



BOROUGH COUNCIL
Borough of Florham Park
Thursday, July 13, 2023

Regular Session Minutes

Acting Mayor Malone called the Regular Meeting of the Borough Council to order at 6:33 p.m.

Acting Mayor Malone asked Borough Clerk Danielle Lewis to call the roll as follows:

Governing Body	Present	Absent
Malone	X	
Germershausen	X	
Carpenter	X	
Santoro		X
Marchal	X	
Cicarelli	X	
Mayor Taylor	X	

Additional Borough Officials present were Administrator William Huyler, Borough Clerk Danielle Lewis, and Assistant Borough Attorney Joseph Bell IV.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Taylor led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Mayor Taylor presented plaques to Evan Cushman for the 2023 Fred Stobaeus Award and to Tory Henning for the 2023 Lou Boyd Award.

APPOINTMENT OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

Councilman Carpenter made a motion to appoint Stephen J. Sitko as a volunteer firefighter for the Florham Park Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Marchal.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Carpenter	X			
Germershausen	X			
Malone	X			
Santoro				X
Marchal	X			
Cicarelli	X			
Total	5			1

Borough Clerk Danielle Lewis administered the Oath of Office to Stephen J. Sitko.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Mayor Taylor asked for a motion to approve the following meeting minutes:

- Minutes of the June 15, 2023 Regular Meeting

Councilman Marchal made a motion to approve the minutes as stated above.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Carpenter.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Malone	X			
Germershausen			X absent 06/15	
Carpenter	X			
Santoro				X
Marchal	X			
Cicarelli	X			
Total	4		1	1

BOROUGH COUNCIL PORTFOLIO UPDATES

Council President Malone:

Finance Committee:

Council President Malone stated that Ordinance #23-16 is being introduced tonight, which is for the purchase of a truck for the Department of Public Works with surplus auction funds and additional funds from their operating budget.

Mr. Malone advised that Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Patrice Visco anticipates having the 2023 tax rate next week and tax bills mailed during the week of July 24. Payment will be due 20 days after mailing. The due date will be printed on the tax bill.

CFO Visco will begin the budget process for 2024 soon.

Recreation:

Council President Malone congratulated this year's winners of the Fred Stobaeus Award and the Lou Boyd Award.

A new cornhole league is being formed. Conflicts surround fall sport schedules will be ironed out soon.

There are over 200 kids attending summer camp this year.

The 200 Club's First Responders Day will be held on Saturday, September 23.

Councilman Germershausen:

Historic Preservation Commission:

There is a Resolution on tonight's agenda for the award of funds from the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Program for the Little Red Schoolhouse (LRSH). The LRSH is closed for the time being due to renovation work.

Councilman Carpenter:

Department of Public Works:

The recent auction resulted in approximately \$22,000.00 in profit.

The new fuel system is being utilized by the Department.

Director Mike Smith requested a voluntary inspection by the Department of Labor and the report came back very positive, which a few minor electrical upgrades.

The Morris County Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) hosted a job-site observation of the Department on June 8 and the report was exemplary.

Benches will be installed at the dog park soon and three dump trucks are scheduled to be delivered soon.

Mandatory storm water training was completed by the Department in June.

Over 700 stops were made for bulk pick-up in May.

First Aid Squad:

The Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad is still averaging over 4.5 calls per day. The majority of the calls are for falls.

Police Department:

19 kids will be graduating from the Junior Police Academy.

Plans are currently underway for National Night Out on August 1 and the Senior BBQ, which is tentatively scheduled for August 3.

Sergeant Michael Thomas will be retiring in the near future.

Engineering:

Elm Street Road and Drainage Improvement Project- Project is complete. Punch list items being addressed. Closing out project.

Dellwood, Woodbine, Puddingstone, and Rustic sidewalk and repavement scheduled for Pre-Construction Meeting on August 1. NJDOT Grant of \$226,000 for construction. Pre-project resident notifications have been sent out.

