possibility of having the Patriotic Celebration fireworks in Roebing. After much consideration, Assistant Administrator Sahol and Chief Dawson do not believe that Roebing is a good site due to parking problems, traffic flow problems and where people would sit to view the fireworks. It would be a safety hazard to hold the fireworks in Roebing.

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Fratinardo to hold the fireworks in Florence.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Sandusky, Fratinardo
NOES: Baldorossi
ABSENT: Ryan

3 – 1 Motion carries.

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT: REQUEST – REMOVAL OF TOPSOIL

Administrator Brook reported that the Fire District is requesting permission to remove and sell 7,000 cubic yards of topsoil from the site of the new firehouse. Revenue would be used to fund a generator.

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to approve the Fire District's request and waive fees. Roll call vote – all ayes.

GREENBRIAR DEVELOPMENT – REMOVAL OF TOPSOIL

Administrator Brook reported that he received a call from US Home, Greenbriar Development on Old York Road, stating that residents were complaining about the large mound of fill at the site. US Home will obtain three quotes to haul the soil; the Township needs to inform them as to

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where it is to go. Council Member Garganio asked if any fill was needed at the Gatehouse Museum? Administrator Brook will check with EPA.

STATE GRANTS: POLICE-IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEM & SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER

Administrator Brook reported that they are moving ahead with the in-car video system.

Also, Administrator Brook met with Solicitor Kearns and representatives of the Roebing Firehouse to begin drafting documents on the sale, purchase and temporary lease of the firehouse. Will report back in March. Resolutions for the grant requirements will be on next week's Agenda.

ALDEN AVENUE PARKING REQUEST

Mayor Muchowski reviewed the request from Sandor's Pizza for 15 minute parking in front of their establishment. He believes it may be problematic to other establishments on the street. Council Member Sandusky feels it is a reasonable request. It would help patrons that are going in for a pick up order. Sandor's is open very limited hours; the request is only for the times they are open, which is two days a week. Council Member Garganio suggested a trial period. Discussion followed regarding placement and affects on the other property owners. Administrator Brook and Assistant Administrator Sahol will measure, take pictures and report back to Council.

FUEL SYSTEM

Administrator Brook stated that the Township's fuel system is rather old and he has researched new systems. He reviewed the new system. Since the school, squads and fire departments utilize the fuel system (at cost) discussion followed regarding sharing the cost of upgrading or charging a surcharge per gallon of gas for a set amount of years. Administrator Brook will work up the numbers and report back.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: BOND ORDINANCE

Administrator Brook explained that in order to maximum bonding, the Township would get ultimate approval from the State, do short term bond anticipation notes where the interest would be paid off, then when the market looks good, do permanent bonding. Council Member Garganio stated that there would be funds coming in from grants. Administrator Brook explained that some of the anticipated grant money would have to be bonded then paid back when the grant is received.

Brief discussion of the road program followed, which includes 10 alleys.

Council Member Garganio asked that this be included on next week's Agenda.

Different options for bathroom facilities in the parks were discussed. Mr. Guzzi will look into costs.

Administrator Brook asked if Council would like him to proceed with bonding? Council in agreement for Administrator Brook to proceed.

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11:10 PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Garganio to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

11:10 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab