

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the conference call meeting to order at 7:03 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, Council President David Karner, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Absent, as Excused: Councilman Ted McLean

Absent

Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo, and Chief of Police Michael DeCarolis

REPORTS

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

No report.

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

No report.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

No report.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner commented that he has seen several unleashed dogs at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds. A brief discussion ensued regarding the governing ordinance which required dogs to be on leash. Ms. Hicks was asked to review the current signage at the fairgrounds as well as post a reminder to residents on the Borough website.

Council President Karner stated that he, Mayor Vallone, Chief DeCarolis and several members of the Far Hills Police Department attended the Blue Mass which was held at St. Elizabeth's Parish on Sunday, October 25, 2020 to offer support and prayers for law enforcement.

He continued noting that JCP& has provided a \$65,000.00 grant to support the Local Police Chief Association. He reported on the progress of the Dumont Road Drainage and Ludlow Avenue Improvements projects noting that work on Ludlow Avenue had commenced.

Lastly, Council President Karner provided an update on the Borough's 100th Anniversary Event and acknowledged the work of co-chair Janis Vallone who has secured several donations of support.

Chief DeCarolis

Chief DeCarolis reported that the police department would be participating in Movember in support of men's health awareness and noted that he was allowing the officers to keep their facial hair afterwards as long as it was neatly maintained.

He express his appreciation to Monsignor Puleo of St. Elizabeth's Church for the Blue Mass which was very well attended.

Lastly, he reported that nearly 20 lbs. of unused prescription medication was collected at the Drug Take-Back event held on October 24, 2020.

Mayor Vallone

Mayor Vallone echoed the sentiments of Council President Karner and Chief DeCarolis regarding the Blue Mass and expressed his appreciation to our police officers and law enforcement personnel. He indicated that he had several prayer cards from the service and would provide them to those who were interested.

He indicated that a press release was sent out regarding the New Jersey American Water (NJAW) proposed rate hike which was greatly reduced because of the efforts of officials from Far Hills and six neighboring municipalities.

Mayor Vallone acknowledged the efforts of Officer Daryl Zavala who has accepted a position at the NJ State Police and has tenured his resignation with the Borough. Chief DeCarolis stated that Officer Zavala was a valued member of the police department and wished him the best as he joins the ranks of the NJ State Police.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10/13/20 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENGA

RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions were removed from the Consent Agenda and voted upon individually.

Resolution 20-129 – Confirming Resignation Police Officer – Daryl Zavala

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Resolution 20-129 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:
Motion Carried.

Resolution 20-130 – Appointment Police Officer – Andrew T. Perez

Chief DeCarolis provided the professional qualifications of Officer Perez.
Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty that Resolution 20-130 be approved.

Roll Call:
Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Tweedie
Nay:
Abstain:
Recused:
Motion Carried.

**Resolution 20-131 – Authorizing Submission of Grant Application - Local Government
Emergency Fund (CRF)**

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolution 20-131 be approved.

Roll Call:
Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Tweedie
Nay:
Abstain:
Recused:
Motion Carried.

Resolution 20-132 – Authorizing Payment of Taxes – Affordable Housing Restricted Unit

Mr. Sordillo provided an explanation for the payment of the delinquent taxes for the affordable housing unit in order to preserve the affordable restrictions.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolution 20-132 be approved.

Roll Call:
Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Tweedie
Nay:
Abstain:
Recused:
Motion Carried.

Resolution 20-133 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty that Resolution 20-133 be approved.

Roll Call:
Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Tweedie
Nay:
Abstain:

Recused:
Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION

Moorland Farm Event

Mr. Torsilieri provided additional details regarding the American Express invitation only holiday event to be held December 11, 12, 13 & 18, 19, 20, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at Moorland Farm.

A brief discussion ensued regarding traffic and crowd control; the use of a timed ticket entry and the points of access onto Moorland Farm. There were also questions regarding safety protocols with regard to COVID-19 guidelines.

Mr. Sordillo advised that based upon the presentation this evening, a memorializing resolution authorizing the event could be presented at the next Council meeting.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that based upon the presentation at the October 13, 2020 Borough Council meeting and the presentation this evening, the holiday drive thru event to be held at Moorland Farm on December 11, 12, 13 & 18, 19, 20, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, 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 Council President Karner to open the meeting for public comment.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired as to revenue for the Borough from the event at Moorland Farm. He also inquired if a special invitation could be sent to only Far Hills residents who were AMEX cardholders.

Mayor Vallone responded that the recent small events held at Moorland Farm were private, corporate sponsored invitation only and there was no revenue or expense to the Borough.

George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired as to how nonresidents could attain a Far Hills mailing address.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the expansive use of the Far Hills' mailing addresses beyond the actual residents of Far Hills. Mayor Vallone indicated that initially mail was via only a post office box at the Far Hills Post Office. Mr. Sordillo advised that the delineation of the boundaries for zip codes is determined by the federal government for the post offices service area.

There were no further comments from the public.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy S. Hicks', written over a horizontal line.

Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED - 11/9/20