

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
August 13, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at the Far Hills Municipal Building 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: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie, Vallone

Absent, as Excused: Hand, Surks

Absent:

Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Attorney Sordillo, Chief DeCarolis

REPORTS

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie reported that she attended a meeting of the Sewer Transmission Advisory Board (STAB) on August 9, 2018 wherein the contract for the maintenance of the Sanitary Sewer Transmission Station (SSTS) was reviewed. It was determined that further revisions were necessary in order to clarify the responsibilities of each of three municipalities: Bedminster, Far Hills and Peapack & Gladstone. She also noted that the Capital Improvements account would be increased from \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00 to be proportionately shared between the three municipalities. She also commended the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone's DPW department on their oversight of the SSTS.

Councilwoman Tweedie expressed concern regarding overgrown shrubbery at the intersection of Lake Road and Route 202, which limited the line of sight when making a left turn onto Route 202 North. Mr. Sordillo advised that the property owner was responsible for maintaining the shrubbery as it was on private property; however, suggested that a letter could be sent to the property owner to request that the area be trimmed. If there was no ensuing action on the part of the property owner, then the NJDOT could also be notified, as the area was most likely within their right-of-way.

Councilman Carty – Insurance/Finance

Councilman Carty expressed concern regarding the frequency of power outages in certain areas of the Borough and the inefficiency of JCP&L's power outage reporting system. Mayor Vallone added that he recently attended a seminar presented by JCP&L Area Manager, Mr. Rob Walton and noted that there was an extensive outage response protocol mandated by the Board of Public Utilities, (BPU). Chief DeCarolis added that JCP&L would be providing further education as to the most effective methods for reporting a power outage.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

No report.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner reported that a meeting was held with Councilman Carty, Sergeant Kocur and Officer Mulch regarding PBA contract negotiations. President Karner yielded to Chief DeCarolis for the police report at this time.

Chief DeCarolis

Chief DeCarolis reported that a high visibility DUI enforcement detail, funded by a grant from the Division of Highway Safety, was scheduled for August 16, 2018 through September 4, 2018. Chief DeCarolis stated that the Cycletta Fondo bicycle event took place on August 12, 2018 and utilized the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds as a rest stop with no police related incidents.

Mayor Vallone

Mayor Vallone reported that the VNA Presale meeting held on August 6, 2018 was well attended and that plans were underway to commence donation collection in early September with the Rummage Sale to be held on October 5-7, 2018.

Mayor Vallone provided an overview of the public hearing he attended on July 25, 2018 before the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee in Trenton, NJ. Mayor Vallone commended the efforts of Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick for his role in supporting this public hearing and to the residents of Far Hills for their involvement. He reported that the testimony supported moving affordable housing determinations from the court back to the legislature and the proposed formation of subcommittees within local regions could prove beneficial to municipalities.

Mayor Vallone stated that there were no updates regarding affordable housing development in the Borough of Far Hills. Mr. Sordillo stated at Judge Millers' direction the August 9, 2018 meeting was adjourned due to recent changes and continued negotiations with regard to the Borough's affordable housing settlement. Mayor Vallone expressed that the Borough Council would be ever mindful of the concerns expressed by residents when reviewing all viable opportunities to meet the Borough's affordable housing obligation.

REGULAR AGENDA**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

7/23/18 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

7/23/18 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION**

ORDINANCE 2018-04 – 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

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to open the public hearing.

There were no comments from the public. Clerk 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 Tweedie and unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty that Ordinance 2018-04 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE 2018-05 – APPROPRIATING \$300,000.00 FOR DOUGLAS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS – SECTION 2

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to open the public hearing.

There were no comments from the public. Clerk 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 Tweedie and unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Ordinance 2018-05 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE 2018-06 – APPROPRIATING \$23,582.00 FOR PURCHASE OF POLICE EQUIPMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty that Ordinance 2018-06 be introduced.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie

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 agenda by Borough Council action and placed on the regular agenda under new business.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution 18-105 - Authorizing Amendment of Rights of Way Use Agreement
Fiber Technologies Networks, LLC
2. Resolution 18-106 - Authorizing Alcohol at the Fairgrounds
VNA Sale Fall 2018
3. Resolution 18-107 - Authorizing Waiver Sign Permit
VNA Sale Fall 2018
4. Resolution 18-108 - Authorizing Special Item of Revenue
2018 Drive Sober Grant
5. Resolution 18-109 - Authorizing Special Item of Revenue
FY2016 National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X)
6. Resolution 18-110 - Payment of the Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty that Resolutions 18-105 through 18-110 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION

Peapack Road – Parking

Council President Karner informed the Council that several residents have expressed concern regarding the parking of vehicles along the shoulder of Peapack Road, a Somerset County roadway, near the property located at 112 Peapack Road. He continued that the Far Hills Police Department had also spoken with the residents advising them of the need to relocate the vehicles and suggested that the Borough's Zoning Officer also send a letter advising that vehicles were only permitted to be parked in the driveway.

A brief discussion ensued resulting in Mr. Sordillo being directed to draft a resolution requesting assistance from Somerset County requesting that parking be restricted on both sides of Peapack Road from the north side of the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds up to the bridge on the border of Far Hills

and Peapack & Gladstone. Mayor Vallone suggested that Chief DeCarolis also compose a letter to Somerset County in support of this revision to the parking regulations.

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.*

Christopher Gottscho, 9 Hurlingham Club Road, Far Hills commented on a concern regarding property values with respect to the proposed Ludlow Square development.

Rick Rinzler, 11 Hurlingham Road, Far Hills commended Mayor Vallone on his comments made at the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee hearing on July 25, 2018 and reiterated that Far Hills is an open and welcoming community.

There were no further comments from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 18-111

- Attorney/Client Privilege – Litigation – Affordable Housing

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 18-111.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

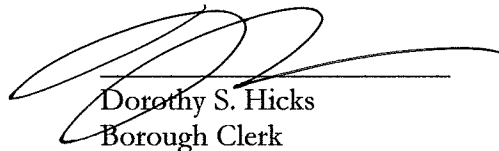
Council President Karner inquired as to the status of the Ludlow Avenue Road Improvement project. Clerk Hicks responded that the bid opening was scheduled for August 21, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. and two bid specification packets have been picked up, to date.

Council President Karner also commented upon the disparity of the private garbage collection fees throughout the Borough. Mr. Sordillo advised that the Borough does not license garbage collection and residents are required to contract independently for this service.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED - 8/27/18