



Florham Park Borough
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm, and asked the Deputy Clerk for a roll call:

Governing Body Member	Present	Absent
Mayor Taylor	X	
Council President Santoro	X	
Councilman Germershausen	X	
Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane	X	Left at 7:33 pm
Councilman Carpenter	X	
Councilman Malone	X	
Councilman Zuckerman	X	

Additional Borough officials in attendance were: Borough Attorney Joseph Bell, and Deputy Clerk Maryann Lang.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Taylor asked the Deputy Clerk if the statutory requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act had been met. Ms. Lang responded in the affirmative.

Minutes for Council Approval:

Mayor Taylor asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2021 Regular Council Meeting and the November 4, 2021 Council Work Session Meeting. Councilman Germershausen made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Council President Santoro.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Comments
Santoro	X				
Germershausen	X				
Cefolo-Pane	X				
Carpenter	X				
Malone			X		Absent 10/21 & 11/4
Zuckerman	X				
Total	5		1		

Council Portfolio Updates:

Ms. Santoro:

Library:

The Library Board thanked the Department of Public Works (DPW) for their assistance in securing a plumber to repair plumbing issues at the library.

The Board was having difficulty hiring a full time digital literacy instructor, therefore two part time instructors were hired. This was a requirement of the digital literacy grant that the library received.

The Board of Health:

Nationally there has been a rise in new COVID 19 infections. This was expected, as the United States is six weeks behind the United Kingdom, in level of disease. The rate of transmission, in New Jersey, is 1.15. Anything over 1.00 is considered concerning. The Board of Health is planning to hold a vaccination clinic, potentially for schools, which will be held on Borough property. Sixty percent of twelve to eighteen year olds, in Florham Park, are vaccinated. There is a renewed focus on mental health due to the pandemic. A link for New Jersey resources has been posted to the Borough's website.

Water Department:

Well rehabilitation and transmission projects:

Contractors are finalizing shop drawing submittals. For the well transmission line project, the contractor has completed 5,100 linear feet of the 5,550 linear feet needed for this project. The second jack and bore construction will be completed this week. The installation of the main is complete. A New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) wetland permit has been obtained for this work.

Water meter replacement project:

The Borough is nearing the end of our contract with National Metering Services. Approximately nine hundred ninety seven meters have been replaced at this time. The Borough Water Department will become responsible for the replacement of the remainder of the meters. Mayor Taylor asked if there is enough staff to handle the job. Mr. Sgaramella responded that it can be done, but it will just take longer.

There are still approximately one hundred forty eight accounts that have not contacted National Metering Services for meter replacement. Four notification letters were sent by National Metering Services, and one letter from the Borough. In addition, placards have been left at residences. A decision will have to be made on whether to issue violations. The Borough owns the meters, and per Borough Ordinance, must have access to them. Mr. Bell commented that an administrative search warrant can also be done regarding this matter. Ms. Cefolo Pane asked if the Borough has to provide notification about the penalty, or was it stated in previous notifications. Mr. Sgaramella stated that the residents would need to be notified.

The Municipal pool repairs will be postponed until spring, as there was difficulty in getting prices from contractors.

Sewer Department:

Colliers Engineering feasibility report:

The most feasible alternative is to remove one of the two existing generators, and install it at Well 4 (replacing the existing old generator). A new natural gas generator will be installed at the sewer plant as a primary generator. The remaining generator will be used as a diesel fueled backup. The underground diesel tank will be removed, and an above ground one will be installed.

Carrigan Lane/Burnet Road sewer project:

Permit has been submitted to the NJDEP, and was deemed administratively complete.

Coordination with utilities has begun, to provide gas and electric service to the pump station.

Beechwood/Elmwood cured in place lining project:

A notice to proceed was granted, and will start work plans and specifications in spring.

The sewer plant was inspected by the NJDEP, and there were no violations.

Mr. Germershausen:

Gazebo Committee:

The November 4, 2021 Gazebo Committee meeting was cancelled, due to a lack of a quorum.

Morris County Board of Commissioners:

Approval to disband the Morris County Park Police will become effective January 1, 2022. It will be absorbed into the Morris County Sheriff Department.

Ms. Cefolo Pane:

Senior Citizens:

The seniors met in person. The homestead rebate application, and the electric supplier letter, were reviewed. The Senior Club will be holding their holiday luncheon on December 8, 2021 at the Hanover Manor, at 11:30.

