

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
December 13, 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, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Councilman Kevin Welsh, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Absent, as Excused:

Absent:

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

REPORTS

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

Councilman Welsh reported the first meeting of the Recreation Committee was held this past weekend and several residents were in attendance and eager to volunteer.

Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie reported at the December 7, 2021 meeting of the Sanitary Transmission Advisory Board (STAB) a preliminary 2022 Budget was presented by Bedminster Township. A meeting was scheduled to meet with the Borough's CFO and Clerk to further review the Borough's Sewer Utility budget. The next STAB meeting would be scheduled in January 2022 and hosted by the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone.

Councilman Ted McLean – Roads

Councilman McLean reported a change order in the amount of \$1,180.35 representing a slight increase of 0.22% of the original contracted amount, was submitted for the Mine Brook Road Improvements project. He reported the stormwater inlet cleaning project was recently completed and approximately 18 tons of debris was removed from 180 inlets throughout the Borough.

Lastly, he stated the fallen trees adjacent to the guide rails along Lake Road had been removed without incident from the property owner, Somerset County Lake Club. Repairs to the damaged guide rails could now be scheduled with Somerset County who had submitted an estimate of \$4,000.00.

Councilman Joseph Carty – Finance/Insurance

Councilman Carty reported preparations for the 2022 Budget were underway.

Councilwoman Mary Chimenti – Laws and Ordinances

Councilwoman Chimenti reported Municipal Court receipts for the month of October 2021 were \$2,471.00. She stated she recently meet with Judge Adler and he had indicated the increase in hours for the Deputy Court Administrator, Ms. Cathy Adamo was beneficial and she was a valuable asset to the team.

Council President David Karner – Police

Council President Karner reviewed the November 2021 Police Report. He stated construction was progressing at the Matheny Group Home site on Peapack Road.

He acknowledged the efforts of Chief DeCarolis, Lieutenant Kocur and Corporal Kamienieki in the recruitment and interview process for the new officer to be appointed this evening.

Chief Michael DeCarolis

Chief DeCarolis reported the Police Department was running smoothly.

Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Mayor Vallone informed the Borough Council he would be meeting next week with CFO, Debra Stern and Clerk, Dorothy Hicks for a preliminary budget review and reminded Council members to develop their budgetary requirements for 2022.

Lastly, Mayor Vallone wished everyone a very happy and healthy holiday.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

11/22/21 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

11/22/21 – Executive Session Minutes

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

REGULAR AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-15 - AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF FLAGPOLES IN ALL RESIDENTIAL ZONES.

Mr. Sordillo advised that although the Planning Board found Ordinance 2021-15 to be consistent with the Master Plan, there were recommended revisions as detailed in the Board’s Resolution 21-030. Mr. Sordillo also indicated that after speaking with Ms. Hicks and the Borough Engineer it was suggested that the Ordinance could also be expanded to govern the installation of flagpoles in the commercial zone. As installations in the commercial zone require a variance application, expanding the Ordinance could provide additional guidance when reviewed by the Planning Board. Mr. Sordillo recommended that Ordinance 2021-15 be tabled and considered for reintroduction in 2022.

There was a general consensus to table Ordinance 2021-15.

**NEW BUSINESS
RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution 21-143 – Appointment of Police Officer – Ryan Spender

Council President Karner and Councilman Carty provided a brief overview of Mr. Spender's qualifications and stated he would be an excellent member of the Far Hills Police Department.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty that Resolution 21-143 be approved.

Roll Call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

OATH OF OFFICE

Ms. Hicks administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Ryan Spender.

Mr. Spender expressed his appreciation to the Mayor and Council for this opportunity to serve the residents of Far Hills.

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 21-144 – Acceptance of Resignation Police Officer – Andrew Perez
2. Resolution 21-145 – Authorizing Change Order – NJDOT Local Aid – Mine Brook Road
3. Resolution 21-146 – Authorizing the Cancellation of Capital Improvement Ordinance(s)
4. Resolution 21-147 – Authorizing Contract – Somerset County Commodity Resale Agreement
5. Resolution 21-148 – Authorizing Payment of Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Resolutions 21-144 through 21-148 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.*

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

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired of Councilman McLean additional details regarding the removal of the tree along Lake Road and also an explanation of a comment he made during his road report. Mr. Schwester expressed his consternation regarding comments from Councilman McLean.

A brief debate ensued, and Mr. Sordillo advised that responses to inquiries made during public comment may be addressed by anyone with the appropriate information. Members of the public may not demand a response from a specific member of the Borough Council.

Ms. Hicks provided additional details regarding the tree removal along Lake Road.

George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills read a statement wherein he detailed several comments made during prior Council and/or Planning Board meetings regarding the Pulte/Residences at Overleigh development and references to the NY Tenement Museum. He indicated he had reviewed the meeting recordings and found many statements towards him to be insulting and slanderous. He stated that comments from members of the public regarding this Borough altering development should be permitted to be made without concern of counterattacks.

Richard Rinzler, 11 Hurlingham Club Road, Far Hills commented that there has been a lot of unfortunate vitriol that has been said over the past few months regarding public concerns about the Pulte/Residences at Overleigh development. Members of the Borough Council and Planning Board must make an appropriate decision regarding this development that is in the best interest of Far Hills. Public comments should be made without any insult to any person, nationality or religion.

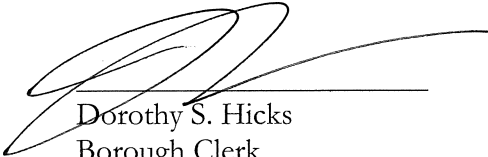
There were no further comments from the public.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Carty was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 12/27/21