

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Reorganization Meeting
MINUTES
January 3, 2022
Via Remote Meeting Access Only

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the remote meeting to order at 6:03 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, Councilman David Karner, Councilman Ted McLean, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie (arrived at 6:10 p.m.), Councilman Kevin Welsh, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Absent, as Excused:

Absent:

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

HONORED GUESTS

New Jersey Senator, Jon M. Bramnick
Somerset County Commissioner, Shanel Robinson

REGULAR AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

OATH OF OFFICE

Ms. Hicks administered the Oaths of Office to Mary Chimenti and Kevin Welsh as members of the Borough Council for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2024.

ELECTION OF BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilman Welsh to nominate Councilman Karner as Council President for a one-year term expiring December 31, 2022.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, McLean, Tweedie, Welsh

Nay:

Abstain: Karner

Motion Carried.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Dear Members of the Borough Council, Distinguished Guests, Neighbors and Friends:

As I begin my 12th year as your Mayor, it is customary, and it is my privilege to give the State of the Borough Address. 2021 has certainly been challenging for our families and friends, not only here in Far Hills, but around the country and the world. Covid, with the Delta variant and now the Omicron

variant has changed the way we work, play, and interact in almost every facet of our lives. I hope, as we all do, that 2022 brings more normalcy and health to all those around us.

Despite these challenges, we have worked with the State Health Department and advisors from Trenton and have taken every possible precaution to ensure the safety of our residents and our employees here at the Municipal Building. To that end, I have made the decision to continue to hold all municipal public meetings via Zoom for the foreseeable future, until we can clearly see an improvement in community health and a decline in Omicron infections.

Despite these challenges, I, the Borough Council, the Planning Board and Board of Health have worked diligently on your behalf. Our COAH obligations which have been approved by the Court have been addressed and will soon be completed. I thank the Planning Board for their diligence and hard work toward this end.

On the very positive side, Far Hills continues to be fiscally sound and continues to have some of the lowest municipal taxes in the state of New Jersey. We will continue to utilize share services with our neighbors to ensure the lowest cost of goods and services to our residents. We have over the years, improved many roads, and will continue to work hard to obtain grants wherever possible. The latest example is Mine Brook Road where we utilized a NJDOT grant and collaborated with our neighbors in Bernards Township.

This year, we had all 180 catch basins around the Borough cleaned out and over eighteen tons of debris has been removed to improve drainage and help reduce flooding.

We have, and always do our absolute best to ensure the safety of our residents. Our Chief of Police, Chief DeCarolis and his team do an excellent job and yes, we support our police and thank them for their service. This year, we welcomed two new officers to replace two officers that have retired or moved on.

Our Recreation Committee will continue to work on restoring the Fairgrounds to its former glory with structural and aesthetic improvements for the enjoyment of all our residents. Work has already begun, so stay tuned. To that end, my wife Janis and I have donated a 16-foot Blue Spruce tree planted by the flagpole on the Fairgrounds. This will start a new annual tradition with the holiday tree lighting in Far Hills and will take place this December 3, 2022, so please plan to attend with your friends and families. In addition, seasonal activities throughout the year will take place as well for our residents to enjoy!

To Dorothy Hicks, and her administrative team, thank you for managing the day-to-day municipal operations and despite Covid-19 providing excellent service to our residents. I also want to thank Judge Adler, Marjorie Freeman, Councilwoman Chimenti and the staff of our municipal court for their great work and adapting to the many changes required of them this year.

To our professional team, our attorneys, planners, engineers, zoning, and construction officials, thank you for your dedication to professional excellence and always putting Far Hills first.

So, as we begin 2022, I wish you and your families a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year. And know that together we have achieved much and as Mayor, I and your Borough Council have and will always do what is in the best interest of Far Hills and all its residents. I thank you for your continued support.