Mr. Carpenter asked if the seniors are now complying with wearing masks. Ms. Cefolo Pane responded in the affirmative.

Historic Preservation Commission:

Moving forward with planned reopening dates of the Little Red Schoolhouse. Meeting was held on November 18, 2021. Meetings for the first part of next year will be held virtually, over Zoom. This will be revisited in the future. A hybrid, or in person option, may be considered. Started work on the gravestone rehabilitation at Hancock Cemetery.

AARP:

Held first in person meeting this week. Were unable to do a hybrid meeting, due to no WiFi at the Community Center. May have a local holiday luncheon on December 21, 2021.

Planning Board Meeting:

The November 22, 2021 meeting was cancelled. At the last meeting, directed attorney to draft a resolution for the Klein property subdivision. The subdivision is considered "on paper", for financial purposes. The easement will be in perpetuity, and there will be no barriers in the parking lots.

Ms. Cefolo Pane asked Building Construction Official, Kevin Guilfoyle, if he had anything to share. Mr. Guilfoyle provided a brief summary of projects in Florham Park: Steel framing is taking place at LCS Green, with inspections taking place every day. Certificate of Occupancies will be issued at 2 Vanderbilt Drive, for condominiums at the Del Webb Community -- for fourth floor this week, third floor next week. There are still twenty two homes, and seventy two condominiums, to close in this development in 2022.

Ms. Santoro asked Mayor Taylor if there is a preference for virtual or in person meetings for the various Boards. Mayor Taylor responded that the sooner we hold in person meetings the better.

Mayor Taylor stated that he attended the League of Municipalities, and attended a legislative round table. There was discussion about fair share housing, flooding, and mask wearing in government buildings.

Ms. Cefolo Pane asked if COVID 19 statistics are provided by age group. Ms. Santoro responded that there is a regional approach to statistics. Some of the local statistics, presented at the last Board of Health meeting, are that there have been one thousand cases of COVID 19 in Florham Park. Ninety eight percent of people over the age of sixty five are vaccinated; sixty percent of twelve to eighteen year olds are vaccinated.

Mr. Carpenter:

Engineering:

Columbia Turnpike/Park Street intersection improvement project:
Awaiting delivery of traffic signal components.

Briarwood Road and intersection improvements:

Paving and striping is complete. Construction will be stopped until delivery of the traffic signal components. New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) grant funding of \$350,000.00 is involved for this project.

Elm Street Road and drainage improvement project:

Met with consultant, and the preliminary design is complete. A future public meeting will be held, likely during the end of this year/beginning of next year. Project is scheduled to go to bid next spring. NJDOT grant funding of \$411,700.00 is involved for this project.

Drainage study Farr Lane and Murphy Circle:

GPI Consultants surveyed the properties and are working on formalizing stormwater easements. Hydraulics study is near completion.

Police Department:

The Police Department applied for a grant for additional police officers, but received notification that they did not receive funding from the federal government. A SLEO 3 Officer has been hired, and will start January 2022. Two new officers, Ryan Cassidy and Matthew Liberato, have been hired from a field of three hundred eighty two applicants. They will be starting at the Police Academy on January 10, 2022.

Fire Department:
Nothing to report.

First Aid Squad:
Actively trying to recruit.

Department of Public Works:

Two new plow trucks were ordered, and will be delivered in 2022.
DPW participated in Morris County surplus auction, resulting in winning bids for equipment.
There will be one more leaf collection through all zones.
Snow plows, and salters, will be prepped for the upcoming season.
Holiday decorations have been put in place. Holiday tree lighting will be on December 3, 2021.

Mr. Malone:

Finance:

The Finance Committee will meet on December 8, 2021 to discuss the 2022 budget. There was a note sale on November 3, 2021 for \$3,836,000. It was a refinance of a prior note due November 12, 2021, for former sewer and water projects. There were three bids, and the winner was TD Securities, coupon rate of 1.50%. Premium received \$33,373.20. Notes will be synched to mature on September 2, 2022. This is the same date of the note financing of the well transmission project. Will decide at that time whether to combine notes or do permanent financing.

Recreation:

Received request from Hanover Park for boys basketball sponsorship. Highest level is \$250.00, which is the amount that has been approved in the past. Mr. Malone made a motion to approve the \$250.00 sponsorship, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, with all Council members voting "aye".

Hanover Park Fall sports teams have done well. The girls varsity soccer team will be going to the State championship. This is the farthest, in the history of the program, that they have gone.

