

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
April 25, 2022
Via Remote Meeting Access Only

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vallone called the remote meeting to order at 7:05 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: Councilwoman Mary Chimenti, Council President David Karner, Councilman Ted McLean, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Councilman Kevin Welsh
Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Absent, as Excused: Councilman Joseph Carty

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 on the progress of the improvements at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds and noted the NJDOT removed the debris from the Raritan River which had collected against the Route 202 Bridge. A brief discussion ensued regarding the removal of large trees that had fallen into the river upstream from the bridge. Mr. Sordillo was asked to review the jurisdictional responsibility for this removal.

Lastly, he reported the Recreation Committee was organizing a Community Clean-up Day at the fairgrounds to be held in the latter part of May 2022 and encouraged residents to participate.

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie reported she attended the Sanitary Transmission Advisory Board (STAB) meeting on April 13, 2022 and provided an update on the repair status to the Miller Lane Pumping Station facility. She stated two grant applications for improvements to the facilities have been submitted; one through a federal community funding opportunity and another through Somerset County. Councilwoman Tweedie also noted the Somerset County Engineer recently reviewed the facility with Mr. Rodney McCatharn, Wastewater Collections Operator, Bedminster Township.

Councilman McLean – Roads

No report.

Councilwoman Tweedie stated there were two large potholes near 20 and 80 Lake Road.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

Councilwoman Chimenti reported the retirement party for Judge Adler on April 12, 2022 was well attended. She stated that Judge Wong-Taylor would preside over her first court session on April 26, 2022.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner reported all was copasetic in the Borough and deferred to Chief DeCarolus for the Police Report.

Chief DeCarolus

Chief DeCarolus reported the Atlantic Visiting Nurse Association Rummage Sale donation collections were running smoothly and noted large crowds were anticipated for the final day of donations on April 26, 2022. He also reminded residents of the DEA Drug Take Back event scheduled for April 29, 2022 at the municipal building.

Mayor Vallone

Mayor Vallone reminded the Borough Council to complete the training offered by the NJ MEL as it provides the Borough with a discount on the insurance premiums.

He also reviewed the upcoming events in the Borough including the Memorial Day Parade on May 30, 2022 and invited residents to attend with their families. He also encouraged everyone to attend the AVN Rummage Sale to be held May 6-8, 2022. Lastly, he noted the Essex Horse Trials scheduled for July 1-2, 2022 would be held on separate days at Moorland Farm and Hamilton Farm.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

04/11/22 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

ORDINANCE 2022-05 – AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$165,000.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti to open the public hearing.

Council President Karner stated that a new pumper truck was essential due to the extraordinary amount of water required to extinguish an electric vehicle car fire.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired as to the total cost, maintenance, and longevity of the pumper truck.

Mayor Vallone confirmed the appropriation represented Far Hills 20% portion of the total cost shared proportionately with Bedminster Township and anticipated a useable life expectancy of 15-20 years.

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 Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Welsh to close the public hearing.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Ordinance 2022-05 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Karner, McLean, 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 22-070 – Authorizing Raffle License – Far Hills Race Meeting Association, Inc.
2. Resolution 22-071 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Councilman Welsh, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Resolutions 22-070 through 22-071 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Karner, McLean, Tweedie, Welsh

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION

Sidewalk Remediation – Route 202/Polo Club

Councilman McLean provided an overview of a drainage issue on the section of sidewalk along Route 202 SB near the train track crossing. He indicated that there was a low spot where the path from the Polo Club meets the sidewalk which has previously collected water, ice and mud and was a safety concern. He informed the Council that he contacted the Borough Engineer, Ferriero Engineering who recommended the installation of a drainage system. A brief discussion ensued regarding the required permitting with NJDOT and the potential to utilize Bedminster DPW or a private contractor to remediate the site resulting in a consensus to request cost estimates from the various entities. Chief DeCarolis was asked to install a cone in the area in the interim.

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 to open the meeting to public comment.

George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired if the sidewalks were required at the Polo Club Development. He also inquired if sidewalks were being required as part of the Residences at Overleigh development.

Council President Karner and Councilwoman Tweedie opined that the sidewalks were established in the original site plan for the Polo Club Development several years ago.

Mr. Sordillo responded that due to the requirement to maintain a scenic corridor, there would be no sidewalks installed along Route 202 from the Residences at Overleigh development.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills commented on the poor condition of Lake Road and inquired about repairs to the most egregious areas.

George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired about the ownership and maintenance of the roads within the Polo Club and Residences at Overleigh developments.

Mr. Sordillo responded the roads within the developments are owned and maintained by the respective homeowner's association.

There were no further comments from the public.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 5/9/22