

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
December 21, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Karner called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at the Far Hills Municipal Building and read the open public meetings statement in accordance with the law.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Karner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chimenti, Surks, Tweedie, Karner
Absent, as Excused: Carty, Hand, Vallone
Absent:
Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Attorney Sordillo

REPORTS

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie reported that the 2019 sewer connection fees were recently calculated by the Borough Environmental Engineer based upon formulas detailed in the current contract with NJ American Water. Councilwoman Tweedie opined that the Borough's current fee structure was amongst the highest in the state and suggested that negotiations should commence with NJ American Water. Mr. Sordillo provided a brief overview of the connection fees and indicated that a meeting with NJ American Water would be scheduled in early 2019.

Councilman Surks – Roads

Councilman Surks provided a status update regarding the Ludlow Avenue Road Improvements project and indicated that a resolution to cancel the award of contract was on tonight's agenda.

Councilman Surks stated that as there were reports of downed trees and debris along Lake Road, he reviewed the roadway and reported that it was currently passable.

Lastly, he stated that per Bedminster DPW Director, Mr. Mantz adequate supplies of salt and sand were readily accessible and the Borough was prepared for any future inclement weather. Council President Karner commented that residents had previously raised concerns about the excessive use of salt on the roadways. Councilman Surks responded that roadway safety was the Borough's primary responsibility but he would inform Mr. Mantz of this concern.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

Councilwoman Chimenti reported that Municipal Court deposits for the month of November 2018 were \$4,771.00. In addition, she reaffirmed that the Borough of Far Hills would continue to operate an independent municipal court, in light of a recent article on shared court services utilized by other local municipalities.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner stated that Mayor Vallone testified before Judge Miller at the Borough's Fairness Hearing on December 20, 2018 and reported that there were no objectors to the Borough's Affordable Housing Plan. He also noted that Judge Miller not only found the plan acceptable, but

also commended the Borough for its open and transparent process as well as the inclusion of residents in the development of the plan. Council President Karner commended Mayor Vallone for his leadership, which was met by applause from members of the public.

In Chief DeCarolis' absence, Council President Karner reminded everyone to be cautious as scams and robberies were prevalent this time of year. He also stated the year-end high visibility DUI enforcement detail, funded by a grant from the Division of Highway Safety, would be coming to a close at the end of the month.

Council President Karner reported that the PBA contract negotiations were still underway and anticipated a resolution in January 2019.

Lastly, he reminded everyone that the Borough Council's Reorganizational meeting was Monday, January 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

12/10/18 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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 18-159 – Appointment – Humane Law Enforcement Officer
2. Resolution 18-160 – Cancelling the Award of Contract – Ludlow Avenue Road Improvements
3. Resolution 18-161 – Payment of Bill List

Regarding Resolution 18-159, Mr. Sordillo stated that via a state mandate, local municipalities were now required to appoint a Humane Law Enforcement Officer. Council President Karner noted that the stipend for this position was also a component of the PBA contract negotiations due to the additional responsibilities and certifications required.

Regarding Resolution 18-160, Councilman Surks briefly detailed the scope of the project and the determination to cancel the award of contract. A brief discussion ensued regarding the procurement process and the potential to combine the Ludlow Avenue project with another paving project for cost effectiveness resulting in a consensus to review the project again early next year.

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Resolutions 18-159 through 18-161 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Surks, Tweedie, Karner

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.*

Rick Rinzler, 11 Hurlingham Road, Far Hills commented on the article regarding shared services and inquired as to any potential impact on our police department. He also stated that there was an increase in debris along northbound Route 202 near Sunnybranch Road and inquired as to the availability of a community service program to provide litter abatement services.


Councilman Surks commented on the road conditions along Route 202 from Far Hills to Bernardsville. Clerk Hicks was asked to contact the NJDOT regarding the status of the paving project, which was abandoned several years ago due to the insolvency of the NJ Transportation Fund.

Cindy DeCorges, 23 Railroad Avenue, Far Hills inquired as to details of the Borough's Affordable Housing Plan that was recently approved at the Fairness Hearing on December 20, 2018. Residents were encouraged to attend the Planning Board meetings for further project details.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Surks and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 1/7/19