

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Borough Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES
June 27, 2022
Via Remote Meeting Access Only

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Karner 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

Council President Karner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilman Joseph Carty, Councilwoman Mary Chimenti, Council President David Karner, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie
Absent, as Excused: Councilman Ted McLean, Councilman Kevin Welsh, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD
Absent:
Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Attorney Joseph Sordillo

REPORTS

Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation

Councilwoman Tweedie reported the Borough's Environmental Engineer, Natural Systems Utilities (NSU) would be jetting the sewer system in July. She cautioned that the jetting process had the potential to force water and air bubbles back in the property owner's plumbing which could allow sewer gases to enter the house. It is important that the toilets have an adequate amount of water in the bowl and P-trap to block these gases. Residents in the Village and the Polo Club will be provided notification through Nixle, the Borough website and also via an insert in the upcoming tax bill mailing but word of mouth was also encouraged. NSU would also be sending letters and going door to door to all affected residents prior to the commencement of the jetting of the sewer system.

Councilman Joseph Carty – Finance/Insurance

No report.

Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections

No report. Councilwoman Chimenti noted that one sash from the Memorial Day Parade had still not been returned and stated she gave her sash to Officer Jenkins and asked Ms. Hicks to confirm that it was received.

Council President Karner – Police

Council President Karner acknowledged the efforts of Detective Corporal Kamieniecki and Officer Minardi in assisting the Peapack & Gladstone Police Department to locate a missing person.

He indicated that a car was stolen from the Far Hills Train Station on June 24, 2022 and it was reported to have been unlocked and left running. Residents were again reminded to lock their vehicles and homes to avoid becoming a victim of theft.

Lastly, he noted Chief DeCarolis was not available this evening due to his attendance at the Police Security Conference in Atlantic City this week.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6/13/22 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

ORDINANCE 2022-08 – AN ORDINANCE TO FIX AND DETERMINE THE SALARIES, WAGES OR COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Carty was unanimously carried 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 Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Carty, was unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilman Carty that Ordinance 2022-08 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Tweedie, Karner

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 22-086 – Authorizing Submission – NJDOT FY2023 Grant Application
2. Resolution 22-087 – Authorizing Settlement Agreement – Tax Appeal
B6 L26 – 101 Spring Hollow Road

3. Resolution 22-088 – Authorizing Settlement Agreement – Tax Appeal
B19 L6.02 – 141 Liberty Corner Road
4. Resolution 22-089 – Authorizing Increase in Mileage Reimbursement
5. Resolution 22-090 – Authorizing Large Event Permit Application - Essex Horse Trials
6. Resolution 22-091 – Authorizing Agreement – PSE&G Direct Install Program
7. Resolution 22-092 – Authorizing Payment of Bill List

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolutions 22-086 through 22-092 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Tweedie, 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 Councilwoman Chimenti, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie to open the meeting to public comment.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills stated he informed Chief DeCarolis that the directional sign on Lake Road had been damaged due to a vehicular accident. Ms. Hicks was asked to also reach out to the Bedminster DPW and/or Somerset County regarding replacing the signage.

Mr. Schwester opined that the increase in interest rates would have an adverse effect upon real estate in the Borough and specifically raised concerns as to the viability of the Pulte/Residences at Overleigh development. He also reiterated his comments from the June 13, 2022 Borough Council meeting regarding changes to the NJDEP emergency floodplain regulations as well as the status of his request to be provided a financial impact study for the development.

Council President Karner thanked Mr. Schwester for his comments and responded he would meet with Mayor Vallone, Councilman Carty, and Mr. Sordillo to review these concerns and any effect they may have to the Pulte/Residences at Overleigh development that could be detrimental to the Borough.

Mr. Schwester was notified that he had exceeded the five-minute limit but was granted an additional two minutes by Council President Karner. After a lengthy heated discussion, Ms. Hicks was asked to mute Mr. Schwester's microphone for the remainder of the public comment portion of the meeting.

There were no further comments from the public.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 22-093

- Attorney Client Privilege – Affordable Housing Litigation

Motion by Councilwoman Chimenti, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie, was unanimously carried approve Resolution 22-093.

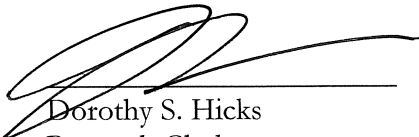
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Council President Karner indicated Dr. George Mellendick had joined the public portion of the meeting after the Borough Council had entered Executive Session and upon return to open session afforded Dr. Mellendick an opportunity for public comment. There was no response from Dr. Mellendick.

Council President Karner reviewed the possible reinstatement of in-person meetings prior to September as originally planned. Councilman Carty was in favor of resuming in-person meetings as soon as possible. Councilwoman Tweedie mentioned the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) meetings were currently being held via a hybrid format and she continues to attend them remotely. A brief discussion ensued resulting in Ms. Hicks being directed to share this information with Mayor Vallone.

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

APPROVED - 7/11/2022