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 is considered routine and will be enacted with one motion 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 22-001 – Establishing Rules and Procedures for the Conduct of Business at Borough Council Meetings
2. Resolution 22-002 – Establishing 2022 Borough Council Meeting Dates
3. Resolution 22-003 – Establishing Fee for Public Meeting Notice
4. Resolution 22-004 – Designation of Official Newspapers
5. Resolution 22-005 – Temporary Appropriations for Operating Purposes
6. Resolution 22-006 – Tax Grace & Interest on Delinquent Taxes
7. Resolution 22-007 – Designation of Depositories for Borough Funds
8. Resolution 22-008 – Designation of Signatories for Borough Accounts
9. Resolution 22-009 – Authorization of Payroll Signatures
10. Resolution 22-010 – Authorizing Opening of Petty Cash Account
11. Resolution 22-011 – Authorizing a Cash Management Plan
12. Resolution 22-012 – Authorizing Mileage Reimbursement
13. Resolution 22-013 – Authorizing Municipal Attorney to File Corrective Appeals with the Somerset County Board of Taxation
14. Resolution 22-014 – Authorizing Flexible Spending Account
15. Resolution 22-015 – Authorizing Mileage Stipend
16. Resolution 22-016 – Authorizing the CFO to Approve Payment of Bills
17. Resolution 22-017 – Authorizing Tax Collector to Cancel Tax Payments/Refunds
18. Resolution 22-018 – Appointment – Personnel
19. Resolution 22-019 – Appointment – Boards, Committees and Commissions
20. Resolution 22-020 – Appointment – Recommendations to the Somerset County Board of County Commissioners
21. Resolution 22-021 – Appointment – Somerset County Wastewater Management Planning Committee
22. Resolution 22-022 – Professional Services Contract, Borough Attorney DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, PC
23. Resolution 22-023 – Professional Services Contract, Bond Counsel Hawkins Delafield & Wood, LLP
24. Resolution 22-024 – Professional Services Contract, Certified Municipal Recycling Coordinator Kevin Murray
25. Resolution 22-025 – Professional Services Contract, Borough Engineer Ferriero Engineering, Inc.
26. Resolution 22-026 – Professional Services Contract, Borough Labor Counsel Trimboli & Prusinowski, LLC
27. Resolution 22-027 – Professional Services Contract, Borough Planner Banisch Associates, Inc.
28. Resolution 22-028 – Professional Services Contract, Environmental Engineer Natural Systems Utilities, Inc.
29. Resolution 22-029 – Professional Services Contract, Municipal Accountant/Auditor Nisivoccia, LLP

30. Resolution 22-030 – Professional Services Contract, Municipal Prosecutor
DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, PC
31. Resolution 22-031 – Appointment, Alternate Municipal Prosecutor
DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, PC
32. Resolution 22-032 – Professional Services Contract, Municipal Public Defender
Mitzner & Mitzner, PA
33. Resolution 22-033 – Professional Services Contract, Alternate Municipal Public
Defender, Kuchinsky and Rotunno, PC
34. Resolution 22-034 – Professional Services Contract, Reassessment Services
Assessor Services, LLC
35. Resolution 22-035 – Professional Services Contract, Special Counsel
Surenian, Edwards & Nolan, LLC
36. Resolution 22-036 – Professional Services Contract, HR Consultant
People Management, Inc.
37. Resolution 22-037 – Professional Services Contract, Stormwater Management
Stormwater Compliance Solutions, LLC
38. Resolution 22-038 – Authorizing Contract – Public Health Nursing Services
Atlantic Visiting Nurse
39. Resolution 22-039 – Authorizing Contract – Information Technology Services
ATON Computing, Inc.

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie seconded by Council President Karner that Resolutions 22-001 through 22-039 be approved.

Roll Call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION

Borough Council Committee Appointments for 2022

Mayor Vallone reviewed the Committee appointments for 2022 and it was the consensus of the Borough Council that the appointments be accepted.

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 Councilman Welsh to open the meeting to public comment.

Kathryn Mantel, Nisivoccia, LLP expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Borough of Far Hills again this year and wished everyone a healthy and happy New Year.

There were no further comments from the public.

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

ADJOURNMENT TO REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 1/24/22