

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
April 22, 2019

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: Chimenti, Karner, Surks, Tweedie, Vallone

Absent, as Excused: Carty, Hand

Absent:

Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Sergeant Kocur, Planner David Banisch, Attorney Sordillo

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4/8/19 – 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 2019-02 – 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 Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to open the public hearing.

Jay Shapiro, 44 Peapack Road, Far Hills, requested a sketch or site plan as to the layout of the proposed development of the property at 46 Peapack Road.

Cindy Campbell, 81 Peapack Road, Far Hills, inquired as to the transfer of ownership of the property at 46 Peapack Road to the Matheny School. She also questioned about the lot size, set-backs for the proposed buildings and parking and transportation requirements.

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 Councilman Surks, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Ordinance 2019-02 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

REPORTS

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

No report.

Councilman Surks – Roads

No report.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

No report.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner advised that Detective Kevin Luckenbach had accepted a position with the Somerset County Prosecutor's office and had tendered his resignation with the Borough. Mr. Daryl Zavala was recently hired and would be sworn in at the next Borough Council meeting.

Council President Karner stated Monsignor Puleo of St. Elizabeth's Church expressed appreciation for the parking assistance provided by the Borough of Far Hills Police Department for Easter services.

He also indicated that PBA contract negotiations were progressing.

Mayor Vallone

Mayor Vallone indicated his report would follow later in the meeting.

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 19-067 – Confirming Resignation – Police Detective
2. Resolution 19-068 – Appointment – Police Officer
3. Resolution 19-069 – Authorizing 2018 Application for Tonnage Grant
4. Resolution 19-070 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Surks that Resolutions 19-067 through 19-070 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:
Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 19-071 – Authorizing Issuance of a Bond Anticipation Note

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie, was unanimously carried to approve Resolution 19-071.

Roll Call:
Aye: Chimenti, Karner, Surks, Tweedie
Nay:
Abstain:
Motion Carried

DISCUSSION GARDEN CLUB

Councilwoman Chimenti provided a brief overview of the proposed projects for the Garden Club. She indicated that the club was entirely self-funded and encouraged residents to contact Mrs. Donna Joyce to volunteer to help beautify the Borough of Far Hills.

Mayor Vallone stated that the Borough Planner, David Banisch and Borough Attorney, Joe Sordillo met with RPM Development on April 11, 2019. The Council will be presented with the findings of this meeting during Executive Session this evening and the public will be informed at a subsequent Council meeting.

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 inquired as to the outcome of the meeting with RPM Development.

John Sobel, 44 Spring Hollow Road, Far Hills questioned the degree of notification provided to the public regarding the proposed developments and requested that the Borough submit an extension to the Courts beyond the June 26, 2019 deadline. He requested that the public be provided additional information regarding the developments prior to proceeding to the Planning Board.

Michael Joyce, 57 Liberty Corner Road, Far Hills requested details on the June 26, 2019 deadline provided for the settlement agreement pertaining to the master plan and zoning ordinances.

Ed Coury, 100 Lake Road, Far Hills expressed concern as to the lack of response to emails submitted to the Borough Council regarding the affordable housing developments. He also expressed his appreciation to the Borough Council for meeting with RPM Development and looked forward to hearing the outcome of this meeting.

Cindy Campbell, 81 Peapack Road Far Hills, inquired as to the status of the development company she previously provided for an alternate affordable housing development. She also inquired as to the process for adopting and amending the Master Plan and the Fair Share Housing Element Plan and questioned the proposed demolition of properties along Route 202 as a component of the affordable housing development agreements.

Dr. George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired as to what needed to be presented to the Courts by the June 26, 2019 deadline. He also commented upon the level of notification of prior meetings and hearings.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired as to the Borough's contractual obligation with the Errico Acres proposal. He also inquired as to the ownership of the property adjacent to the fairgrounds.

There were no further comments from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 19-072 – Attorney/Client Privilege – Litigation – Affordable Housing

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 19-072.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 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 – 5/13/19