

**BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS**  
Borough Council Regular Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
February 22, 2021  
VIA REMOTE MEETING ACCESS ONLY

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vallone called the remote meeting to order at 7:09 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, Chief of Police Michael DeCarolis

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Vallone asked for a moment of silence to remember former Mayor Carl Torsilieri who passed away on February 17, 2021.

Mayor Vallone shared the many accomplishments of Mayor Torsilieri who proudly served as the Mayor of Far Hills for over 16 years.

**REPORTS**

**Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation**

No report.

**Councilman McLean – Roads**

No report.

**Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance**

No report.

**Council President Karner – Police**

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

He provided an update on the Borough's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event scheduled for May 15, 2021 indicating that the scope of the event would be scaled back due to pandemic restrictions. He noted that Ms. Hicks was working with JCP&L to attain approval for the installation of the banner over Route 202.

### **Chief DeCarolis – Police**

Chief DeCarolis also expressed his condolences for the loss of Mayor Torsilieri and shared that Mayor Torsilieri hired him in 2003. Chief DeCarolis commended the efforts of the Far Hills Police officers regarding their professionalism during a routine traffic stop with a non-compliant individual.

### **Mayor Vallone**

Mayor Vallone informed the Council that he was recently notified by JCP&L of a phone scam and would provide the details to Ms. Hicks for posting on the Borough website.

He stated that the Governor's office has confirmed that large-scale events would not be permitted in the near future due to continuing health safety concerns. Mayor Vallone confirmed that the Borough's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event would be scaled back to ensure the safety of all residents. He commended Council President Karner and Janis Vallone for all of their efforts in organizing this event. Councilman McLean inquired as to the funding for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. Mayor Vallone responded that the Borough has budgeted \$25,000.00 for the event in addition to the donations received from residents.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **02/08/21 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

#### **02/08/21 – Executive Session Minutes**

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

Mayor Vallone informed the Council that he was notified by Councilman Richard Hand that due to relocating out of state, he would be resigning from the Borough Council. Mayor Vallone expressed his sincere appreciation to the time and dedication Councilman Hand has given to the Borough during his 11 years on the Borough Council. On behalf of the Borough of Far Hills, he wished Councilman Hand and his family all the best.

Mr. Sordillo provided a brief overview of the municipal vacancy law and indicated that the Republican County Committee had submitted three names for consideration to the Borough Council to fill this vacancy for the unexpired term, expiring December 31, 2021.

A brief discussion ensued and Councilwoman Tweedie nominated Mr. Kevin Welsh to fill the vacancy, Council President Karner seconded the nomination. Council President Karner commented that each of the individuals submitted by the Republican County Committee were well qualified candidates.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### **Resolution 21-058 – Appointment - Borough Council**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolution 21-058 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Karner, McLean, Tweedie, Vallone

Nay:  
Abstain:  
Motion Carried.

### **OATH OF OFFICE**

Ms. Hicks administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Kevin Welsh.

### **ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION**

**ORDINANCE 2021-04** - ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS APPROPRIATING \$75,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TO THE BOROUGH'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS.

Mr. Sordillo provided a brief overview of the Ordinance.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Ordinance 2021-04 be introduced.

Roll Call:  
Aye: Carty, Karner, McLean, Tweedie, Welsh  
Nay:  
Abstain:  
Motion Carried.

### **RESOLUTIONS, continued**

#### **Resolution 21-059 – Authorizing Payment to Raritan Valley Development Corporation**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman McLean that Resolution 21-059 be approved.

Roll Call:  
Aye: Carty, Karner, McLean, Tweedie, Welsh  
Nay:  
Abstain:  
Motion Carried.

#### **Resolution 21-060 – Payment of Bill List**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolution 21-060 be approved.

Roll Call:  
Aye: Carty, Karner, McLean, Tweedie, Welsh  
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.*

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie, was unanimously carried to open the meeting to public comment.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired as to the composition of the Republican County Committee. He reiterated his concern regarding the solvency of the Matheny School and Hospital as well as inquiring about the status of any environmental restrictions in the application for the Errico Acres site.

Mayor Vallone responded that members of the Republican County Committee were elected positions and were currently held by Ms. Janis Vallone and Mr. Jack McNamara.

Mr. Sordillo responded that representatives for the Matheny Group Home project have received the necessary funding and the project was moving forward. With regard to the Errico Acres project, Mr. Sordillo stated that the Borough has not received any further information from the NJDEP. Councilwoman Tweedie clarified that at the prior Council meeting she indicated that during the Planning Board meeting, Borough Planner, David Banisch had stated that the developer submitted an application to the NJDEP and was preparing to submit an application to the Planning Board.

Karen Reilly, 7 Fox Hunt Court, Far Hills inquired as to the status of the potential PSE&G gas connection for the Matheny Group Home as well as the possibility for connections to other residential properties in the Borough.

Mayor Vallone commented that residents would need to contact PSE&G directly for new gas connections for their properties. Mr. Sordillo confirmed that PSE&G is a private utility and the Borough has no control over the gas connections.

Jack Koury, 11 Far Hills Avenue, Far Hills asked if the Borough Council could assist to coordinate these efforts with PSE&G.

Council President Karner suggested that a representative from PSE&G be invited to attend an upcoming meeting to provide additional information.


There were no further comments from the public.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman McLean, was unanimously carried to close the meeting to public comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie, was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dorothy S. Hicks  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 03-09-21