

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
February 14, 2022
Via Remote Meeting Access Only

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Karner 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

Council President Karner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilman Joseph Carty, Councilwoman Mary Chimenti, Council President David Karner, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Councilman Kevin Welsh,

Absent, as Excused: Councilman Ted McLean, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Absent:

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

REPORTS

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

Councilman Welsh reported a meeting with the Atlantic Visiting Nurse Association was scheduled for February 17, 2022 to review the 2022 Spring Rummage Sale. He also indicated repairs were made to the lights on the large grandstand to improve visibility and safety at the fairgrounds.

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie reported a meeting of the Sanitary Transmission Advisory Board to review the 2022 Budget was scheduled for February 16, 2022.

Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

Councilwoman Chimenti reported the Court receipts for the month of December 2021 totaled \$2,841.66. She noted that she toured the sanitary sewer pumping station located in Bedminster and concurred that capital improvements were necessary.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner stated the two new police officers were working out well and have become acclimated the Borough. He noted the January 2022 Police Report was filed and all was copasetic in the Borough.

Chief DeCarolis – Police

No report.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

01/24/22 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

01/24/22 Executive Session Minutes

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

ORDINANCE 2022-03 – AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$40,000.00 FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT THE J. MALCOLM BELCHER FAIRGROUNDS

Councilman Welsh provided a brief overview of the capital projects being funded through this ordinance.

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti to open the public hearing.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired as to the usage of the buildings at the fairgrounds and the allocation of the \$40,000.00 in respect to the donation from Melillo Equities.

Councilman Welsh reviewed the repairs planned for the buildings at the fairgrounds.

Mr. Sordillo responded that the donation from Melillo Equities has not yet been received by the Borough.

There were no further 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 Councilwoman Chimenti, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie to close the public hearing.

Motion by Councilman Welsh, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Ordinance 2022-03 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie, Welsh

Nay:

Abstain:

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; a copy placed on the table in the meeting room and is considered routine and will be enacted with one motion 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 22-047 – Authorizing Payment to Raritan Valley Development Corporation
2. Resolution 22-048 – Approval of Large Event Permit – Matheny School & Hospital, Inc.
3. Resolution 22-049 – Authorizing Contract with Hunterdon Behavioral Health – EAP
4. Resolution 22-050 – Authorizing Contract with Somerset County – Use of Borough Police Officers for Various County Services and Functions
5. Resolution 22-051 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Resolutions 22-047 through 22-051 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Tweedie, Welsh, Karner

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 Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti to open the meeting to public comment.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills expressed his disappointment regarding the lack of a financial impact statement prior to the Planning Board's approval of the Pulte/Residences at Overleigh development. He also voiced concerns about the marketability of the for-sale units in light of an onsite sewer treatment facility instead of connecting to public sewer.

Ms. Hicks informed Mr. Schwester he had reached his five-minute limit and asked that he complete his comments in order for other members of the public to have an opportunity to be heard. The five-minute limit for public comment became a point of contention for Mr. Schwester while Mr. Sordillo reviewed the Borough Council's meeting procedures for public comment.

Richard Rinzler, 11 Hurlingham Club Road, Far Hills informed the Borough Council of potholes along Douglas Road near the intersection of Layton Road. He also asked for further explanation of the resolution authorized this evening regarding Somerset County and the use of municipal police officers.

Council President Karner asked Chief DeCarolis to review Douglas Road to address the necessary pothole repairs.

Chief DeCarolis responded that the resolution authorized a mutual aid agreement which can provide additional municipal officers for county services such as: S.W.A.T Team, Crisis Negotiation Team, and an Arson Task Force.

Don Hewitt, 23 Dumont Road, Far Hills inquired about the deed restriction on the Hotz/Raritan Valley Development Corporation agreement.

Mr. Sordillo responded that as the Borough was currently in negotiations he could not elaborate on the details but indicated the Borough Council was not currently taking the position to remove the reverter clause from the original agreement.

George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired if he could cede his five-minute allotment during public comment to another member of the public.

Mr. Sordillo responded that a five-minute limit for public comment has been in place in the Borough of Far Hills to maintain an orderly public meeting and to provide everyone a chance to be heard. He detailed the various forms of government and explained that under the Borough form, the mayor presides over the meetings and recalled at prior Borough Council meetings, members of the public were often afforded a second opportunity for public comment.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired how many municipalities in New Jersey were currently governed under the Welsh Act and continued to provide a brief overview of the Act.

Council President Karner acknowledged that there were five members of the public in attendance and thanked those who participated for their comments.

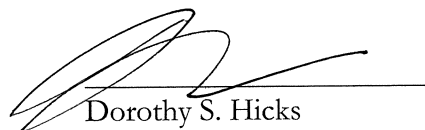
There were no further comments from the public.

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Welsh to close the meeting to public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Welsh was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 2/28/22