

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Special Meeting
MINUTES
March 30, 2020
VIA CONFERENCE CALL ONLY

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the conference call meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. 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: Councilman Joseph Carty, Councilwoman Mary Chimenti, Councilman Richard Hand, Council President David Karner, Councilman Ted McLean
Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Absent, as Excused:

Absent:

Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo

MAYOR'S STATEMENT

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

Good morning and thank you for joining this special Borough Council meeting. The main purpose of which is to pass some financial resolutions allowing the Borough to continue to pay its bills and continue to provide services to our residents. I will ask our Attorney Joseph Sordillo to say a few words about this in a moment.

Each of us in Far Hills, in New Jersey and throughout the country and world are living through unprecedented times in uncharted waters. We are all concerned with the health and well-being of our families, our friends, our neighbors and ourselves, and those in our community and those whom we work with every day.

Throughout this pandemic, our police, emergency medical personnel, our fire department, those who work here in the municipal building, and our Borough Council and our professionals continue to work for our residents and, on behalf of the Borough of Far Hills, I want to thank all of them for their extraordinary efforts during this difficult time. During this period, I and our staff have been in constant contact with the Governor's Office, Somerset County Office of Emergency Management and Federal authorities. I have and will continue to pass all pertinent information on to you, our residents, via postings on the Borough website, via the police Nixle alerts which our Chief of Police has done and by communicating with our local newspapers. I want to thank our Borough Clerk, Dorothy Hicks for her communications with the county and myself on a near daily basis.

Much has changed in all of our lives, schools are closed, courts are closed and the closure of the municipal courts has recently been extended now until the end of April. The municipal building is currently closed to the general public as per the county to protect our employees. The spring VNA

Rummage Sale has been cancelled as have all gatherings in the Borough greater than 10 people. Going forward, as Governor Murphy makes further decisions, we will continue to work collaboratively to do everything we can at the municipal level to keep you, our residents, safe. Last evening, President Trump extended the social distancing policy until April 30, 2020 and we will certainly continue to abide by that as well.

Working together, we will beat this COVID-19 virus, as we have beaten many challenges in the past. In the meantime, I ask for your adherence to all prescribed recommendations by the county, state and federal authorities and I thank you for your patience and continued support.

Regarding upcoming Council and Planning Board meetings, these will be evaluated on a daily basis and you will all be informed as to how these will be handled going forward.

As of this weekend, Far Hills has not had any reported cases of the COVID-19 virus. In the interim, please stay safe, healthy and continue to adhere to all the necessary recommended precautions. We will continue to be here to do all we can for our residents during this very challenging time.

Thank you very much and God Bless America.

Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

At this time, Borough Attorney, Joseph Sordillo acknowledged the efforts of Borough Clerk, Dorothy Hicks for arranging this special meeting of the Borough Council via a conference call. Mr. Sordillo advised that proper notice of the meeting was made in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, as well compliance with providing an opportunity for public comment.

He also advised the Borough Council that an extension until June 1, 2020 had been granted by the Court for the Borough to meet its affordable housing obligation. Mr. Sordillo added that Fair Share Housing Center had also been apprised of this grant of an extension by the Court.

Mr. Sordillo briefly outlined the resolutions on the agenda and the necessity for this special meeting of the Borough Council in order to continue the normal operations of the Borough.

REGULAR AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 20-059 was moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.

Resolution 20-059 – Redemption of Tax Sale Lien – B6.15, L3 – 14 Hurlingham Club Road

Mr. Sordillo provided a brief overview of the tax lien sale and redemption procedure.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolution 20-059 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:
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

Resolution 20-060 – Authorizing an Emergency Temporary Appropriation

Resolution 20-061 – Bill List – 3/23/20

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolutions 20-060 through 20-061 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

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.*

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried to open the meeting to public comment.

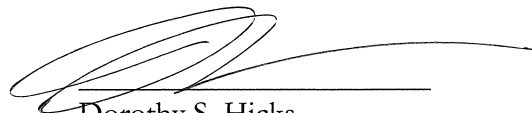
There were no comments from the public.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to close the meeting to public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 4/13/2020