

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
August 26, 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, Hand, Tweedie, Vallone

Absent, as Excused: Carty, Karner, Surks

Absent:

Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Attorney Sordillo, Sergeant Kocur, Officer Zavala

REPORTS

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

Councilman Hand stated that the VNA Presale meeting was held today at 9:00 a.m. and the donation collection was scheduled to begin on September 7, 2019. He also noted that repairs to the baseball field and the playground area have been completed.

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

No report. Councilwoman Tweedie expressed her appreciation to the Far Hills PD for their response to a recent 9-1-1 call. She also commended the efforts of the Robert Wood Johnson EMTs and Paramedics.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

Councilwoman Chimenti commented that the Borough was currently being serviced by Lakeland Bus as a proposal for an additional bus service was discussed at the August 12, 2019 Borough Council meeting.

Sergeant Kocur

Sergeant Kocur informed the Council that a high visibility Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over detail was now in effect through Labor Day. He also noted that the new police vehicle was in the process of being outfitted and would be in service soon. Lastly, he reported that Douglas Road remained closed due to the road improvements project.

Mayor Vallone

Mayor Vallone expressed his appreciation to Council President Karner for presiding over the August 12, 2019 Council meeting in his absence. He also thanked Council President Karner and Councilman Surks for their efforts to resolve the drainage issues on Dumont Road and DeMun Place.

Mayor Vallone indicated that the Borough Council would not be in favor of medical marijuana in the Borough of Far Hills and noted that each municipality has the authority to make that determination independently. Mr. Sordillo stated that he was currently drafting a zoning ordinance prohibiting the use of medical marijuana for the Borough Council to review. He noted that some municipalities have also addressed the use of recreational marijuana in their ordinances but advised it would be best to wait until there was a state ruling regarding recreational use.

Mayor Vallone informed the Council of a STEM workshop for 7th and 8th grade girls being sponsored by the Somerset County Freeholders to be held October 26, 2019. He also reported that JCP&L provides a special priority status program for individuals on life support in the event of a power outage. Clerk Hicks would have additional details on each of these programs for anyone who was interested in participating.

Mayor Vallone noted that on September 14-15, 2019, the Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride would be riding along Route 202 and Peapack Road in the Borough. He also noted that the Far Hills Race Meeting would be held at Moorland Farms on October 19, 2019.

Mayor Vallone expressed his appreciation for the service provided by Ms. Trina Lindsey, Planning Board & Board of Health Secretary who recently resigned from the Borough.

He also welcomed Ms. Adriana McKenna, who is serving as the Borough's Deputy Tax Collector through a shared service agreement with Bedminster Township.

Mayor Vallone noted that he had inquired of the NJDOT the status of project for the replacement of the Route 202 Bridge over the North Branch of the Raritan River, as the date of last presentation was in September, 2015.

Lastly, he informed the Council that he was asked to moderate a session on the Opioid epidemic at the NJ League of Municipalities Conference to be held November 19-21, 2019 in Atlantic City.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8/12/19 – Regular Meeting

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

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 19-117 – Authorizing Raffle License – Somerset Health Care Foundation
2. Resolution 19-118 – Authorizing Renewal Agreement – Suburban Municipal JIF
3. Resolution 19-119 – Bill List

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Hand that Resolutions 19-117 through 19-119 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Hand, Tweedie, Vallone

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.*

Mr. Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills provided a copy of an editorial in the August 1, 2019 issue of the Bernardsville News which commented on the viability of the affordable housing projects in several municipalities. Mr. Schwester stressed the importance of requiring the developer to build in stages to ensure salability of the units.

Mr. Sordillo responded that the first phase of the Errico Acres proposed development would require the completion of the affordable rental units prior to the remainder of the development progressing.

Dr. George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills commented upon the importance of maintaining the existing scenic corridor along Route 202 and adjacent to the Errico Acres proposed development. He also inquired as to the replacement of the bridge on Route 202 and asked that the design retain the stone facade. Dr. Mellendick asked for the next steps with regard to affordable housing in order for the Borough to be in compliance with the Court mandated schedule.

Mr. Sordillo responded by outlining the procedures and documentation required of the Borough Council and the Planning Board.

There were no further comments from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

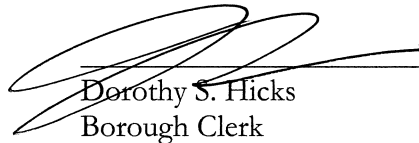
Resolution 19-120 – Attorney Client Privilege – Litigation – Affordable Housing

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 19-120.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 9/9/19