



**Florham Park Borough Council  
Work Session Minutes  
Thursday, May 14, 2020  
Held Telephonically**

Mayor Taylor called the Work Session to order at 6:30 p.m. He asked the Borough Clerk for a roll call:

Governing Body	Present	Absent
Mayor Taylor	X	
Council President Carpenter	X	
Councilman Germershausen	X	
Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane	X	
Councilman Malone	X	
Councilman Zuckerman	X	
Councilwoman Santoro	X	

Mayor Taylor called the Regular Meeting of the Borough Council to order at 6:30 p.m. He asked the Clerk if the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act had been met. Borough Clerk Sheila Williams stated that adequate notice of the meeting had been made.

Additional Borough Officials present were Borough Clerk Sheila Williams, Administrator William Huyler and Borough Attorney Joseph Bell.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

- Mayor Taylor led the Salute to the Flag.

**Opening Statement by Mayor Taylor:**

Mayor Taylor stated that the meeting was being recorded; therefore, anyone who did not wish to participate could elect to drop off at any time.

Mayor Taylor asked the Borough Clerk if the requirements of the Open Public Meetings act had been met. Mrs. Williams stated the Borough was in compliance.

**COUNCIL PORTFOLIO UPDATES:**

**Council President Charles Malone provided the following report:**

- Council President Malone stated that May 1st was tax collection day. We are paying close attention to that. The collection rate was 91%. The Finance office will be mailing out delinquent notices on Tuesday.
- Looking to introduce the budget on May 28th and adopt on June 18th.
- Water bills will be mailed out at the end of the month. They are a month late due to the Pandemic.
- The annual audit has begun. Patrice will be sending out requests electronically to the departments; coordinating a no contact pick-up of items that cannot be sent electronically.
- Patrice is working on the budget right now and will send it to the Auditors. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter tax collection was good and about what was expected. She hopes that 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter collection will be just as good. She will be sending out estimated tax bills and the taxes will be due August 1st.
- Council President Malone said overall tax collection was good and we had a handful of people that expressed the need for additional time due to extenuating circumstances.

**Recreation Update:**

- Recreation Director John Timmons has come up with a nice draft plan to open up in different phases. A number of us are going to meet next week and see the feasibility of things.
- Tennis and basketball rehabilitation project continues. The goal was to be finished by the end of May. Per Mike Sgaramella we are on schedule with the tennis courts. Surface coursing will be done next week.

**Councilman Germershausen provided the following report:**

**Morris County Freeholders:**

- Freeholders held a virtual meeting on May 13th. Nothing significant to report.

### Historic Preservation Commission:

- Historic Preservation meeting for May 20th has been cancelled.

### Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane provided the following report:

#### Senior Citizens:

- No Senior or AARP meetings have been held.
- We still have a group of volunteers that are doing shopping and other things for the Seniors

#### Gazebo Committee:

- We had a virtual Gazebo Meeting. Joe Bell drafted a contract for the performer, because we needed certain caveats in there. We will stay in compliance with any Executive Order that is in place at the time. The Committee is planning on having a concert in September unless we are told not to. The performer is still to be decided.

#### Planning & Zoning Boards:

- Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane received an email from Marlene Rawson indicating that the June meetings are going to be held electronically. May meetings were cancelled.
- Mayor Taylor indicated that Jon Rheinhardt is going to help her get up to speed on using Zoom.

#### Construction:

- All non-essential construction can begin again on Monday following social distancing guidelines
- \$127,653 was collected in fees this for March/April vs. \$80,674.00 at the same time last year.
- Mayor Taylor gave a shout out to Kevin Guilfoyle for keeping this going

### Councilman Carpenter provided the following report:

#### Police Department:

Councilman Carpenter asked Chief Joe Orlando to give a brief update.

Chief Orlando stated that we have been receiving a lot of information from the State. It contains a lot of minutiae and at times can be confusing and contractign. The Police Colonel from the State Police indicated that parades were prohibited; then said they were allowed. It is a lot to keep up with. Executive Order 141 & 142 came out regarding mass gatherings, drive-in movies, parades, etc. Last week we talked about reverse parades. Chief Orlando said in his opinion a reverse parade would be allowable under the Executive Order. All construction can start again on Monday morning, with restrictions. Non-essential businesses can now open for curbside pick-up. Beaches/Boardwalks allowed to open May 22. Also restrooms are allowed to open in state and municipal parks. We opened up the tennis courts and Spring Garden Lake. That is where we are at right now.

