

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
April 26, 2021
VIA REMOTE MEETING ACCESS ONLY

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the remote 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.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilman Joseph Carty, Councilwoman Mary Chimenti, Council President David Karner, Councilman Ted McLean, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Councilman Kevin Welsh, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Absent, as Excused:

Absent:

Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo, Chief of Police Michael DeCarolis

REPORTS

Councilman Kevin Welsh – Fire, Water, Light, Buildings & Grounds

Councilman Welsh provided an update regarding the tree work conducted by Somerset County along Peapack Road.

Council President Karner inquired if new pennants could be installed at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds.

Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie reported the Borough's Environmental Engineer, Natural Systems Utilities would be reviewing the manholes for any leakage into the sewer system and would proceed with any necessary repairs.

Councilman Ted McLean – Roads

Councilman McLean reported pothole repairs have been completed on Far Hills Avenue and Schley Road. He noted Bedminster's DPW has reviewed Hidden Valley Road and an additional review by the Borough Engineer was being scheduled.

Councilman Joseph Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Mary Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances, & Elections

Councilwoman Chimenti reported Court deposits for March 2021 were \$7,473.86 of which \$2,207.00 was for the Far Hills Municipal Court.

Council President David Karner – Police

Council President Karner reported the Mondello family sent a letter expressing their appreciation to Officer Andrew Perez for his assistance and professionalism.

He provided a brief overview of the grant funding for the body worn cameras which are now required for all police departments in the State of New Jersey.

Council President Karner reported Somerset County has established an Emergency Rental Relief Program for county residents who had experienced a loss of income as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Additional information would be posted on the Borough website.

Lastly, he presented an update on the 100th Anniversary event to be held on May 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Far Hills Municipal Building. On behalf of the Borough Council, he expressed his sincere appreciation to the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department for their assistance with installing the banner. He reminded residents there was still time to contribute items to the Far Hills Time Capsule which would be buried on May 15th. He indicated that Monsignor Puleo of St. Elizabeth's Church would be attending and has agreed to offer a blessing for the centennial celebration. Council President Karner also suggested members of the Borough Council dress in blue blazers and tan slacks, similar attire for the Memorial Day parade.

Chief Michael DeCarolis

Chief DeCarolis reported a DUI high visibility police enforcement detail would be in effect until April 30, 2021.

Mayor Vallone

Mayor Vallone reported Governor Murphy had increased the number of attendees for outdoor gatherings to 250. He encouraged residents to attend the 100th Anniversary event and expressed his appreciation to Council President Karner and Janis Vallone, Co-chairs of the Anniversary event, for their time and dedication in preparing for this celebration.

He reminded members of the Borough Council to complete the MEL/EPL online training by May 1, 2021 as doing so provides the Borough a discount on insurance premiums.

Lastly, he advised the Borough Council that fraudulent emails were being sent under his name and cautioned those that received any such emails to not respond. The Borough's IT Consultant was immediately notified and the necessary precautions were taken.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Ralph Jones, President - Essex Horse Trials, Inc.

Mr. Guy Torsilieri, Chairman – Far Hills Race Meeting Association, Inc.

Messrs. Jones and Torsilieri provided a brief overview of the proposed events to be held at Moorland Farm.

Mr. Jones stated the Essex Horse Trials was planned to be held on July 17 and 18, 2021 but would be scaled back to 500 attendees to ensure compliance with the current pandemic regulations. He noted the event would continue to support the Greater Newark LifeCamp in Pottersville, NJ.

Mayor Vallone acknowledged the correction of 500 attendees for large events and not 250 as previously stated. He asked that Mr. Jones keep the Borough apprised of any changes in the number of attendees planned for the event.

Mr. Torsilieri informed the Borough Council, if the NJ State limitations for events remains at 500 attendees, it would not be feasible to hold the Far Hills Race Meet in October 2021. He noted that a final decision would be made in July.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

04/12/21 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE 2021-08 – AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$101,769.00 FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Council President Karner and Chief DeCarolis provided a brief overview of the capital items that were included in the Ordinance.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty that Ordinance 2021-08 be introduced.

Roll Call:

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution 21-080 – Authorizing 2020 Application for Recycling Tonnage Grant
2. Resolution 21-081 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman McLean that Resolutions 21-080 through 21-081 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, 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 Councilman McLean, was unanimously carried to open the meeting to public comment.

George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired as to reports received regarding the Errico Acres development.

Mayor Vallone responded the developer had submitted the site plan application to the Planning Board. The complete application was currently posted on the Borough website as well as available at the municipal building for the public to review.

Mr. Sordillo added the application, which included a large stormwater management report, was currently being reviewed for completeness by the Borough professionals. Once the technical review of the application was deemed complete, then a hearing before the Planning Board would be scheduled. He provided a brief overview of the Planning Board submission process for a preliminary and final site plan application.

Ms. Hicks provided information on how to access the digital copy of the application on the Borough of Far Hills website as well as reviewing the hard copy of the application at the municipal building.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired as to the billing for water and sewer for the Errico Acres development and also raised concern for any potential financial liability to the residents of Far Hills should the proposed onsite sewerage package plant system fail in the future.

Mayor Vallone responded residents of the new development would be responsible for any expenses for water and sewer for their respective unit. He added that the details for the onsite sewerage package plant would be reviewed in detail by the Planning Board.

Mr. Sordillo added that the operation and maintenance of the onsite sewerage package plant would be detailed in the homeowner's association agreement.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills expressed his consternation regarding the public comment which occurred during the April 12, 2021 Borough Council meeting.

A brief discussion ensued resulting in Mayor Vallone responding all members of the public are provided an equal opportunity to be heard during the Borough Council meeting.

There were no further comments from the public.

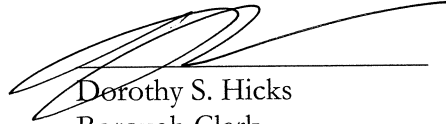
Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie, was unanimously carried to close the meeting to public comment.

Council President Karner informed the Borough Council that construction had begun at the Matheny Group Home site on Peapack Road. He also noted in March 2021, Mr. William Kent was hired as the new President and CEO of the Matheny School and Hospital, replacing Dr. Kendell Sprott.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Council President Karner, was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 05-10-21