

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
October 22, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Far Hills Municipal Building and read the open public meetings statement in accordance with the law.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Vallone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Surks, Tweedie, Vallone

Absent, as Excused: Hand

Absent:

Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Attorney Sordillo, Chief DeCarolis, Borough Engineer Paul Ferriero

PRESENTATION

Paul Ferriero, PE, Ferriero Engineering – Stormwater Management Training Session

Mr. Ferriero provided a brief overview of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Municipal Stormwater Permitting Program. He also reviewed the Borough's Stormwater Management Ordinance and the design standards for both major and minor developments.

He indicated that the Borough of Far Hills was a Tier B municipality and detailed the annual permitting requirements. He added that the public education and outreach activities component required at least 12 points from at least three of the five categories. As part of the educational component, a stormwater video was available online and he recommended that members of the Planning Board and Borough Council view this training. He stated he would provide details on the training to Clerk Hicks for distribution.

REPORTS

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

No report.

Councilman Surks – Roads

Councilman Surks informed the Council that damage was sustained to both sides of the bridge on Douglas Road, a shared roadway with Bernards Township. A brief discussion ensued regarding the damage, which purportedly was caused by two separate vehicular accidents. He stated that notification was made to Somerset County which oversees public bridge repair and maintenance.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

Councilwoman Chimenti reported that Municipal Court deposits for the month of September 2018 were \$3,200.00.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner presented an overview of the Far Hills Race Meeting held at Moorland Farm on October 20, 2018. He shared an email received from resident, Mr. Jack Koury which commended Chief DeCarolis and the Far Hills Police Department on the exemplary job ensuring the safety of everyone in the Borough of Far Hills.

Lastly, Council President Karner informed the Council that he and Councilman Carty have commenced the first round of PBA negotiations.

Chief DeCarolis – Police

Chief DeCarolis also commended the officers of the Far Hills Police Department for their efforts during the Race Meeting Event, and personally expressed how proud he was for their level of professionalism. He also acknowledged the NJ State Police, Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, NJ Transit and police departments from several surrounding municipalities for their support and assistance.

He stated attendance at the event was approximately 30,000 and reported there were thirty-three (33) arrests, down from fifty-seven (57) last year.

Lastly, Chief DeCarolis stated that Operation Take Back, a prescription drug turn-in program sponsored through the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), would be held on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at the Far Hills Police Department.

Mayor Vallone

Mayor Vallone stated he met with Mr. Dan Powell, CEO of the Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills, who expressed his appreciation for the collaboration and long standing relationship with the Borough. Despite the weather, the Fall Rummage Sale was successful which affords the VNA the ability to provide services to residents not only in Far Hills but in many surrounding towns.

Mayor Vallone stated this was the inaugural year for pari-mutuel wagering at the Far Hills Race Meet. He noted that the wagering process was well organized and policed and may have the potential to provide additional revenue in the years to come.

Lastly, he commended the Far Hills Race Meeting Association for their diligence in ensuring that any remaining debris throughout the Borough was promptly removed.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10/9/18 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilman Surks, seconded by Council President Karner, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content and release.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE 2018-08 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2018-07 ESTABLISHING PARKING REGULATIONS ON A PORTION OF PEAPACK ROAD SUBJECT TO APPROVAL FROM THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

Attorney Sordillo informed the Council that Somerset County requested a change in the verbiage from a mile post delineation to one which indicated the street name and municipal boundary to identify the portion of Peapack Road subject to the parking restrictions.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Ordinance 2018-08 be introduced.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

The items listed within the consent agenda portion of the meeting have been referred to the Borough Council for reading and study and are considered routine and will be enacted with one motion of the Borough Council with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is required, the item may be removed from the agenda by Borough Council action and placed on the regular agenda under new business.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution 18-143 – Authorizing the Establishment of a Health Benefits Waiver Payment
2. Resolution 18-144 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Surks that Resolutions 18-143 through 18-144 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION

Best Practices Inventory – 2018/2019

Clerk Hicks informed the Council that the Division of Local Government Services requires every municipality to complete the Best Practices Inventory annually. The number of positive responses determines the percentage of state aid received. Clerk Hicks and CFO Stern completed the inventory and the Borough would be receiving 100% of the state aid for which it was eligible.

PUBLIC COMMENT – *The Mayor and Council welcome comments from any member of the public. To help facilitate an orderly meeting and to permit the opportunity for anyone who wishes to be heard, speakers shall limit their comments to 5 minutes.*

Michael Fiore, MD, 110 Douglas Road, Far Hills inquired as to the status of the affordable housing project proposed at the last meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 18-145 – Contract Negotiations – Ludlow Avenue Road Improvement Project

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Surks and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 18-145.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION
ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION**

**ORDINANCE 2018-09 - AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$35,000.00 FOR IMPROVE-
MENTS TO LUDLOW AVENUE**

Council President Karner recused himself.

A motion was made by Councilman Surks, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Ordinance 2018-09 be introduced.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:


Abstain:

Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 11/13/18