

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
September 13, 2021
VIA REMOTE MEETING ACCESS ONLY

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the remote meeting to order at 7:00 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: Councilwoman Mary Chimenti, Council President David Karner, Councilman Ted McLean, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Councilman Kevin Welsh, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Absent, as Excused: Councilman Joseph Carty

Absent:

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

REPORTS

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

Councilman Welsh reported the donations for the Health/Visiting Nurse Association's 2021 Rummage Sale were progressing well. He noted that the Borough's Risk Manager was contacted regarding damage to the fencing at the J. Malcolm Belcher fairgrounds due to Hurricane Ida and Bedminster DPW was asked to make repairs to areas of the track.

Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

No report.

Councilman Ted McLean – Roads

Councilman McLean provided an overview of the road conditions in the Borough after the recent storms, noting there was considerable debris in the storm drains. Ms. Hicks stated she would request a proposal from the vendor who had previously jetted the storm drains as well as reach out the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone for a potential shared services agreement.

Councilman McLean indicated he would also like to address the comments made during public comment at the August 9 and 23, 2021 Borough Council meetings. Councilman McLean stated he was shocked and offended by the comments made by Messrs. Mellendick and Schwester, finding their comparison of the architecture for the proposed Pulte/Residences at Overleigh project to that of Auschwitz and the NY Tenement Museum reprehensible. He opined Mr. Schwester's offer to pay for a financial analysis of the project or for percolation testing at the project site questionable as to its altruism. Lastly, he pointed out the lack of any apology or remorse from either resident after their comments were publically addressed and admonished by Mayor Vallone.

Mayor Vallone expressed his appreciation to Councilman McLean for his comments.

Councilwoman Mary Chimenti – Laws and Ordinances

No report.

Council President David Karner – Police

Council President Karner presented the August 2021 Police Report.

On behalf of Mayor Vallone, the Borough Council and the Far Hills Police Department, Council President Karner presented Officer Andrew Perez with the Life Saving Award. Officer Perez exemplary performed his duties and was instrumental in saving the life of a Far Hills resident who was struck by a train on July 31, 2021.

Officer Perez expressed his appreciation to the Mayor and Council for this honor.

Chief Michael DeCarolis

Chief DeCarolis expressed how proud he was of Officer Perez and for the professionalism he exhibited during the incident in July.

Chief DeCarolis reported preparations were continuing for the upcoming Atlantic Visiting Nurse Association Rummage Sale as well as the Far Hills Race Meeting.

Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Mayor Vallone stated the Borough was extremely fortunate as there were no injuries as a result of Hurricane Ida; however, there was some flood damage sustained to the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds.

Mayor Vallone stated Somerset County would be replacing the ADA ramps and storm sewer inlets along Peapack Road in preparation of the milling and paving of the roadway.

Lastly, he noted donations for this year's rummage sale were continuing and plans for the 100th Anniversary of the Far Hills Race Meeting were underway.

REGULAR AGENDA

PRESENTATION

Far Hills Race Meeting – Mr. Guy Torsilieri, Chairman

Mr. Torsilieri provided an overview of the Far Hills Race Meeting event scheduled for October 16, 2021. He noted this year, ticket sales would be conducted solely online and pari-mutuel wagering would be done via a phone app.

As there were no questions from the Borough Council, Mr. Torsilieri expressed his appreciation and left the meeting at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

08/23/21 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

**ORDINANCE 2021-12 - ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-08
APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL \$2,573.00 FOR POLICE BODY WORN CAMERAS**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti 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 Councilwoman Chimenti to close the public hearing.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Ordinance 2021-12 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Karner, McLean, Tweedie, Welsh

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

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 Consent Agenda by Borough Council action and placed on the Regular Agenda under New Business.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution 21-120 – Authorizing SHMAYSC’s 2021 Grant Application
2. Resolution 21-121 – Authorizing Shared Purchase with Bedminster Township
Mobile Eyes-Tyler Technologies - Fire Prevention Software
3. Resolution 21-122 – Authorizing Payment of Bill List

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Council President Karner that Resolutions 21-120 through 21-122 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Karner, McLean, Tweedie, Welsh

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION

Flag Pole Permitting Process

Mr. Sordillo apprised the Borough Council of a request made to the Zoning Officer for the installation of a flagpole in a residential zone. He indicated that since the Borough's current ordinances neither permit nor prohibit this type of installation, it would be necessary to adopt an ordinance if the Borough Council were amenable to these types of installations.

A general discussion ensued regarding regulations for displaying flags, the height of the flagpoles as well as the size of the flags resulting in Mr. Sordillo and Ms. Hicks being directed to review these issues further.

Mr. Nazario Paragano, 16 Dumont Road provided additional details on the flagpole he was requesting to install.

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 Tweedie, was unanimously carried to open the meeting to public comment.

Karen Reilly, 7 Fox Hunt Court, Far Hills commented upon the soil erosion along the roadways as well as debris in the storm drain inlets after the recent storms. She also stated there was poor visibility exiting from Fox Hunt Court onto US Route 202 due to vegetative overgrowth.

Councilwoman Tweedie stated there was also poor visibility when making a left hand turn from Lake Road onto US Route 202 due to an overgrown Tree of Heaven.

Don Hewitt, 23 Dumont Road, Far Hills inquired if Mayor Vallone received his second email as he had not yet received a response. Mayor Vallone responded he had forwarded the email to the Planning Board and asked Ms. Hicks to follow-up and respond to Mr. Hewitt. Ms. Hicks inquired if the email pertained to the recently submitted Change of Use application and confirmed with Mr. Hewitt that that application was subsequently withdrawn and the application fees returned.

Mayor Vallone asked that a moment of silence be observed in honor of the events of September 11, 2001.

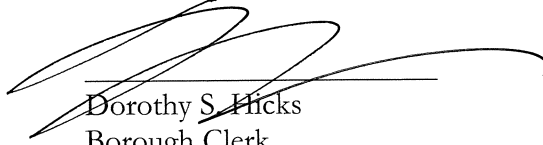
There were no further comments from the public.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 9/27/21