

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
May 26, 2020
VIA CONFERENCE CALL ONLY

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the conference call meeting to order at 7:01 p.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, Councilman Ted McLean, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD
Absent, as Excused: Council President David Karner
Absent:
Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Chief Michael DeCarolis, Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo

REPORTS

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

Councilman Hand reported that residents were utilizing the walking track at the Fairgrounds.

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie commented that on social media someone posted an incident of a dog biting another dog at the Fairgrounds and asked if police officers could monitor and enforce the leash law. Chief DeCarolis responded that he was unaware of the dog incident but would increase patrol at the Fairgrounds.

Councilman McLean – Roads

Councilman McLean reported that Borough Engineer, Paul Ferriero was reviewing the road projects for potential submission for a NJDOT grant and indicated that drainage repairs to Pennbrook Road would need to be completed prior to milling and paving Lake Road.

Mayor Vallone indicated that he had also spoken with Mr. Ferriero and agreed that repairs to Pennbrook Road should be considered for the FY2021 NJDOT grant submission.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances, & Elections

Councilwoman Chimenti reported that the Court session on May 12, 2020 was held via a Zoom virtual meeting and it was recommended that additional confirmation of the scheduled court times prior to the meeting should be conducted.

Chief DeCarolis

Chief DeCarolis informed the Borough Council of police action involving the Far Hills officers, State Police Aviation unit, and the Sheriff K-9 unit which occurred on May 12, 2020 at 2:30 a.m. in the Polo Club. Law enforcement intervened on a potential multiple vehicle theft which resulted in the arrest of two suspects. Chief DeCarolis commended all units involved but acknowledged the exemplary efforts of Officer Christopher Merkle who initially came upon the suspicious activity.

Mayor Vallone

Mayor Vallone acknowledged the exceptional efforts of the Far Hills Police Department and expressed his appreciation for the additional support provided by our neighboring law enforcement entities.

Mayor Vallone informed the Council of the small gathering, held on Friday, May 22, 2020 in Far Hills and Bedminster, as a remembrance of our fallen heroes on this year's Memorial Day. The event, organized by members of the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department and First Aid Squad, was recorded and planned to be broadcast on social media. Mayor Vallone expressed his appreciation to Mr. Ron Kennedy for spearheading the ceremony.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5/11/20 Regular Meeting

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

5/26/20 Executive Session Minutes

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content only.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING & ADOPTION

ORDINANCE 2020-03 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE LAND MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS TO ESTABLISH A NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICE MIXED-USE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OVERLAY (NO-AHO) ZONE DISTRICT FOR THE PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 13, LOTS 2 & 3 IN THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS AND TO ESTABLISH USE, BULK AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR MUNICIPALLY-SPONSORED AFFORDABLE RENTAL APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT ADDRESSING A PORTION OF FAR HILLS BOROUGH'S THIRD ROUND AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATION.

Mr. Sordillo provided a brief overview of the Ordinance and a status update on the Borough's affordable housing compliance with Fair Share Housing Center and the Court.

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried to open the public hearing.

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. Hicks advised that the notice of the public hearing was published in the newspaper of record, and that no communication, either written or verbal was received regarding the Ordinance.

Motion by Councilman McLean, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

Motion by Councilman McLean, seconded by Councilman Hand that Ordinance 2020-03 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE 2020-09 – AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$155,000.00 FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Motion by Councilman McLean, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Ordinance 2020-09 be introduced.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 20-075 – Authorizing the Cancellation of Capital Improvement Ordinances

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolution 20-075 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

Resolution 20-076 – Authorizing Estimated Tax Billing for 3rd Quarter

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Resolution 20-076 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

Resolution 20-077 – Authorizing Affordable Housing Agreement William Hotz Development Group, Inc.

Motion by Councilman McLean, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Resolution 20-077 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

Resolution 20-078 – Authorizing First Amendment to Settlement Agreement Fair Share Housing Center

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Resolution 20-078 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

Resolution 20-079 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilman Hand that Resolution 20-079 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, 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 Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried to open the meeting to public comment.

Richard Rinzler, 11 Hurlingham Club Road, Far Hills expressed his appreciation to the Far Hills Police Department for their efforts regarding the criminal activity that occurred in the Polo Club.

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried to close the meeting to public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 20-080

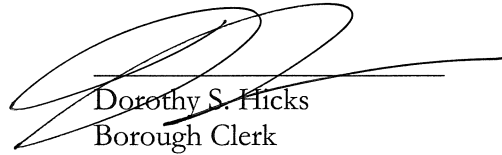
- Attorney Client Privilege – Contract Negotiations – Butler’s Pantry Trackside

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 20-080.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 6/8/2020