

**BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS**  
Borough Council Regular Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
September 28, 2020  
VIA CONFERENCE CALL ONLY

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Karner called the conference call meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. 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: Councilwoman Mary Chimenti, Councilman Richard Hand, Council President David Karner, Councilman Ted McLean, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie  
Absent, as Excused: Councilman Joseph Carty, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD  
Absent  
Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo, Chief of Police Michael DeCarolis, Borough Auditor Kathryn Mantell

**REPORTS**

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

No report.

**Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation**

Councilwoman Tweedie reported that a review of the current sewer ordinance was underway to simplify the billing process and develop a procedure for requests for reimbursement due to residential water leaks. She noted there were two outstanding requests that would be grandfathered and calculated based upon the new ordinance.

Mr. Sordillo added that he anticipated having a draft of the ordinance for review by the next Borough Council meeting.

**Councilman McLean – Roads**

Councilman McLean provided an update of the current road projects in the Borough on the following roadways; Dumont Road and Ludlow Avenue, Lake Road, and Mine Brook Road.

Council President Karner questioned whether the paving could still commence when the weather turned colder.

**Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections**

No report.

**Council President Karner – Police**

Council President Karner provide a brief update on the police enforcement details in the Borough. He stated that Officer Perez was assimilating nicely with the Far Hills Police Department.

## **Chief DeCarolis**

Chief DeCarolis provided additional details on the high visibility police enforcement details.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

9/14/20 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### **Resolution 20-121 – Certification of Audit**

Borough Auditor, Kathryn Mantell of Nisivoccia, LLC provided an overview of the 2019 Audit and commented that the only recommendation pertained to the segregation of duties which was reflected in the Corrective Action Plan. It was noted that due to the limited number of staff, this recommendation had also occurred in prior year audits.

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilman McLean that Resolution 20-121 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Hand, Karner, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

#### **Resolution 20-122 – Corrective Action Plan**

Motion by Councilwoman Chimenti, seconded by Councilman McLean that Resolution 20-122 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Hand, Karner, McLean, Tweedie

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**

1. Resolution 20-123 – Authorizing Cancellation of Taxes
2. Resolution 20-124 – Authorizing Issuance of Special Use Permit - Moorland Farm
3. Resolution 20-125 – Authorizing Return of Escrow – Planning Board
4. Resolution 20-126 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilman McLean that Resolutions 20-123 through 20-126 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Hand, Karner, McLean, 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 Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti to open the meeting for public comment.

Karen Reilly, 5 Fox Hunt Court, Far Hills inquired about the expenses incurred by the Borough due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Council President Karner responded that the Borough had not been adversely affected due to the pandemic. He noted police officers are serving the community as normal and the administration offices are working on staggered remote schedules but continue to address the needs of our residents.

Ms. Hicks responded that as represented by the Borough Auditor's review of the Audit this evening, the Borough's fund balances are in a strong position.

There were no further comments from the public.

Motion by Councilwoman Chimenti, seconded by Councilman McLean to close the meeting for public comment.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **Resolution 20-127 - Attorney Client Privilege – Potential Litigation - Bernardsville Quarry**

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie was unanimously carried that Resolution 20-127 be approved.

Mr. Sordillo advised the public that the only action by the Borough Council upon returning to Open Session would be to adjourn the meeting.

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilman McLean, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 10/13/20