John Timmons commented that fall sports are mostly completed. Cheerleading banquet will be held on December 4, 2021. Basketball registration is ongoing. There are usually seventeen teams, we are now at twenty three teams.

Sign ups for compactor cards have been steady. There will be an additional sign up on November 20, 2021, at the senior center, 10-2. The cards will allow six visits to the compactor.

Mr. Malone advised the Mayor, and Council, that Florham Park Rotarian, Frank Sweetin, has passed away. Mayor Taylor commented that Mr. Sweetin had been a big volunteer in town, and a great all around person. There will not be a wake for Mr. Sweetin. However, a memorial Mass will be held at 11:00, on Saturday, at Holy Family Church.

Mr. Zuckerman:

Board of Education:

Enrollment is down a little, now at 955 students. The Board approved an employment contract for Superintendent Caponegro for 2021-2026. There were change orders for the wellness room and for the middle school.

Environmental Commission:

An Eagle Scout is looking to do a project at Veterans Memorial Park, Brooklake Road.

The Commission is reviewing funds, and negotiating a contract with Princeton Hydro.

Renovations for the pool house in 2022. Cover will be on the pool before Thanksgiving.

Patrice Visco – Best Practices:

Ms. Visco explained that the Division of Local Government Services sends a Best Practices survey to municipalities, and authorities, to determine if they are complying with statutes and local laws. The survey is scored, and the score determines whether the entity will receive one hundred percent of their state aid. Twenty three questions were applicable to the Borough, and we scored 19.5 “yes” answers. The Borough will receive one hundred percent of our allotted state aid .

Mayor Taylor commented that the Borough has talked about electric charging stations and electric vehicles for the fleet. This is included on the Best Practices Survey. He met with three vendors at the League of Municipalities.

Ordinance for First Reading:

#21-18 Ordinance revision Chapter 250-7.1 surface grading permit requirements.

Councilman Carpenter read the following Ordinance #21-18 by title as follows, and moved to present the Ordinance for Introduction on First Reading:

**BOROUGH OF FLORHAM PARK
COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE #21-18**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH
OF FLORHAM PARK IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
AMENDING SUBSECTION 250-7.1 “CONSTRUCTION PERMIT: SURFACE
GRADING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL RESIDENTIAL ZONES” OF
CHAPTER 250 “ZONING” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FLORHAM PARK**

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cefolo Pane.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Councilman Carpenter stated that the above Ordinance was introduced and read by title at this Council meeting held on November 18, 2021. He further stated that the Council would consider this Ordinance for a second reading, and final passage, on December 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm prevailing time at a meeting held at the Municipal Building, 111 Ridgedale Avenue. He asked the Deputy Clerk to publish the proper notice, and post the Ordinance on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

Councilman Carpenter moved for approval of the Ordinance on first reading. The motion was seconded by Council President Santoro.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Ordinance for First Reading:

#21-19 Establishing salaries non-union full time employees

Councilman Malone read the following Ordinance #21-19 by title as follows, and moved to present the Ordinance for Introduction on First Reading:

**BOROUGH OF FLORHAM PARK
COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE # 21-19**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR NON-UNION FULL
TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FLORHAM PARK FOR 2021**

The motion was seconded by Council President Santoro.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Councilman Malone stated that the above Ordinance was introduced and read by title at this Council meeting held on November 18, 2021. He further stated that the Council would consider this Ordinance for a second reading, and final passage, on December 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm prevailing time at a meeting held at the Municipal Building, 111 Ridgedale Avenue. He asked the Deputy Clerk to publish the proper notice, and post the Ordinance on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

Councilman Malone moved for approval of the Ordinance on first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Carpenter.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Ordinance for First Reading:

#21-20 Amend Chapter 230, section 238-14, parking prohibited

Councilman Carpenter read the following Ordinance #21-20 by title as follows, and moved to present the Ordinance for Introduction on First Reading:

**BOROUGH OF FLORHAM PARK
COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE #21-20**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH
OF FLORHAM PARK IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
AMENDING SECTION 238-14 “PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES ON
CERTAIN STREETS” OF CHAPTER 230 “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” OF THE
CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FLORHAM PARK**

The motion was seconded by Councilman Germershausen.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Councilman Carpenter stated that the above Ordinance was introduced and read by title at this Council meeting held on November 18, 2021. He further stated that the Council would consider this Ordinance for a second reading, and final passage, on December 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm prevailing time at a meeting held at the Municipal Building, 111 Ridgedale Avenue. He asked the Deputy Clerk to publish the proper notice, and post the Ordinance on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

Councilman Carpenter moved for approval of the Ordinance on first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Germershausen.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Consent Agenda – Resolutions of Approval:

Council President Santoro made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Resolutions. The motion was seconded by Councilman Germershausen.

