

**BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS**  
Borough Council Regular Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
November 8, 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, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD, Councilman Kevin Welsh

Absent, as Excused:

Absent:

Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks and Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo

**REPORTS**

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

Councilman Welsh provided an update on the damage to the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds indicating the insurance claim was being processed. He also noted that there was significant tree and branch debris collecting under the Route 202/North Branch of the Raritan River bridge and indicated that the NJDOT would be contacted to potentially remove the debris.

**Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie – Health/Sanitation**

Councilwoman Tweedie informed the Borough Council of a sewer main blockage that occurred on October 15, 2021 along Peapack Road. She acknowledged the Borough's Environmental Engineer; DPW staff from Bedminster and Peapack & Gladstone; Far Hills Police Department and especially noted the efforts of Deputy Borough Clerk, Samantha D'Antuono whose assistance provided for a quick and efficient remediation.

**Councilman Ted McLean – Roads**

Councilman McLean reported the Somerset County milling and paving project on Peapack Road has been completed and stated although the crosswalks were well marked there remained a concern for vehicular speeding and pedestrian safety. With regard to the PSE&G project along US Route 202, he reported that a grass seeding blanket was installed which covered the exposed dirt the full length of the project. Lastly, he stated the County would begin the cleaning and jetting of the stormwater inlets throughout the Borough this week.

**Councilman Joseph Carty – Finance/Insurance**

No report.

**Councilwoman Mary Chimenti – Laws and Ordinances**

No report.

**Council President David Karner – Police**

Council President Karner reviewed the October 2021 Police Report.

He also informed the Borough Council of the Veterans Day Ceremony that would take place on November 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Far Hills Municipal Building and encouraged everyone to attend.

**Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD**

Mayor Vallone offered his congratulations to Councilwoman Mary Chimenti and Councilman Kevin Welsh on their re-election to the Borough Council. He also encouraged residents to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony and spoke of the importance of honoring the service and dedication of the members of our military.

Mayor Vallone indicated he would speak to Chief DeCarolis regarding improving pedestrian safety along Peapack Road.

Lastly, he reported that he would be meeting with Debra Stern, CFO in the coming weeks to prepare for the 2022 Budget and asked Council members to review their respective department budgets.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**10/25/21 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION**

**ORDINANCE 2021-14 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS’ ACCEPTANCE OF A STREAM CORRIDOR CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND DEED OF ROADWAY DEDICATION FROM DANIEL AND AMY NEU IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLANNING BOARD’S GRANT OF VARIANCE RELIEF.**

Mr. Sordillo provided an overview of the Ordinance and indicated the acceptance of the easement and roadway dedication were a few of the conditions of approval imposed by the Borough of Far Hills Planning Board. He informed the Council that due to the variation of right of ways along Lake Road it was recommended by the Borough Engineer that a dedication of roadway be established in conjunction with each applicable Planning Board application.

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 Councilman Welsh, seconded by Councilman McLean that Ordinance 2021-14 be adopted.

Roll Call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION**

**ORDINANCE 2021-13** - AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT REGULATIONS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS. – *tabled from 10/12/21 Borough Council meeting*

Mr. Sordillo provided an overview of the Ordinance and the revisions made as requested by the Borough Council from the October 12, 2021 meeting.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Ordinance 2021-13 be introduced.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie, Welsh

Nay: McLean

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

**ORDINANCE 2021-15** - AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF FLAGPOLES IN ALL RESIDENTIAL ZONES.

Mr. Sordillo provided an overview of the Ordinance. A brief discussion ensued regarding freedom of speech and the federal regulations regarding the type of flags permitted to be flown on the flagpoles as well as the protocol for the treatment of the US flag.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman McLean that Ordinance 2021-15 be introduced.

Roll Call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **Resolution 21-133 – Consenting to the Proposed Upper Raritan Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the Errico Acres (Residences at Overleigh) Development**

Mr. Sordillo provided a brief overview and apprised the Borough Council that the Borough was only authorizing consent for the submission of the amendment to the application. He clarified that the approval process of the application would be within the purview of the NJDEP and the Planning Board and not the Borough Council.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolution 21-133 be approved.

Roll Call:

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

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

1. Resolution 21-134 – Awarding Contract – Snow and Ice Control Services
2. Resolution 21-135 – Authorizing Submission of Applications for American Recovery Plan Grant through Somerset County
3. Resolution 21-136 – Appointment – Clarence Dillon Library Board of Trustees
4. Resolution 21-137 – Authorizing Payment of Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolutions 21-134 through 21-137 be approved.

Roll Call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Recreation Committee**

Mayor Vallone introduced his wife, Janis Vallone who he is appointing to serve as the Chair of the Recreation Committee in order to reinvigorate improvement projects for the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds. Ms. Vallone expressed her appreciation for the opportunity and would be working collaboratively with Councilman Welsh who would present proposed projects to the Council. She briefly outlined several preliminary ideas for facility and program improvements to the fairgrounds.

Residents were encouraged to reach out to Ms. Vallone to volunteer to serve on the committee as well as to provide suggestions for improvements to the fairgrounds, her contact information would be posted on the Borough website. Councilwoman Tweedie volunteered to serve on the committee. Councilman Welsh encouraged input from residents in order to have the facilities and programs meet the needs of our entire community.

**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 Chimenti, was unanimously carried to open the meeting to public comment.

There were no 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 21-138 - Attorney-Client Privilege – Affordable Housing – 46 Peapack Road**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie, was unanimously carried that Resolution 21-138 be approved.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Council President Karner inquired as to protocols for public comment with regard to a statement made by Mr. Schwester at the October 25, 2021 meeting. A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Sordillo advising that the matter could be further reviewed during Executive Session at the next Borough Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 11/22/21