Annual Milling and Paving projects for Manker Drive, Totty Court, Kenneth Court, Knapp Avenue, Lloyd Avenue, Hillside Avenue, and Riverside Ave (West End to Rockwood) will be delayed until later this year due to PSE&G replacing gas mains. This project may be publically bid instead of using the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council Paving Contractor. PSE&G is progressing slowly, and some of these roads may have to be delayed until 2024.

Borough Engineer Mike Sgaramella said they are working on plans for the speed tables.

Mayor Taylor noted that Councilwoman Santoro is absence this evening but wanted to express thanks to everyone who assisted with this year's 4th of July parade.

Councilman Marchal:

Library:

Summer reading and the community scavenger hunt are up and running. The touch-a-truck kickoff event was a big success. We have nearly 300 children signed up to participate in this year's summer reading program and are receiving lots of positive feedback on the scavenger hunt. Many thanks to everyone in the Borough, Fire department, and Police who made the event a success.

Gazebo Committee:

All is going well. Have had some weather challenges. Looking to rebook the Linda Ronstadt Concert that was canceled this last Sunday. The Committee reviewing cancelation policy going forward to get as many concerts in as they can.

Water:

Addressing intermittent power issues and SCADA issues at all Wells which have occurred over the past two months. Well #4 is due to have repairs to Rosco valve and ASCO valve which will be done this summer. July and August are usually the highest water discharge months from our wells. The NJDEP will be monitoring the Borough's monthly discharge this summer since we exceeded limits last year. Even though the new well provides sufficient yearly allocation, there are monthly allocation limits that the Borough must adhere to. The permitting of future water main extension permits may be impacted. Residents and Commercial users should adhere to the odd/even watering ordinance, and responsibly operate their underground irrigation equipment.

Well Rehabilitation Project - Minor punch list items.

Water Meter replacement project - There are still approximately 38 residents remaining that need their water meter replaced.

Water Tank Rehabilitation Design Project - No update

Sewer:

Met with Sewer Collection Consultant in field to discuss the preliminary design of the proposed sewer main extension along Delaware, Minnisink, Arrowhead, and Honeymoon. Twelve (12) homes will have access to public sewer once complete. Preliminary design has indicated that the 12 homes can be served. Further refinement to decrease depth of main will have to be completed after contacting residents to obtain additional information on their current sewer discharge locations and elevations.

Sewer Plant Flood Hazard Area and Wetland Permit applications have been submitted to NJDEP. We have received the Flood Hazard Area Verification from NJDEP. Awaiting Wetland Delineation.

Colliers Engineers continues with Bar Screen and Clarifier designs.

Carrigan Lane/Burnet Road Sewer and Sewer Pump Station project - No update.

Board of Health:

The Board is looking for guidance on the recent air quality issues that have resulted from the forest fires in Canada.

Mayor Taylor informed Borough Engineer Sgaramella that he executed the contract for the Beechcrest sewer lining project.

Councilman Cicarelli:

Board of Education:

Mr. Cicarelli stated that he was unable to attend the Florham Park Board of Education (FPBOE) and Hanover Park Regional meetings but he reviewed the minutes and they appeared to have been routine meetings. The new principal for Briarwood Elementary School has been hired and a new Supervisor of Special Services for the Florham Park school district.

Hanover Park Regional is starting their referendum project and Florham Park Board of Education is beginning phase four of their referendum project.

Florham Park Board of Education held a successful "Strike Out for Cancer" baseball and softball event.

The next FPBOE meeting will be held on July 17.

Environmental Commission:

New signage project at Spring Garden Lake has continued.

They received a grant from the Florham Park Education Foundation for the pollinator garden at Ridgedale Middle School and project materials will be delivered soon.

Further discussion on the removal of hazardous materials is needed.

The next meeting will be held on September 26.

Municipal Pool:

The pool is open daily. Thank you to the Garden Club for hanging flower baskets. The Pool Day has not been scheduled yet.

Senior Citizens:

The Senior Luncheon was a successful event for the group. They hope for a better connection between senior citizens and the Borough. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled in August to discuss this.

