

**BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS**  
Borough Council Regular Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
June 28, 2021  
VIA REMOTE MEETING ACCESS ONLY

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vallone called the remote meeting to order at 7:02 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, Council President David Karner, Councilman Ted McLean (arrived late) Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Absent, as Excused: Councilman Kevin Welsh

Absent:

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

**REPORTS**

**Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie – Health/Sanitation**

No report.

**Councilman Joseph Carty – Finance/Insurance**

No report.

**Councilwoman Mary Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances, & Elections**

Councilwoman Chimenti reported the Municipal Court deposits for the month of May 2021 totaled \$2,485.88.

**Council President David Karner – Police**

Council President commented there were several people picnicking at the fairgrounds this past weekend and one individual had set up an inflatable pool which was presumably filled with buckets of water from the Raritan River. He noted that several people were also sitting in chairs in the river and expressed concern for potential liability issues for the Borough. He suggested a review of the Borough's ordinances regarding parking and permitted uses of the fairgrounds.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the maintenance of the ballfield at the fairgrounds. Mayor Vallone indicated that Somerset County has been contacted regarding undertaking this project due to limited staffing within the Bedminster DPW.

**Chief Michael DeCarolis**

Chief DeCarolis indicated Detective Merkle would be returning to the Far Hills Police Department after a six-month assignment with the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office. He noted that officers would also review the fairgrounds and ensure that all applicable ordinances were enforced.

**Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD**

Mayor Vallone provided an overview of the upcoming Essex Horse Trials event which is scheduled for July 16, 17 & 18, 2021 at Moorland Farm.

He noted the VNA Rummage Sale and the Far Hills Race Meeting were planned to proceed this year.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**06/14/21 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION**

**ORDINANCE 2021-09** – AN ORDINANCE TO FIX AND DETERMINE THE SALARIES, WAGES OR COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

Ms. Sordillo provided an overview of Ordinance 2021-09.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty 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 Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty to close the public hearing.

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Council President Karner that Ordinance 2021-09 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

**ORDINANCE 2021-10** - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS TO TRANSFER AND SELL THE REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 6.28, LOT 1.01, C0101, 18A ASHINGTON CLUB ROAD, TO WILLIAM KOENEN AND EMILY KOENEN, SUBJECT TO THE APPLICABLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESTRICTIONS.

Ms. Sordillo provided an overview of Ordinance 2021-10.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie to open the public hearing.

George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills, inquired if there was an orientation for new purchasers in the Polo Club providing them with regulations for upkeep and maintenance requirements.

Richard Rinzler, 11 Hurlingham Club Road, Far Hills commented he resides in the Polo Club and stated that each person purchasing a unit in the Polo Club is provided with the Homeowner's Association Rules and Regulations.

There were no further 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 Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti to close the public hearing.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Ordinance 2021-10 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

**ORDINANCE 2021-11** - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2020-15 APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL \$50,000.00 FOR MINE BROOK ROAD IMPROVEMENTS SECTION I AND II.

Mayor Vallone provided an overview and indicated that the Borough was apprised by Bernards Township that additional work was needed in order to complete the project. Ms. Hicks added that while Bernards Township was providing the engineering and contract oversight, the Borough of Far Hills, as the recipient of the NJDOT Local Aid grant was procedurally responsible for the appropriation of the funds. After the allocation of the grant funds, the project costs would be shared equally between Bernards Township and the Borough of Far Hills. It was noted that Bernards Township was providing the engineering and contract oversight at no cost to the Borough of Far Hills.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty to open the public hearing.

George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills, requested clarification regarding the additional funding for this project.

There were no further 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 Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie to close the public hearing.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Ordinance 2021-11 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### **Resolution 21-095 – Certification of Audit**

Borough Auditor, Kathryn Mantell of Nisivoccia, LLC provided an overview of the 2020 Audit. She explained it was necessary to replace two pages (E and C-5) in the bound books due to a typographical error and offered to provide new audit books to the Borough. Ms. Mantell commented that the only recommendation in the Audit pertained to the segregation of duties which was reflected in the Corrective Action Plan. It was noted that due to the limited number of staff in the Borough, this recommendation had also occurred in prior year audits.

Council President Karner inquired if there could be any cost savings by reducing the quantity of the bound books currently provided to the Borough. Ms. Mantell responded that the Borough is not charged for these books, but she could reduce the number of bound books and provide the Mayor and Council an electronic copy in the future. There was a general consensus to reduce the number of bound books in favor of receiving an electronic copy of next year's audit for the Mayor and Council.

Ms. Mantell left the meeting at this time.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Resolution 21-095 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

#### **Resolution 21-096 – Corrective Action Plan**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Resolution 21-096 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

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

1. Resolution 21-097 – Confirming Resignation and Appointment – Plumbing Sub Code Official
2. Resolution 21-098 – Authorizing Towing License – Somerset Hills Towing, Inc.
3. Resolution 21-099 – Authorizing Refund of Escrow – Board of Health – B18 L9
4. Resolution 21-100 – Authorizing Submission – NJDOT FY2022 Grant Application
5. Resolution 21-101 – Authorizing Submission of Application - Local Fiscal Recovery Fund
6. Resolution 21-102 – Authorizing Payment of Bill List

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolutions 21-097 through 21-102 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

Councilman McLean joined the meeting at this time.

## DISCUSSION

### **Antique Car Show – J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds**

Mayor Vallone provided an overview of an application submitted for the use of the fairgrounds for an antique car show on October 23, 2021. A general discussion ensued resulting in an overall consensus to decline the event due to the number of large events already scheduled for October in Far Hills and an additional event could be burdensome to the residents.

**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 Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti, was unanimously carried to open the meeting to public comment.

George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired if the public would be provided with an agenda for the presentation by the developer for the Residences at Overleigh, scheduled for the July 5, 2021 Planning Board meeting. He also inquired as to the process for public comment during this presentation.

Mr. Sordillo responded the agenda for the presentation was at the discretion of the developer. He also provided a brief overview of the process for public comment and questioning of witnesses during a Planning Board public hearing.

Jack Koury, Far Hills Avenue, Far Hills expressed his appreciation to the Borough Council for denying the application for an antique car show at the fairgrounds. He also suggested additional signage indicating that dogs must be on a leash should be posted at the fairgrounds.

Council President Karner suggested a review of the current signage as well as the rules for the use of the fairgrounds and agreed to coordinate this effort with Councilman Welsh.

There were no further comments from the public.

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

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**


#### **Resolution 21-103 - Attorney-Client Privilege – Anticipated Litigation - Bernardsville Quarry Recycling Facility**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie, was unanimously carried that Resolution 21-103 be approved.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 07-12-21