

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
September 27, 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: Councilman Joseph Carty, Councilwoman Mary Chimenti, Council President David Karner, Councilman Ted McLean, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Councilman Kevin Welsh, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Absent, as Excused:

Absent:

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

REPORTS

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

Councilman Welsh reported repairs to the walkways entering the Fairgrounds were recently completed. He apprised the Council that proposals were currently being obtained for the repair/replacement of the fencing damaged during Hurricane Ida and the expense would be primarily covered through insurance.

Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

No report.

Councilman Ted McLean – Roads

No report.

Councilman Joseph Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Mary Chimenti – Laws and Ordinances

No report. Councilwoman Chimenti commented there was damage to the guiderail on Lake Road due to fallen trees and debris along the lakeside. A brief discussion ensued regarding the clearing of the trees as well as the storm drains throughout the Borough.

Council President David Karner – Police

Council President Karner reported the Atlantic Visiting Nurse Rummage Sale was scheduled for October 1-3, 2021 and the Far Hills Police Department was prepared for the event.

Chief Michael DeCarolis

Chief DeCarolis echoed Council President Karner’s comments regarding the upcoming rummage sale as well as indicating that preparations were underway for the Far Hills Race Meeting event.

Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Mayor Vallone stated the upcoming Atlantic Health/Visiting Nurse Association Rummage Sale promised to be one of the largest sales in many years. With regard to the Far Hills Race Meeting event scheduled for October 16, 2021, Mayor Vallone indicated he spoke with the Far Hills Race Association and the event planning was progressing and several of the corporate tents have already sold out.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

09/13/21 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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 21-123 – Authorizing Special Use and Large Event Permit
Far Hills Race Meeting
- 2. Resolution 21-124 – Authorizing Payment of Taxes – Affordable Housing Units
- 3. Resolution 21-125 – Authorizing Payment of Bill List

Mr. Sordillo indicated that due to the form of deed restriction on the Polo Club affordable housing units it was necessary for the Borough to pay the outstanding taxes to avoid the unit going to tax sale and risk losing the housing credit.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty that Resolutions 21-123 through 21-125 be approved.

Roll Call:

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

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.*

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.

Karen Reilly, 7 Fox Hunt Court, Far Hills commented the vegetation at the intersection of Route 202 and Fox Hunt Court had been trimmed, however, the debris in the storm drain inlets has not yet been cleared. She also questioned the reporting system and response time of JCP&L as she was out of power for two days from the recent storm. Ms. Reilly stated she was told by one of the workers involved with the construction project along Route 202 that a new guiderail was being installed and questioned the Council regarding the purpose of the guiderail. Lastly, she inquired about the affordable housing units mentioned earlier in meeting and if the units were for sale and their current price.

Mayor Vallone responded there were approximately 20 outage incidents reported to JCP&L and the majority of which were restored within 24 hours. He suggested that Ms. Reilly provide the details to Ms. Hicks regarding the outage reporting in order to follow-up with the Borough's JCP&L representative. Lastly, regarding the guiderail, Mayor Vallone responded it was likely to protect the cement cap area along Route 202 that was recently damaged.

With regard to the affordable housing units, Mr. Sordillo clarified that the resolution was authorizing the payment of delinquent taxes in order to preserve the Borough's affordable housing credit and to his knowledge, the units were owner occupied and not currently for sale.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired if the Borough Council was aware of the failed subterranean waste disposal system at the Drakewick Estates development in Mendham Township likening it to the proposed system at the Residences at Overleigh development in Far Hills. He cautioned that Mendham Township had taken over the system as well as the associated costs and expressed concern that the same situation could occur in Far Hills. Mr. Schwester also commented upon letters he received from the Borough's Zoning Officer regarding the removal of a tree branch and requested an additional letter be sent to exonerate him as well as to confirm his initial assertion that the tree was not on his property.

Mayor Vallone thanked Mr. Schwester for the information and indicated he would further review these matters.

Don Hewitt, 23 Dumont Road, Far Hills inquired if his comments made at the prior Borough Council meeting regarding the Mayor's response to his email were included in the minutes.

Ms. Hicks confirmed Mr. Hewitt's comments were included in the public comment section of the minutes for the September 13, 2021 Borough Council meeting and advised that those minutes were approved at tonight's meeting and would subsequently be posted on the Borough website.

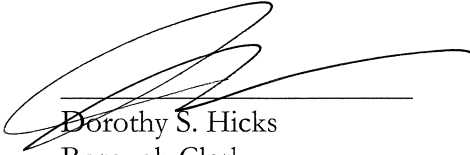
There were no further comments from the public.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti 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 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED - 10-12-21