

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone 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

Mayor Vallone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilman Joseph Carty, Council President David Karner, Councilman Ted McLean, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD
Absent, as Excused: Councilwoman Mary Chimenti, Councilman Richard Hand
Absent:
Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo, and Chief of Police Michael DeCarolis

REPORTS

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie reported that all was well with regard to sewer and sanitation in the Borough.

Councilman McLean – Roads

Councilman McLean reported on the Route 202 Bridge over the N. Branch of the Raritan River project indicating that the detours proposed by the NJDOT were currently being reviewed. Mayor Vallone concurred and indicated that discussions with Chief DeCarolis, members of the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department and the First Aid Squad regarding response times were being conducted and Mr. Sordillo would be preparing a letter to the NJDOT regarding the Borough's position on the detours. Mayor Vallone reiterated that there would also be a public meeting regarding this project in the Summer 2021.

Councilman McLean also apprised the Council on a shared services opportunity with Somerset County to provide the administration of engineering services for the milling, resurfacing and restriping of roadways in the Borough. He noted that Schley Road and Far Hills Avenue were previously discussed for consideration of repaving.

Councilwoman Tweedie commented that after the recent snowstorm, sidewalks were cleared up to the point of the crosswalks only at several intersections throughout the Borough. A brief discussion ensued resulting in confirmation that residents were responsible for clearing both the sidewalks and crosswalk access on their private property and the Borough was responsible for clearing the sidewalks and crosswalk access on public property. It was suggested that a gentle reminder be disseminated to residents, as well as the Borough's landscaper, to ensure proper snow removal and maintaining clear access to both the sidewalks and crosswalks areas.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner reported that all was copasetic in the Borough.

He reminded everyone to mark their calendars for May 15, 2021 to join in the celebration of the Borough's 100th Anniversary.

Chief DeCarolis

Chief DeCarolis commented that discussions had ensued regarding response times with the Far Hills Emergency Management entities pertaining to the NJDOT Route 202 Bridge over the N. Branch of the Raritan River project. He confirmed that he would also coordinate with Mr. Sordillo in the preparation of a response to the NJDOT.

Mayor Vallone

Mayor Vallone reminded the Borough Council and the members of the public that the Borough Council Reorganization meeting would be held on January 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with the Regular meeting to immediately follow. He also noted that the Planning Board Reorganization meeting would also be on January 4, 2021 and would begin at 7:00 p.m. with the Regular Planning Board meeting to immediately follow.

Mayor Vallone also provided an update from the Far Hills Board of Health meeting held on December 21, 2020 regarding the availability of vaccines in Somerset County and New Jersey. He noted that as testing has continued at Raritan Valley Community College it would also be one of the main sites for the administration of the vaccines. Somerset County has launched a COVID-19 Vaccination webpage to provide information regarding the County's vaccination planning overview, priority groups and relevant information from the NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A link to the Somerset County webpage has also been provided on the Borough's website to provide residents access to the most current information.

Mayor Vallone personally thanked everyone for all of their efforts and working so diligently in this challenging year.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

12/14/20 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

12/14/20 – Executive Session Minutes

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

ORDINANCE 2020-18 – AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2016-09 AND REPLACING SAME WITH REVISED AND UPDATED REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEWER FEES, RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND SEWER CONNECTIONS WITHIN SECTIONS OF THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS.

Mr. Sordillo provided a brief overview of the Ordinance.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie 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 Councilwoman Tweedie to close the public hearing.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Ordinance 2020-18 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Karner, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 20-152 – Appointment - Acting Construction Sub Code Official

Ms. Hicks provided a brief overview of the appointment indicating that it was for an initial term of 60 days and Mr. DeMaio had previously served in this capacity for the Borough.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolution 20-152 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Karner, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

Resolution 20-153 – Payment of the Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolution 20-153 be approved.

Roll Call:

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

There were no comments from the public.

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

Mayor Vallone wished everyone a very Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED – 1/4/21


Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk