

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
January 4, 2021
Via Remote Meeting Access Only

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the remote meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. The flag salute and reading of the open public meetings statement was previously conducted at the Reorganization meeting held immediately prior to this Regular meeting.

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, Chief of Police Michael DeCarolis

REPORTS

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

No report.

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie reported on an outstanding sewer issue that had been recently resolved. The Borough Environmental Engineer, Natural Systems Utilities reviewed a sewer backup that had occurred at a residential property at 15 Far Hills Avenue. The municipal laterals were reviewed and found to be clear. It was determined that the sewer pump at the property had been removed during recent renovations and due to a dip in the lateral lines from the property to the main lateral, it was determined that the absence of the pump was the cause of the sewer backup. The repair would be the responsibility of the homeowner, who has been apprised of the required permits and inspections for the installation of the new pump.

Councilman McLean – Roads

No report.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

No report.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner reported that he and Councilman Carty would be meeting with Chief DeCarolis later this week to review the police budget and outstanding police matters.

Council President noted that the recent snow storm had quickly melted on the roadways and inquired if there were guidelines regarding the amount of snow necessary prior to the application of rock salt.

Lastly, he reported that banners advertising the Borough's 100th Anniversary Event were planned to be installed later this month.

Chief DeCarolis – Police

On behalf of the Far Hills Police Department, Chief DeCarolis expressed his appreciation to the Mayor and Council for their support during this challenging year and was looking forward to 2021. He noted that due to an officer being recently deployed for six month term to Somerset County Narcotics Task Force, recruitment efforts for a Class II Special Officer were underway.

Mayor Vallone

Mayor Vallone echoed the sentiments expressed during his address at the Reorganization meeting, and expressed his appreciation to the members of the Borough Council for their dedication. He also commended the efforts of Chief Michael DeCarolis and Borough Clerk Dorothy Hicks as well as all Borough staff and highlighted the importance of working collaboratively.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

12/28/20 Regular Meeting

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

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Sordillo advised that although not on a Consent Agenda, Resolutions 21-042 and 21-043 could be voted upon together as they were routine in nature.

Resolution 21-042 – Appointment – Acting Plumbing Sub Code Official

Resolution 21-043 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolutions 21-042 through 21-043 be approved.

Roll Call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

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 Councilwoman Tweedie to open the meeting to public comment.

Ms. Kathryn Mantell, Borough Auditor, Nisivoccia, LLC expressed her appreciation to the Mayor and Borough Council and was looking forward to working together again this year.

There were no further comments from the public.

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

Council President expressed his appreciation to Mayor Vallone for his leadership and offered the continued support of the Borough Council for the coming year.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 1/25/21