- #21-140 **2022 St. Hubert’s animal control contract**
- #21-141 **Redemption of Tax Title Lien #20-000009**
- #21-142 **Insertion of item of revenue- Body Worn Camera Grant**
- #21-143 **Cancellation of Resolution #21-130**
- #21-144 **Budget transfers**

Roll Call Vote:

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

Payment of Vouchers:

Councilman Malone made a motion to approve the current bills list in the amount of \$5,781,667.91. The motion was seconded by Councilman Zuckerman.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Privilege of the Floor:

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting to the public at 7:09 pm. The following members of the public wished to be heard:

Jennifer McDonald, 26 Afton Drive:

Ms. McDonald expressed her concerns regarding the lack of bright street lamps, and not having sidewalks, in her neighborhood. She stated both issues make it dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists. Mayor Taylor asked Borough Engineer, Michael Sgaramella, if Afton Drive has a substandard width, which would not accommodate sidewalks. Mr. Sgaramella responded that is not the case. However, the road is considered a secondary roadway. Usually sidewalks are only installed on primary roads, or near schools. If a sidewalk is added, it would be a capital improvement budget item.

Ms. Cefolo Pane commented that each light pole has a number on it. The problem lights can be reported to Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L). Ms. McDonald responded that she already contacted the company. JCP&L came out to check, but the lamps are still very dim. Mayor Taylor asked Ms. McDonald to provide the pole numbers to him, and he will contact JCP&L to see what can be done. Mr. Sgaramella commented that converting to LED lights may also be helpful.

Doreen Cali, 26 Elmwood Road:

Ms. Cali stated that the street lights on Brookdale Road are very dim, which makes driving difficult. Drivers frequently turn on high beams, in order to see better, which in turn affects the visibility of other drivers. Mayor Taylor responded that Brooklake Road is a country road, and the utility company might be less likely to put in street lights on this road. He will look into the matter.

Ms. Cali also mentioned a local family that could use assistance with their home, as it has fallen into disrepair. She asked if they could be considered for the Community Grants Planning and Housing (CGP&H) rehabilitation program. Mayor Taylor responded that Marlene Rawson, Planning and Zoning Secretary, would be the person to contact regarding this request.

John Winters, 32 Brooklake Road:

Mr. Winters asked about the rate increase from the Southeast Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority. Mayor Taylor responded it is an increase to the Borough not residents, as it is an outside contract. Chief Financial Officer, Patrice Visco, responded that the town is making money on recyclables, and this may help to offset the rate increase.

Mr. Winters asked for an update on the rescue squad. Mr. Carpenter responded that the squad is trying to get licensure to hire their own EMTs to cover their off hours. Mostly outsourced Monday through Friday. Some of the weekends are still handled locally. Police Chief, Joseph Orlando, commented that there are now only fifteen members of the squad. The ability to cover shifts is very limited. Atlantic Health and County EMS assist in covering shifts, and the schedule changes weekly. Mr. Carpenter added that the Squad elects who will cover a shift. As of right now, the County soft bills. He wasn't sure if Atlantic Health would do the same. There will be a meeting next week. New officers will be elected, and they are trying to recruit new members.

Mr. Winters asked about the status of the ASCO property. Mayor Taylor responded that it is still moving forward. They are dealing with an environmental issue, and who is responsible. The contract purchaser is Toll Brothers.

Maria Quigley, 6 Insley Road:

Ms. Quigley provided a document to Mayor and Council entitled "[COVID-19 Vaccines are injuring and killing young people see hundreds more testimonies at nomoresilence.world](https://www.nomoresilence.world/)".

Ms. Quigley went on to express her concerns about the vaccination of children, vaccine injuries, efficacy of vaccine boosters, and possible vaccine mandates. Mr. Taylor thanked her for providing this information, and stated he didn't have an answer for her concerns. He added that this local body does not have any say on vaccines and State mandates.

Mayor Taylor closed the public portion of the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Adjournment:

On a motion made by Councilman Zuckerman, and seconded by Councilman Germershausen, the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryann C. Lang, RMC
Deputy Clerk
November 18, 2021