### **Fire Department:**

- The new fire truck arrived on Saturday; getting outfitted.
- We have two certified firefighters in the que; will nudge the process forward
- Call volume is about 20 calls less than this time last year

### **Engineering:**

- Columbia/Crescent Road Intersection- Opticom Pre-Emption system transmitters were installed on 4 emergency vehicles on Wednesday. Two Fire Trucks and two Ambulances.
- Still waiting on Road Striping company to finish striping. Some streets have been laid out. Scheduled for end of this week and next week.
- Tennis and Basketball Project- Minor work on fence completed over past two weeks. Weather is warmer next week, and the Contractor will be installing final surface course of paving.
- Mayor Taylor, Councilman Carpenter met with JCP&L Certified Arborist to review trees along Cathedral Avenue which are in conflict with the JCP&L overhead electric lines. Several other trees have been marked along Crescent Road, Brooklake Road, Beechwood Road, and Cathedral Avenue to be removed as part of the utility's Federal Regulation mandate. A JCP&L tree contractor will start work within the next few weeks. They will handle resident notifications. We will get monies for the tree bank. We need to change our tree bank ordinance to allow to plant on public property.

## Department of Public Works:

- Bulk pick-up is ongoing;
- 247 scheduled pick-ups this cycle; they are about ½ way through
- The new bucket truck should be delivered by the end of June

## First Aid Squad:

- The call volume is creeping up. They have multiple members riding during the week. Covering all shifts with the exception of Thursday day shifts.

## Councilman Zuckerman provided the following report:

### Board of Education:

- The Board's next meeting will be held virtually on Monday

### Environmental Commission:

- The Commission hasn't had a meeting.
- They are still reviewing the Princeton Hydro proposal for Spring Garden Lake.

### Municipal Pool:

- It really doesn't look promising that the pool will open. It may be more costly if we open the pool for a partial season. Mr. Huyler stated we are going to discuss the pool next week. It may be more costly to open the pool for part of the season than to close it all together. We will discuss it next week.
- Mr. Zuckerman said even if we don't open we still have expenses associated with it.

## Councilwoman Santoro provided the following report:

### Water Utility:

- Mott MacDonald continues with the Well Rehabilitation and Transmission Project- A 60% Design was submitted this week and is currently under review by Alex and Mike Sgaramella.
- Continuing to currently work with NJAW to formalize agreement to acquire main from Ridgedale Avenue to ASCO. The Council will eventually have to approve once the agreement is complete.

- Also working with NJAW (NJ American Water) to obtain additional water allocation in June, July and August for purchase in order to solve a Peak Monthly discharge overage. This arrangement was verbally approved by the NJDEP during conference call on Monday. NJAW wants a firm 2-3 year commitment to use 7 MGM (million gallons per month) water for summer months. We will shutoff our wells for the first few days of each month until contract amount is met. NJAW will be sending over a term sheet for review by Borough.
- Water Operators have been working full-time since the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Operators are not going into resident's home to read meters, and these readings will be estimated (Approximately less than 1/3 of all meters).
- Mott MacDonald has started the Tank Rehabilitation design which includes
- the re-painting of the exterior of the Spheroid Tank and Tower Lane Tank. A site meeting with all cellular carriers was held at both sites to discuss options to take carriers out of service and/or relocate equipment. The carriers have made it clear that
- the cost for the relocation of equipment is the responsibility of the Borough. We will have to review leases with Borough Attorney to get opinion and discuss options. This cost was not accounted for in the project cost.
- Parc-North townhomes/condo development at 2 Vreeland Road started utility work this week. Water wet tap completed and starting to cross Vreeland Avenue.
- Water sampling has not been disrupted, and continues as normal.
- Daily and Weekly Duties completed.
- Water hangars sent to Mike Sgaramella for approval

### **Sewer Utility:**

- The SCADA upgrade project continues. One vendor employee has been on-site in Plant installing software and hardware as part of the updates to the system.
- Sewer Operators have been working full-time since the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Staff is operating Sewer Jet to perform annual sewer cleaning.
- We have taken delivery of the CUBE, a portable pipe video inspection unit that can be used for sewer and stormwater pipes. Unit will be mounted to a pickup truck or small trailer for portability. Training will be scheduled after the state restrictions are lifted.
- Daily and Weekly Duties completed.

## Library Board:

- The Board held a meeting on Monday via Zoom.
- Board rolled out *#florhamparkstayathome* to support the journaling project that has been rolled out
- We are following the State guidelines and looking at what the social distancing practices will look like in the short term upon reopening.