The next newsletter will be sent out sometime in August and the next meeting will be held on September 27.

Mayor Taylor announced that several towns will be participating in the 200 Club First Responders Day event and they are looking for volunteers and sponsors. There will be a meeting next Monday with the Board members.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

#23-16 An Ordinance of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Florham Park in the County Of Morris, State of New Jersey, to Provide for General Capital Projects Enumerated Within for the Borough of Florham Park, County of Morris, and to Provide for the Funding Thereof

Council President Malone read Ordinance #23-16 by title and moved for approval of the Ordinance on first reading.

Councilman Carpenter seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Carpenter	X			
Germershausen	X			
Malone	X			
Santoro				X
Marchal	X			
Cicarelli	X			
Total	5			1

The Ordinance is scheduled for public hearing and adoption at the regular meeting of the Borough Council to be held on August 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. The notice will be published in the newspaper and the Ordinance will be posted in the proper places.

CONSENT AGENDA – RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL

Council President Malone commented on Resolution #23-130, A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Sale/Lease Assignment of the Borough’s Wireless Communication Leases to the Highest Qualifying Bidder at the Public Auction.

Council President Malone then made a motion to approve the presented Resolutions via a single motion of the Council.

- #23-125 2023-2024 LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL – SONESTA
- #23-126 AUTHORIZING APPROVAL TO SUBMIT MUNICIPAL AID GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE CONTRACT WITH NJDOT – VILLAGE ROAD AND VULTEE DRIVE ROADWAY AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
- #23-127 AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF ADDITIONAL SEASONAL EMPLOYEES FOR THE MUNICIPAL POOL
- #23-128 APPOINTING A DRIVER/LABORER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
- #23-129 AUTHORIZING THE PROVISION OF A LOAN PURSUANT TO THE BOROUGH OF FLORHAM PARK AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PURCHASER OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT
- #23-130 AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A SALE/ASSIGNMENT OF THE BOROUGH'S WIRELESS COMMUNICATION LEASES TO THE HIGHEST QUALIFYING BIDDER AT THE PUBLIC AUCTION
- #23-131 APPOINTING A PART-TIME BUILDING INSPECTOR
- #23-132 APPOINTING A PART-TIME FIRE SUB CODE OFFICIAL
- #23-133 AUTHORIZING FIREWORKS DISPLAY BY GARDEN STATE FIREWORKS, INC., FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON AUGUST 1, 2023
- #23-134 AUTHORIZING SELF EXAMINATION OF THE 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
- #23-135 AWARD OF FUNDS FROM COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND PROGRAM
- #23-136 AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT WITH HUNTERDON COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

The motion was seconded by Councilman Marchal.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Carpenter	X			
Germershausen	X			
Malone	X			
Santoro				X
Marchal	X			
Cicarelli	X			
Total	5			1

PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

Council President Malone read a summary of the current bills list and made a motion to approve it in the amount \$625,130.38 The motion was seconded by Councilman Cicarelli.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Carpenter	X			
Germershausen	X			
Malone	X			
Santoro				X
Marchal	X			
Cicarelli	X			
Total	5			1

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting to the public.

The following members of the public wished to be heard:

John Winters:

Mr. Winters asked if Resolution #23-125 meant that the former Sonesta Hotel was open and he was advised that this is the renewal of an inactive/pocket license.

Mr. Winters asked if Resolution #23-129 was in the amount of \$15,000.00 as done previously for other properties and this amount was confirmed.

Mr. Winters inquired if there was a start date for the work associated with Resolution #135-23 and the Mayor and Council commented that there is not a start date at this time.

ADMINISTRATOR HUYLER

Administrator Huyler requested Council approval for a \$75.00 donation to the volleyball organization, as has been done in the past. Unanimous consent amongst the Council for this donation.

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved by Council President Malone and seconded by Councilman Carpenter that the meeting be adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Danielle M. Lewis, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk
July 13, 2023