

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

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Karner called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Absent, as Excused: Carty, Vallone

Absent:

Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Attorney Sordillo, Chief DeCarolis, Detective Kamieniecki

REPORTS

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

No report.

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

No report.

Councilman Surks – Roads

Councilman Surks reported that the NJDOT provided notification of the upcoming milling and paving of Route I-287 NB from Route 202/206 in Bedminster through to South Street in Morristown.

He added that Somerset County reviewed the culvert on Lake Road and would be scheduling the necessary repairs within the next few months.

Lastly, he stated that Bedminster DPW Director, John Mantz was asked to schedule the clean out of the storm drains along Sunnybranch Road and a review of the Borough's storm drains would also be conducted to ascertain if additional clean outs were necessary.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

Councilwoman Chimenti reported the Municipal Court deposits totaled \$4,481.60 for the month of June 2019.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner provided an update regarding the drainage issues affecting properties along Dumont Road and DeMun Place noting the Borough Engineer, Paul Ferriero reviewed the site and was currently preparing engineering specifications and cost estimate for the project to relocate the storm drains.

Council President Karner inquired of Chief DeCarolis the status of the installation of the "No Parking" signs along Peapack Road. Chief DeCarolis responded that the project was progressing, pending the determination as to which entity was responsible for the sign installation as the roadway was under the jurisdiction of Somerset County.

Council President Karner noted that PBA negotiations were ongoing and anticipated another meeting with PBA representatives next month.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7/8/19 – Regular Meeting

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

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES - INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE 2019-05 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL PERMIT FOR TEMPORARY, NON-CONFORMING USES IN THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS.

Mr. Sordillo provided a brief overview of the ordinance detailing that it would allow for a temporary use without having to submit a formal application to the Planning Board. He referenced the installation of the portable cellular towers utilized during the Far Hills Race Meeting as a temporary use that would require a special permit under this ordinance.

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilman Surks that Ordinance 2019-05 be introduced.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Hand, Surks, Tweedie, Karner

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 19-106 – Award of Contract – Douglas Road Section 2 Improvement Project
2. Resolution 19-107 – Amending Shared Services Agreement – Tax Collector
3. Resolution 19-108 – Acceptance of Resignation – PB/BOH Secretary & Police Matron
4. Resolution 19-109 – Authorizing Extension of Grace Period – 3rd Quarter Taxes
5. Resolution 19-110 – Authorizing Tax Adjustment – Various Accounts
6. Resolution 19-111 – Bill List

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Hand that Resolutions 19-106 through 19-111 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Hand, Surks, Tweedie, Karner

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION

NYC Bus Service

Council President Karner indicated Bernardsville Mayor Canose reached out to Mayor Vallone regarding an opportunity for a direct bus service to NYC. A brief discussion ensued regarding this new potential service as well as the possible relocation of the bus stop from Route 202 to the train station parking lot and compliance with the existing NJ Transit lease agreement. Ms. Hicks was asked to obtain additional information regarding the current service with Lakeland Bus and the proposed company Boxcar Bus, as well as ascertain potential interest in this new service.

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.*

Mr. Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills requested an update regarding affordable housing and the status of discussions with the RPM Development Group (RPM).

Mr. Sordillo indicated that the Borough was directed by the Court to move forward with the current Settlement Agreement and Housing Element and Fair Share Plan. He added that Fair Share Housing Center indicated that they would also object to any agreement with RPM, therefore, at this time there would be no further negotiations with RPM. Mr. Sordillo added that representatives from RPM have also decided to step away from negotiations at this point.

Mr. Schwester also commented that age restrictions in other communities have been lifted due to requests from developers for relief. He insisted upon confirmation from the Borough Council that the deeded age restriction on the market rate units planned for the Pulte/Melillo - Errico Acres site would remain intact regardless of requests from the developer for relief.

Mr. Sordillo added that Judge Miller issued the Scheduling Order on July 19, 2019 which was posted to the Borough website the same day.

Ms. Janine Silberberg, 90 Hidden Valley Road, Far Hills referenced the Scheduling Order and questioned the process and the documentation that would be available to the public.

Mr. Sordillo responded by outlining the process and the specific documents that were still being prepared.

There were no further comments from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


Resolution 19-112 – Attorney Client Privilege – Litigation – Affordable Housing

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried that Resolution 19-112 be approved.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 8/12/19