

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
May 24, 2021
VIA REMOTE MEETING ACCESS ONLY

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Karner called the remote meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and read the open public meetings statement in accordance with the law.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Karner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilman Joseph Carty, Councilwoman Mary Chimenti, Council President David Karner, Councilman Ted McLean, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Councilman Kevin Welsh
Absent, as Excused: Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD
Absent:
Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo, Chief Michael DeCarolis

REPORTS

Councilman Kevin Welsh – Fire, Water, Light, Buildings & Grounds

Councilman Welsh stated the 100th Anniversary Event was well attended and enjoyed by many residents.

Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie reported the review of the sewer system inflow and infiltration was ongoing and Borough was currently using only 71% of its purchased capacity.

She noted that a manhole cover was damaged during the recent tree removal by Somerset County and a temporary replacement manhole was installed by the Borough's Environmental Engineer, Natural System Utilities. The County would be making the necessary replacement or repair to the manhole in the near future.

Councilwoman Tweedie stated the sewer connection work was completed at 48-50 Peapack Road.

Councilman Ted McLean – Roads

Councilman McLean provided an update on Hidden Valley Road indicating that several potholes were still in need of repair.

Councilman Joseph Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Mary Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances, & Elections

Councilwoman Chimenti echoed Councilman Welsh's comments regarding the 100th Anniversary event and added that it was a very well organized and respectful ceremony. She reported the Municipal Court deposits for April 2021 were \$2,889.43.

Chief DeCarolis

Chief DeCarolis stated he has filed the April 2021 Police Report.

Council President David Karner – Police

Council President Karner shared the sentiments with the other members of the Council regarding the 100th Anniversary event and stated that there were approximately 100 in attendance. He expressed his appreciation to his co-chair Janis Vallone for her hard work and dedication. He also acknowledged the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department and First Aid Squad who were in attendance and displayed the American Flag from the hook and ladder truck. He also expressed appreciation to David Petersen for his efforts in designing the Far Hills 100th Anniversary logo.

Council President Karner shared a Certificate of Appreciation issued to the Far Hills Police Department from the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management for their efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic.

He informed the Council that he and Mayor Vallone would be attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the Matheny Group Home at 48-50 Peapack Road on June 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

He commended Councilman Welsh for his efforts in having the County complete the removal of the decaying trees along Peapack Road.

Lastly, he stated the Memorial Day Parade, which would take place on Monday, May 31, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. and encourage everyone to attend.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

05/10/21 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 21-088 – Dedication by Rider - Sale of Borough Owned Personal Property for Police Equipment

Chief DeCarolis informed the Council about the Far Hills Police Department 100th Anniversary commemorative coins which would be offered for sale to the public. Mr. Sordillo provided an overview of the requirements for the dedication by rider and the request for approval by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services. The rider establishes a trust fund for the proceeds from the sale of Borough owned personal property, inclusive of the commemorative coins, the proceeds of which would be dedicated for the purchase of equipment for the Police Department.

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilman McLean that Resolution 21-088 be approved.

Roll Call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

Resolution 21-089 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilman McLean that Resolution 21-089 be approved.

Roll Call:

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

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.*

Ms. Hicks informed members of the public that the Borough Council would be adhering to the five-minute time limit for public comment. Members of the public would be advised when one minute remained; and again when thirty seconds remained.

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti, was unanimously carried to open the meeting to public comment.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills commented upon demarcations along Lake Road and inquired if those were for pothole repairs. He inquired as to a commitment from the developer regarding the price point for the for-sale units and the submission of percolation and soil testing to the Board of Health regarding the onsite sewer treatment facility for the Residences at Overleigh development.

Mr. Sordillo responded that correspondence has been sent to the attorney representing the development regarding the sales price point for the market rate units. He reiterated that the NJDEP was the entity responsible for the review and approval of the onsite sewer treatment facility for this development.

George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills expressed concern regarding the ability of the public to attend the Planning Board meetings if held during the summer and holidays.

There were no further comments from the public.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 21-090

- Attorney Client Privilege – Contract Negotiations - Affordable Housing - 18A Ashington Club Road
- Attorney-Client Privilege – Anticipated Litigation - Bernardsville Quarry Recycling Facility

Motion by Councilwoman Chimenti, seconded by Councilman Carty was unanimously carried to approve Resolution 21-090.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Resolution 21-091 – Authorizing Contract of Sale – William Koenen & Emily Koenen – 18A Ashington Club Road

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilman Welsh that Resolution 21-091 be approved.

Roll Call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

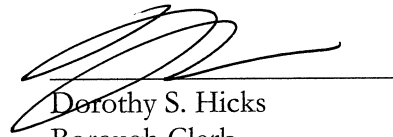
Recused:

Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 06-14-21