

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
August 12, 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: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie

Absent, as Excused: Hand, Surks, Vallone

Absent:

Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Attorney Sordillo, Chief DeCarolis

REPORTS

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie stated that the video surveillance was completed and pending the submission of the final report by the Borough Environmental Engineer, the necessary repairs would be scheduled.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

Councilwoman Chimenti reported the Municipal Court deposits for July 2019 totaled \$5,389.00.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner provided an update on the PBA negotiations indicating that a meeting originally scheduled for this evening had to be rescheduled. He indicated that he has also been in contact with Bedminster Mayor, Lawrence F. Jacobs, regarding the status of their PBA negotiations.

He noted that representatives from Miles for Matheny have requested to utilize the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairground on June 13, 2020 and would be providing the necessary documentation to secure that date.

Lastly, Council President Karner provided an update on the drainage issues affecting the properties along Dumont Road and DeMun Place, noting that the Borough Engineer, Ferriero Engineering had requested quotations from several contractors. Pending the receipt of the quotations, the Borough Council would make a determination regarding the project.

Chief DeCarolis

Chief DeCarolis provided details on the closure of Douglas Road and resulting detour due to the road improvements project. He also updated the Council on the installation of the “No Parking” signs along Peapack Road

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7/22/19 – Regular Meeting

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

7/22/19 – Executive Session

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content only.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

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 limited, temporary use without the requirement to submit a formal application to the Planning Board.

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

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Ordinance 2019-05 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, 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 19-113 – Authorizing Special Item of Revenue
2019 Drive Sober End of Summer Mobilization Grant
2. Resolution 19-114 – Authorizing Alcohol at Fairgrounds – VNA Sale Fall 2019
3. Resolution 19-115 – Authorizing Waiver for Sign Permit – VNA Sale Fall 2019
4. Resolution 19-116 – Bill List

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Carty that Resolutions 19-113 through 19-116 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Tweedie, Karner

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION

Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Mr. Sordillo informed the Borough Council that an individual recently contacted several municipalities, including Far Hills, inquiring about the potential for a medical marijuana dispensary and provided a brief overview of the state procedures. Mr. Sordillo clarified that this was only for medical marijuana as recreational marijuana was currently illegal in the State of New Jersey.

He also indicated that Mayor Vallone had expressed at prior Council meetings that he would not be in support of medical dispensaries in the Borough.

A general discussion ensued, resulting in Mr. Sordillo being directed to conduct further research and to draft an ordinance for further review by the Council, to potentially prohibit marijuana use in the Borough.

Mr. Rick Rinzler, 11 Hurlingham Club Road, Far Hills inquired since the Borough of Far Hills currently prohibits the sale of alcohol, could a similar ordinance be adopted for marijuana use.

Vintage Fair Event Proposal

Ms. Hicks provided a brief overview of an inquiry from Brilliant Conventions, LLC for a vintage fair event at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds on September 21, 2019. Ms. Hicks advised the Borough Council that that date coincided with the donation collection period for the VNA Rummage Sale. Mr. Sordillo commented that he spoke with Mayor Vallone regarding this proposal, who also felt that the event was in conflict with the VNA Rummage Sale. A brief discussion ensued resulting in a general consensus that the Borough Council would not be in favor of this proposed event due to the conflict with the VNA Rummage Sale.

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.*

Ms. Johanna McCarten, 38 Peapack Road, Far Hills provided additional details on the process of obtaining the medical marijuana card and the limited locations of dispensaries in the area. She also inquired as to approval for the use of alcohol at the fairgrounds during the VNA Sale.

Council President Karner responded that only beer and wine was permitted and was a one-time use for the VNA appreciation luncheon for their volunteers.

Ms. McCarten also commented that loud music began at 6:00 a.m. at recent events held at the Fairgrounds.

It was suggested that noise controls be included in the application process for future events.

There were no further comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Carty and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED – 8/26/19

Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk