

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
January 27, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Karner called the meeting to order at 7:02 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: Councilman Joseph Carty, Councilwoman Mary Chimenti, Councilman Richard Hand, Council President David Karner, Councilman Ted McLean, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie
Absent, as Excused: Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD
Absent:
Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo

REPORTS

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

No report.

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

No report.

Councilman McLean – Roads

No report.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

Councilwoman Chimenti reported that Court receipts for December 2019 were \$11,130.32.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner reported that the Police Department has submitted a request for a new evidence management system which would be further discussed later in the meeting. He also stated that there would be a high visibility enforcement detail during the Super Bowl weekend.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1/6/20 Reorganization Meeting

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

1/6/20 Regular Meeting

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

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE 2020-01 – AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$40,000.00 FOR AN IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEM FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Council President Karner provided a brief overview of the equipment as required by Somerset County and also utilized by the Municipal Court.

Councilman McLean noted that the manufacturer's website offered refurbished equipment for approximately half the cost while providing a similar warranty to the new equipment.

A general discussion ensued resulting in Council President Karner offering to reach out to Chief DeCarolus for further information regarding the refurbished equipment.

Mr. Sordillo commented that the Ordinance only authorizes the appropriation of the funding and after the public hearing and adoption of the Ordinance, the purchase would then need to be authorized by resolution.

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Ordinance 2020-01 be introduced.

Roll Call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

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

Resolution 20-044 – Authorizing Refund Planning Board Escrow
B15 L3, 35 Dumont Road

Resolution 20-045 – Award of Contract – Employee Assistance Program
Hunterdon Behavioral Health

Resolution 20-046 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Carty that Resolutions 20-044 through 20-046 be approved.

Roll Call:

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

Nay:
Abstain:
Recused:
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.*

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman McLean to open the meeting to public comment.

Carol Bianchi, JCP&L Representative for the Borough of Far Hills provided a brief overview of the improvements being undertaken by JCP&L in the Borough which included the installation of three trip savers, enhanced tree trimming and upgrades to the circuitry.

Council President Karner acknowledged the level of communication that she has afforded to the Borough of Far Hills. A brief discussion ensued regarding emergency service for those residents that require power for medical equipment, well water and septic/sewer pumps.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills commended Councilman McLean for his efforts regarding alternate pricing for the police evidence management system. He further inquired as to the scope of the Sanitary Sewer Connection Fees and the Campbell Sewer Usage Charge items to be discussed during Executive Session.

George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired as to the timeline for the Errico Acres development and notification to residents.

Mr. Sordillo responded by providing an overview of the affordable housing timeline for the Borough Council as well as the process when the developer submits an application before the Planning Board. Mr. Sordillo responded that the Borough website and the Nixle notification system would be utilized to inform residents, and Ms. Hicks added that the agendas were typically posted on the website the Friday before the Monday meeting.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills commented that he could not locate the agenda on the website.

Ms. Hicks and Council President Karner provided guidance on the location of this information on the website.

There were no further comments from the public.

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Hand to close the meeting to public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 20-047

- Attorney-Client Privilege/Contract Negotiation - Sanitary Sewer Connection Fees
- Attorney-Client Privilege/Potential Litigation - Campbell Sewer Usage Charges

- Attorney-Client Privilege/Potential Litigation - NJAW Rate Increase

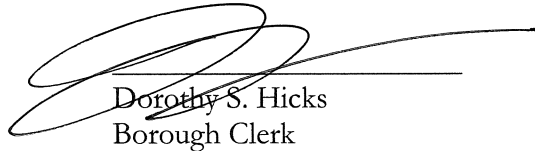
Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 20-047.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED – 2-10-20



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk