

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
February 11, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the meeting to order at 7:02 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, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie, Vallone
Absent, as Excused: Chimenti
Absent:
Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Attorney Sordillo, and Sergeant Kocur

REPORTS

Councilman Hand – Fire, Water, Light, Buildings & Grounds

Councilman Hand stated that he and Clerk Hicks reviewed the water damage at the Borough owned property located at 46 Peapack Road and it was determined that initially the gutters and leaders would need to be replaced and the sump pump discharge pipe would need to be excavated and extended further from the property. He also reported that an inspection by an environmental company was scheduled to evaluate the mold infestation and expedite an appropriate remediation.

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

No report.

Councilman Surks – Roads

Councilman Surks commended the Bedminster DPW and supervisor John Mantz on a job well done clearing the roadways during the last snow storm and stated that they were well prepared for the next anticipated storm.

Councilwoman Tweedie stated that a tree trunk was encroaching onto Lake Road. Councilman Surks responded that he would review the location and notification would be made to the homeowner regarding efforts for remediation.

Councilman Surks continued by reporting upon the current condition of Route 202 from Far Hills through to Bernardsville noting that several residents have also expressed concern about this roadway. A brief discussion ensued with Mayor Vallone providing an update on the current status of the request made to the NJDOT for the repaving of this section of Route 202.

Lastly, Councilman Surks stated that a review of this year's budget was necessary before proceeding with the improvements to Ludlow Avenue.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

Councilman Carty reported PBA contract negotiations were ongoing and preparations for the 2019 Budget were underway.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner reported that the police budget for capital items had been submitted and the operating budget would be submitted pending the PBA negotiations. He reported that everything in the Borough was copasetic and deferred the remainder of the police report to Sergeant Kocur.

Sergeant Kocur – Police

Sergeant Kocur apprised the Council that the DUI patrol during the Super Bowl weekend had concluded and the Distracted Driver enforcement detail would remain in effect until February 22, 2019.

Mayor Vallone

In Councilwoman Chimenti's absence, Mayor Vallone stated that plans for a Borough Garden Club were underway.

Mayor Vallone suggested to those in attendance to prepare for the impending inclement weather and reminded everyone that the Municipal Building would be available to serve as a charging and warming center, if necessary.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1/28/19 – Regular Meeting

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

1/28/19 – Executive Meeting

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

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 19-048 – Accepting Resignation – Board of Health

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Surks, was unanimously carried to approve Resolution 19-048.

Resolution 19-049 – Authorizing Release of Performance Bond – B6 L21 – 61 Lake Road

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie to approve Resolution 19-049.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

Resolution 19-050 – Authorizing Affordable Housing Agreement – Matheny School

Mr. Sordillo provided an overview of the agreement with the Matheny School and Hospital in reference to development of the property located at 46 Peapack Road as a part of the Borough's Fair Share Housing Plan. Dr. Kendell R. Sprott, CEO Matheny provided a brief overview of the funding for the group home requirements and opined that additional housing credits may be available for this project.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Surks to approve Resolution 19-050.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

Resolution 19-051 – Authorizing Endorsement of Somerset County Home Investment Grant Application – Matheny School

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Surks to approve Resolution 19-051.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

Resolution 19-052 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilman Hand to approve Resolution 19-052.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

DISCUSSION

Donna Joyce, 57 Liberty Corner Road, Far Hills provided a brief overview of the Garden Club indicating it would be an entirely self-funded all volunteer group and detailed several proposed projects throughout the Borough. A brief discussion ensued resulting in an overall support by the Council of the Garden Club. Mr. Sordillo was directed to serve as the liaison to ensure the proposed projects met municipal and state regulations.

Council President Karner stated that the Matheny School had requested the use of the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds for their Miles for Matheny event to be held on Sunday, June 9, 2019 with setup to commence on Friday, June 7, 2019. Dr. Kendell Sprott, CEO stated that the school supports residents with disabilities and this event was a major fundraiser. He informed the Council that the event, previously held in the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone, would consist of a 5K run with approximately 300 runners; a 10/25/35/50 mile cycle ride; a petting zoo; a bounce house; food vendors and several other family friendly activities. Approximately 1,200 attendees were anticipated and the event and parking were expected to both be on located on the fairgrounds property. A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Sordillo stating that the applicable permit applications were currently being reviewed.

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.*

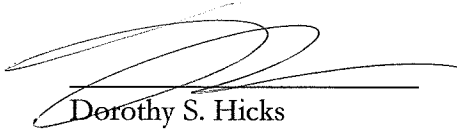
Michael Fiore, MD, 110 Douglas Road, Far Hills inquired about the proposed rain tax on properties with significant impervious coverage in New Jersey and the potential applicability in Far Hills.

There were no further comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Council President Karner and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy S. Hicks', written over a horizontal line.

Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 2/25/19