

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
December 12, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Karner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read the open public meetings statement in accordance with the law.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Karner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilman Joseph Carty, Councilwoman Mary Chimenti, Councilman Rick Rinzler, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Council President Kevin Welsh, Mayor David Karner

Absent, as excused: Councilman Ted McLean

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

RECOGNITION

Marilyn Layton – Board of Health Chairwoman

Mayor Karner presented Ms. Marilyn Layton with a distinguished service award to recognize her nineteen years of service on the Far Hills Board of Health. Ms. Layton has also served for many years as the Chairwoman of the Board and will be stepping down at the end of her term, expiring December 31, 2022. The Mayor and Council, as well as members of the public, showed their appreciation to Ms. Layton through a round of applause.

Ms. Layton expressed her appreciation to the Mayor and Council and stated it has been her distinct pleasure to serve our community.

PRESENTATION

Ms. Aimee Hunnewell, Chief Development Officer, Matheny School and Hospital provided an overview of the Miles for Matheny event planned for June 3, 2023 and indicated a large event permit application has been submitted to Ms. Hicks for the use of the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds. The event would include a wheelchair walk, cycling event and a 5K race and an anticipated attendance of approximately 500. It was noted that there was no rain date scheduled.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the submission of the necessary permit applications within the specified time parameters.

Mr. Jack Koury commented the music from the DJ at last year's event made it difficult to hear the bag pipe musician.

Ms. Hunnewell thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of the Miles for Matheny event and left the meeting at this time.

REPORTS

Council President Welsh – Fire, Water, Light, Buildings & Grounds

Council President Welsh reported the Holiday Tree Lighting event held on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. was well received by the community with approximately 150 attending. He acknowledged Butler's Pantry Trackage and the Far Hills Café for donating the refreshments; the Madrigals Chorus from Bernards High School for the holiday music; and the Far Hills Garden Club for the installation of the luminaries. Lastly, he acknowledged the efforts of the Recreation Committee, the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department, Far Hills Bedminster First Aid Squad, and the many volunteers.

He also reported the Bedminster DPW would be trimming overgrown brush and removing several decaying and hazardous trees at the fairgrounds.

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie reported a meeting of the Sanitary Transmission Advisory Board (STAB) was planned for December 19, 2022 in the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone. She stated information on the status of the grant funding was still pending.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Mary Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

No report.

Councilman Rinzler - Police

Councilman Rinzler presented the November 2022 Police Report.

Mayor Karner

Mayor Karner echoed Council President Welsh's comments regarding the Holiday Tree Lighting extravaganza and offered his appreciation to Council President Welsh for overseeing the event as he was unable to attend due to illness. He also expressed appreciation to former Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD and his wife, Janis for their generous donation of the holiday tree.

He also acknowledged the Garden Club for their efforts in the overall beautification of the Borough. Councilwoman Chimenti encouraged those interested in joining the club to contact Ms. Donna Joyce.

He apprised the Council of a meeting held on December 2, 2022 with representatives of NJ Transit to review the renewal of the lease agreement with further details to be discussed during Executive Session. He also stated the lease with the Butler's Pantry Trackage Restaurant has been finalized.

Mayor Karner provided a brief update regarding the financial assessment study for the affordable housing development and stated a special meeting was held on December 1, 2022 to award the contract to the Otteau Group, LLC. He also noted Planning Board escrow accounts were reviewed and notification was made to each applicant with a current deficiency.

Mayor Karner informed the Council of the Somerset County Commissioners Reorganization meeting which would be held on January 6, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at Raritan Valley Community College.

Lastly, he reported there were currently two Covid cases in the Borough offices.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

11/28/22 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilman Rinzler, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content and release.

11/28/22 – Executive Session Minutes

Motion by Councilman Rinzler, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content only.

12/1/22 – Special Meeting Minutes

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

12/1/22 – Executive Session Minutes

Motion by Councilman Rinzler, seconded by Council President Welsh, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content only.

REGULAR AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

ORDINANCE 2022-11 - AN ORDINANCE TO FIX AND DETERMINE THE SALARIES, WAGES OR COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

Mr. Sordillo provided a brief overview of the Ordinance.

Motion by Council President Welsh, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti to open the meeting to 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.

There were no comments from the public.

Motion by Councilman Rinzler, seconded by Council President Welsh to close the meeting to public comment.

Motion by Council President Welsh, seconded by Councilman Rinzler to adopt Ordinance 2022-11.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Rinzler, 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; a copy placed on the table in the meeting room 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 Agenda by Borough Council action and placed on the Regular Agenda under New Business.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution 22-167 – Adopting a Civil Rights Policy
2. Resolution 22-168 – Authorizing Payment of Bill List

Motion by Councilman Rinzler, seconded by Council President Welsh that Resolutions 22-167 through 22-168 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Tweedie, Rinzler, 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 Welsh, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti to open the meeting to public comment.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired about the affordable housing litigation and the NJ Transit Lease to be discussed during the executive session.

Mr. Sordillo responded there was still pending litigation with Fair Share Housing Center as well as conditional orders with the Court.

Mayor Karner responded the NJ Transit Lease pertained to the management of the train station property.

Dr. George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired about the trees that were to be removed as indicated in Council President Welsh's report.

Council President Welsh clarified the trees were located along the small track area at the fairgrounds.

There were no further comments from the public.

Motion by Councilman Rinzler, seconded by Council President Welsh to close the meeting to public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 22-169

- Attorney Client Privilege – Litigation – Affordable Housing
- Attorney Client Privilege – Contract Negotiations – NJ Transit Lease

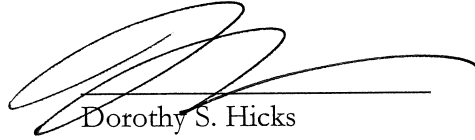
Motion by Councilwoman Chimenti, seconded by Councilman Rinzler was unanimously carried to approve Resolution 22-169.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Karner discussed presenting each member of the staff with a holiday gift of a \$50.00 Amazon gift card. A brief discussion ensued resulting in a general consensus to authorize the gift card purchase.

Motion by Councilman Rinzler, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 12/27/2022