

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
November 26, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the meeting to order at 7:03 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, Hand, Karner, Tweedie, Vallone
Absent, as Excused: Surks
Absent:
Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Attorney Sordillo

PRESENTATION

Property Tax Card Program

Mr. Carmine de Falco, FinCredit and Mr. Bernie Pane, Former Bedminster Township Committee Member

Mr. Pane provided a brief overview of the Property Tax Card Program currently being utilized in Bedminster Township and proposed a joint program to be offered in Far Hills. He explained that the program offers an annual credit towards a homeowner's property taxes via a percentage rebate earned by frequenting participating local businesses.

A brief discussion ensued, with Mayor Vallone inquiring as to the necessity of additional software for the tax collector to ensure the credit is applied appropriately. Mr. Pane stated that tax credit payments are processed one time per year and applied to the third quarter taxes utilizing an automated system, similar to that used by a mortgage company. Alternatively, the credit earned could be issued in the form of a check which would be applicable for residents who are renting. Mr. Pane added that the program was currently testing a phone application in addition to the physical loyalty card.

Mr. de Falco provided a brief overview of the costs associated to the participating merchants and indicated that there would no cost to the Borough of Far Hills.

Mayor Vallone thanked both Messrs. Pane and de Falco and advised that this would require some additional discussion and review prior to making a decision regarding implementing the program in Far Hills.

REPORTS

Councilman Hand – Fire, Water, Light, Buildings & Grounds

No report.

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie reported that the Borough Sewer Consultant, Natural Systems Utilities had completed the inspection of the man hole covers throughout the Borough which were determined to

be in good condition. She noted that due to continual inflow and infiltration into the sewer system, additional testing and inspections would be necessary.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

Councilwoman Chimenti reported that Municipal Court deposits for the month of October 2018 were \$1,893.28.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner reported that the resolution authorizing the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Holiday Crackdown 2018 grant was on tonight's agenda. He reported that he and Councilman Carty met with PBA representatives earlier this evening and contract negotiations were progressing.

Mayor Vallone

Mayor Vallone congratulated Councilman Hand and Councilwoman Chimenti on their re-election to the Borough Council.

He reported that the discussion of the legalization of marijuana was a major topic at the NJ League of Municipalities Convention which he attended on November 14-16, 2018. He noted that costs associated with policing, selling, distribution and growth were all important factors directly affecting municipalities.

He also apprised the Council that as a member of the NJLM Resolutions Committee he reviewed twenty-eight resolutions that were being submitted to the NJ Legislature and Senate for their consideration. Key resolutions pertained to property tax relief; the enactment of comprehensive reform to Fair Share Housing and COAH; reinstatement of the 2% cap on State Police and Fire contracts; opposition to the FCC preemption of municipal authority for developing 5G networks; and opposition to the proposed court reform.

Council President Karner expressed his appreciation to Mayor Vallone for his time and dedication in representing the Borough of Far Hills at this year's convention, adding that the knowledge and information he shared with the Council and residents was invaluable.

Lastly, Mayor Vallone shared that the winter 2018 Borough of Far Hills Newsletter had been mailed and noted that the annual pet license and alarm registration applications were included as a convenience to residents.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

11/13/18 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 18-149 – Awarding Contract – Ludlow Avenue Road Improvements – *Tabled from November 13, 2018 Council Meeting*

Council President Karner recused himself at this time.

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie to approve Resolution 18-149.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, 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 18-152 - Authorizing Chapter 159 Grant – Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over
2. Resolution 18-153 - Authorizing Refund of Planning Board Escrows – Various Accounts
3. Resolution 18-154 - Authorizing Agreement – Passaic County Cooperative Pricing System
4. Resolution 18-155 - Payment of Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty that Resolutions 18-152 through 18-155 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – *The Council President 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.*

There were no comments from the public.

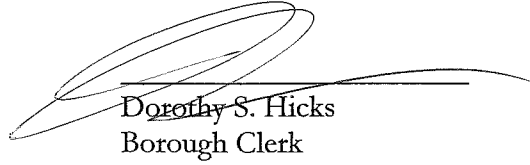
GENERAL DISCUSSION

Council President Karner expressed an interest in Far Hills participating in the Property Tax Card program. A brief discussion ensued regarding the branding of the card as Far Hills as well as implementing reciprocity with other municipalities. The potential for marketing the program to residents via the Borough newsletter and website was also discussed. Councilwoman Tweedie inquired as to security and the potential for unauthorized marketing of personal information. Attorney Sordillo indicated that he was familiar with property tax record programs in general but would need to review further the level of security available regarding accessibility of personal information. Clerk Hicks was asked to contact the Borough's Tax Collector and CFO for their input regarding the administration of this program.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED - 12/10/18