

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
April 8, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the meeting to order at 7:07 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, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie, Vallone

Absent, as Excused:

Absent:

Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Chief DeCarolis, Officer Kamieniecki, Attorney Sordillo, and approximately 25 members of the public.

REPORTS

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

Councilman Hand stated that during the VNA donation drop-off, there were reported incidents of vehicular speeding on the track at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds. He also noted that a number of unleashed dogs have been reported at the Fairgrounds. Mayor Vallone suggested a notice regarding the leash law be placed on the Borough website as a reminder to residents.

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

No report.

Councilman Surks – Roads

Councilman Surks stated the Bedminster DPW would be installing stone to remediate the rut adjacent to the bridge along Lake Road. He also noted the DPW spent approximately a week patching the tertiary roads in the Borough, including Minebrook & Douglas Roads, in an effort to ensure safe road conditions.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

Councilman Carty stated the introduction of the Borough's 2019 Budget was on tonight's agenda.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

Councilwoman Chimenti reported that Municipal Court deposits for the month of February 2019 were \$10,962.00.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner provided a brief overview of the March Police report and added that preparations were underway for the Spring VNA Sale. He also indicated that PBA contract negotiations were progressing.

Chief Michael DeCarolis – Police

Chief DeCarolis provided a brief overview of the Miles for Matheny event scheduled for June 8, 2019 and detailed the road closures anticipated for the 5K road race associated with the event.

Mayor Vallone

Mayor Vallone indicated that as requested by several residents, a meeting with representatives from the RPM Development Group has been scheduled to review an alternative affordable housing development.

REGULAR AGENDA**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3/25/19 – Regular Meeting

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

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

ORDINANCE 2019-01 – CALENDAR YEAR 2019 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Council President Karner 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 Surks that Ordinance 2019-01 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS**ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION**

ORDINANCE 2019-02 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE SUBDIVISION OF THE REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 8, LOT 1, LOCATED AT 46 PEAPACK ROAD OWNED BY THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS INTO THREE (3) NEW LOTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF TWO (2) NEWLY CREATED LOTS TO THE MATHENY SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL, INC. FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP HOMES.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Hand that Ordinance 2019-02 be introduced.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTIONS

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 19-063 – Authorizing a Large Event Permit – Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
2. Resolution 19-064 – Authorizing Raffle License – Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
3. Resolution 19-065 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Hand that Resolutions 19-063 through 19-065 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 19-066 – Introduction of Municipal Budget for Fiscal Year 2019

Mayor Vallone presented a brief overview of the municipal budget and noted that the municipal tax rate for Far Hills was 1.6%. He stated that the 2019 budget maintains the quality of services provided to residents and the increase was attributed to additional expenses for pensions, insurance and affordable housing. Mayor Vallone highlighted that Far Hills still maintains one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the State of New Jersey. He also informed the public that a copy of the introduced budget would be available in the office of the Clerk and the Borough website. The public hearing and adoption of the budget was scheduled for the May 13, 2019 Borough Council meeting and Borough Auditor, Kathryn Mantell of Nisivoccia, LLC and Borough CFO, Debra Stern would be in attendance to answer any questions.

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilman Surks, was unanimously carried to approve Resolution 19-066.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

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.*

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills commended the Borough Council on their efforts to accommodate the request of residents to consider alternative solutions to the affordable housing mandate

and to meet with RBM Development Group. Mr. Schwester requested further information on the agreement with the Matheny School & Hospital especially inquiring about the acquisition of land for the group home development.

John Sobel, 44 Spring Hollow Road, Far Hills distributed and read letter to the Borough Council. He highlighted concerns regarding the selection process for sites for the affordable housing developments and expressed concern regarding the proposed development at 220 Route 202 – Errico Acres. He questioned the notification process regarding the Fairness Hearing and requested that an extension be sought from the Court prior to execution of the Settlement Agreement to provide for public awareness.

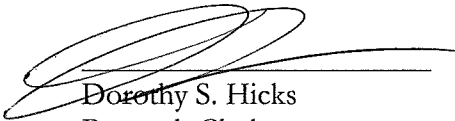
There were no further comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED - 4/22/19
APPROVED AS AMENDED – 5/13/19



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk