

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
September 9, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the meeting to order at 7:02 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, Surks, Vallone
Absent, as Excused: Tweedie
Absent:
Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Attorney Sordillo, Chief DeCarolis

REPORTS

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

No report.

Councilman Surks – Roads

Councilman Surks reported that the milling and paving project on Douglas Road has been completed.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

No report. Councilwoman Chimenti expressed her appreciation to the Far Hills Police Officers Zavala and Pelsis for their professionalism in their response to a burglar alarm at her residence over the holiday weekend.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President presented the Police Report for August 2019. He also provided an update on the drainage project for Dumont Road and DeMun Place residences and indicated that proposals would be reviewed in Executive Session.

Chief DeCarolis

Chief DeCarolis reported that donations for the VNA Rummage Sale were underway. He also reported that he attended the law enforcement meeting for the Far Hills Race Meet event and noted that this would be the first year without the State Police assistance.

Mayor Vallone

No report.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8/26/19 – Regular Meeting

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

8/26/19 – Executive Session

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Council President Karner, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content only.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 19-121 – Bill List

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Council President Karner that Resolution 19-121 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Surks, Vallone

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION

Special Use Permit – Far Hills Race Meeting

Attorney Sordillo provided an overview of the new application process for the telecommunications companies to install temporary cellular towers at the Far Hills Race Meet event via a Special Use Permit in accordance with Ordinance 2019-05. He proposed a five-year period for the permitted use in order to streamline the application process and advised that legally the Borough Council could authorize a permitted use for a designated period of time. He noted that should there be any changes due to location or equipment, a new application and public hearing would be required. Mr. Sordillo stated that this would be separate from the Large Event Permit application, which is required by the Far Hills Race Meet Association. A brief discussion ensued resulting in a general consensus to authorize the special use permit for a period of five years for the temporary cellular tower installation.

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.*

Mr. Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills brought to the attention of the Borough Council proposed legislation regarding affordable housing being spearheaded by Assemblyman Jon Bramnick.

Dr. George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired as to the schedule and next steps with regard to affordable housing for the Borough to be in compliance with the court mandated schedule. He also inquired about the scenic corridor buffer for the Errico Acres Development.

Mr. Sordillo responded by outlining the procedures and documentation required of the Borough Council and the Planning Board and provided additional details on the proposed developments. Mr. Sordillo also addressed the requirements for the scenic corridor buffer at the Errico Acres Development.

Dr. Mellendick expressed concerns regarding sufficient notice to residents and asked if, in addition to posting on the website and publication in the newspaper, other measures could be taken to ensure that residents were aware of the affordable housing presentations.

Janine Silberberg, 90 Hidden Valley Way, Far Hills inquired as the location of the affordable housing documentation on the Borough website as the information was no longer listed under Latest News.

Clerk Hicks responded by identifying the location for the Latest News Archive on the website.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired if the developers could mail residents information about their proposed development in advance of the public presentation.

There were no further comments from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 19-122 - Attorney Client Privilege – Litigation – Affordable Housing - Contract Negotiations – Village Drainage Project

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Council President Karner and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 19-122.


RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Council President Karner inquired if the Far Hills Race Meet Association had made any donations to the Borough.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilman Carty and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED -9-23-19