

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
September 14, 2020
VIA CONFERENCE CALL ONLY

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the conference call meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and read the open public meetings statement in accordance with the law.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Vallone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Vallone asked that a moment of silence be observed in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilman Joseph Carty, Councilwoman Mary Chimenti
Councilman Richard Hand, Council President David Karner, Councilwoman
Sheila Tweedie, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD
Absent, as Excused: Councilman Ted McLean
Absent
Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo, Chief
Michael DeCarolis, Construction Official Stephen Mahoney, Zoning Officer
Kimberly Coward

REPORTS

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

Councilman Hand reported that Nelson Tree Service would be addressing some of the tree work at the fairgrounds and that the weed whacking was also completed.

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

No report.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

No report.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner commented that the American Express Drive-in event held at Moorland Farm was successful and well attended.

Council President Karner presented the August 2020 Police Report.

He commended Councilman Hand and Ms. Hicks for their efforts in ensuring the weed whacking was completed at the Fairgrounds. He also suggested, in preparation for the Borough's 100th Anniversary event, additional enhancements to the pavilions and grandstands could be considered. He expressed his appreciation to resident, Mr. David Petersen who designed the Borough logo and recently added an enhancement in celebration of the Borough's 100th Anniversary. A letter inviting residents to participate in the celebration was planned to be mailed this week.

Council President Karner echoed Councilman Hand's report indicating that Nelson Tree Service has been accommodating regarding the tree work. He noted that there were two decaying trees by the Fairgrounds along Peapack Road that would need to be removed in the near future and inquired if the work could be completed by Somerset County. Ms. Hicks responded that although the trees are along a county road, the Borough, as the property owner, would be responsible for their removal.

Lastly, Council President Karner reported that the drainage project Dumont Road was progressing as New Jersey American Water had completed the relocation of their water pipes. He added that he reached out to Nervine Associates, who owns the property where the Peapack & Gladstone Bank is located, to suggest that they also tie into the new drainage system and indicated that the Borough Engineer, Paul Ferriero would reach out to Nervine Associates.

Chief DeCarolis

Chief DeCarolis reported the drive-in movie event was well coordinated and proceeded without any police incidents.

He informed the Council the DUI High Visibility detail would continue through the end of September.

Mayor Vallone

Mayor Vallone provided a brief overview from the Governor's office regarding the latest Covid updates. He also apprised the Council that the State was considering an additional tax on gas and stock transactions.

Mayor Vallone commented the pothole repairs have been completed on Lake Road and thanked the Bedminster DPW for their efforts.

He also urged residents to be courteous to others and to pick up after their pets while using the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds.

Mayor Vallone stated that while he was unable to attend the September 8, 2020 Planning Board meeting, he wanted to address a comment made regarding construction occurring at a property on Lake Road. Mayor Vallone added that the matter was immediately brought to the attention of the Construction Official Stephen Mahoney and Zoning Officer Kimberly Coward, both of who are in attendance this evening.

Mr. Mahoney stated that he was notified of the construction activity on the evening of September 8, 2020, and the next morning reviewed the site and construction files confirming that the work in progress was unauthorized and no construction permits had been issued. A stop work order was issued on September 11, 2020. Mr. Mahoney also provided a brief overview of the construction permitting process and indicated that while a prior permit was issued for interior renovation work at the property, there was no permit for the addition now being constructed.

Ms. Coward also provided a brief overview of the zoning approval process and indicated on May 4, 2020 the Planning Board approved a variance application for the property to Lake Road, LLC. She indicated that the resolution compliance review was currently being conducted by the Borough Engineer, Ferriero Engineering and several conditions of approval have not been satisfied. She added that a zoning application had not been submitted but plans were being submitted by Apgar Associates to the Borough Engineer this evening.

Mayor Vallone expressed his appreciation to Mr. Mahoney and Ms. Coward for attending the meeting this evening and asked Mr. Sordillo to apprise the Planning Board Attorney, Ms. Rubright of this matter.

DISCUSSION

Moorland Farm Event

Mr. Guy Torsilieri informed the Borough Council that the American Express Drive-in event was a success and he was currently discussing with them to bring back the Music at Moorland event next spring.

He indicated that geese hunting had been conducted on Moorland Farm for several years and the police department and adjoining property residents have always been notified. He presented to the Borough Council a private, invitational clay-shooting competition event planned for October 1, 2020 at Moorland Farm. He indicated that to provide financial support for Moorland Farm, donations would be requested from attendees of the event. He indicated that there would be approximately twenty teams of five people each participating in the shooting competition. A brief discussion ensued and Mr. Sordillo indicated that skeet shooting was a permitted use on the property, however, due to the addition of the monetary component of the event, the submission of an application for a Special Use Permit would be required.

Mr. Sordillo advised that based upon the presentation this evening, a memorializing resolution authorizing the event could be presented at the next Council meeting.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that based upon the presentation this evening, a private, invitational clay-shooting competition event to be held at Moorland Farm on October 1, 2020 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8/24/20 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

ORDINANCE 2020-15 – AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$575,000.00 FOR MINE BROOK ROAD IMPROVEMENTS SECTION I AND II

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to open the public hearing.

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. 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 Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Ordinance 2020-15 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

**NEW BUSINESS
RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution 20-119 – Award of Contract – Mine Brook Road Improvements-Section I and II

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Hand that Resolution 20-119 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

Resolution 20-120 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty that Resolution 20-120 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Tweedie

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 Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie to open the meeting for public comment.

George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills expressed his appreciation for the follow-up on the construction being conducted at the property on Lake Road and inquired about the frontage and setback requirements for the project. He also inquired about a tree replacement project to ensure that a new tree was planted when one was taken down. He further asked about the status of the sewer facilities at the Errico Acres site and commented upon the poor cellular reception on Lake Road.

Mayor Vallone responded that the Borough took immediate action once informed of this unauthorized construction as represented by both the Construction Official and Zoning Officer this evening.

Mayor Vallone indicated that trees have been planted at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds and suggested a joint resident and municipal effort could be undertaken to plant additional trees in the Borough.

Regarding the Errico Acres site, Mr. Sordillo responded that the developer to the NJDEP for an onsite treatment system had submitted an application.


There were no further comments from the public.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie to close the meeting for public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 9/28/20