## Board of Health:

- June meeting has been cancelled
- The next meeting will be in September
- A report was received from Pequannock outlining some of their activities. The Pequannock Board of Health continues to track and investigate outbreaks and tracks it through the NJ Communicable disease reporting and surveillance system. They are also in daily contact with the NJ Health Dept.
- They are monitoring the COVID activity at a small group living facility in Sun Valley.
- Are tracking outbreaks in FP long term care facilities and communicates with the directors daily.
- Two long term care facilities by the NJ Dept. of Health as participating in the Phase II Balance of Health Survey

## 4th of July Committee:

- Nothing really new to report for the 4th. We are still looking at options.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for the Portolio updates and wanted to make the Council aware of a few items:

- He has done a mock up of a banner to congratulate all 2020 Graduates; 8th Graders, High School and College students
- He has been contacted by several restaurants in town, including the Diner asking about outdoor seating to help them through this crisis. The diner will be able to do some modifications to the grassy area on the left side of the diner. This will give them more outdoor seating for their customers. Zizza's has asked me as well as well as Natale's who currently has outdoor seating. I think we should help these businesses as best we can as they come back and we get through this virus.

- The Mayor has been getting communications from residents regarding the Community Garden. They are wondering when it will be safe for them to go back to planting.

Councilman Carpenter asked Councilwoman Santoro about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Will there be fundraising or anything else.

Councilwoman Santoro thinks fundraising will be hard to do. Fundraising usually starts earlier in the year. The Committee does not feel comfortable asking for money during the pandemic. She is going to meet with Joe Guerin and the Committee next week.

Council President Malone said there are entities out there who would probably support the longest running parade in Florham Park. He has been involved with a part of Giving Tuesday where money has been raised in just 24 hours. Council President Malone also suggested making available the police barracades to restaurant to enhance and protect their outdoor seating. Council discussed ways to make that happen.

### **Payment of Vouchers:**

Council President Malone read a summary of the current bills list and made a motion to approve it in the amount \$240,271.84. The motion was seconded by Councilman Carpenter.

### **Vote:**

Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Comments	
Malone	X					
Germershausen	X					
Cefolo-Pane	X					
Carpenter	X					
Zuckerman	X					
Santoro	X					
Total	6					

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting to the public.

John Winters, 32 Brooklake Road

Mr. Winters stated that he was down by the Rec Center and was looking at the paving and the pitch is very good on the asphalt paving, but the curbing was low to begin with. You may want to take a look reducing the curbing in the middle of the trees down the road.

Borough Engineer Sgaramella stated that in order to get it to drain we had to follow a pitch. In actuality the curbing is actually flush in a couple of locations. The upper parking lot drains onto the lower parking lot, which actually aids in the drainage of the parking lot. It is something we can look into in the future.

Mr. Winters asked where we were with the well situation; the Exxon well to add to our well to the mixture of water. What is the timeline? Are we on schedule?

Mr. Sgaramella stated that we just had a 60% submission for the well rehabilitation and the transmission design is due to start shortly.

Mr. Winters saw something in the FP Eagle and about power lines that are going in parallel with other lines. They also did it three or four years ago.

Mr. Sgaramella stated that they were at a Council meeting and let us know about that.

Mr. Winters had a question regarding the school budget. He attended an elementary school budget. What would be the difference between the actual school increase, what would it have been without the bond.

Councilman Zuckerman stated he did not attend although he knows the increase for the bond was \$650,000.

Mr. Winters also discussed the aid for the schools and the Presentation on the Hanover Park website.

### **Maureen Mulligan, Kice Road**

Mrs. Mulligan asked if the Council was going to continue to have telephone access to meetings?

Mayor Taylor stated yes, until we get back into the Courtroom.

Mrs. Mulligan asked if they could publicize it. She didn't hear about it until she ran into a Councilman on the street.

Mayor Taylor stated a legal notice was posted and it has been on our website for a few weeks.

Mrs. Mulligan asked if you could put it on the message board.

Mayor Taylor said it was a good idea.

Seeing no more members of the public who wished to be heard, he closed the meeting to the Public.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was regularly moved by Councilman Zuckerman and seconded by Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila A. Williams, R.M.C.  
Borough Clerk  
May 24, 2020



**PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS:**

Council President Malone made a motion to pay vouchers in the amount of \$240,271.84. The motion was seconded by Councilman Zuckerman

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Comments
Malone	X				
Germershausen	X				
Cefolo-Pane	X				
Carpenter	X				
Zuckerman	X				
Santoro	X				
Total	6				

Borough Administrator:

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion made by Councilman Zuckerman and seconded by Councilman Carpenter , the work session was adjourned by a unanimous vote at at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila A. Williams, R.M.C.  
Borough Clerk  
May 17, 2020