

**BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS**  
Borough Council Regular Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
April 11, 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, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD (arrived 7:07 p.m.)  
Absent, as Excused: Councilman Ted McLean, Councilman Kevin Welsh  
Absent:  
Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo, Chief Michael DeCarolis

**REPORTS**

**Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation**

No report.

**Councilman Joseph Carty – Finance/Insurance**

No report.

**Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections**

Councilwoman Chimenti reported Judge Adler's last court session would be April 12, 2022 and reminded everyone a luncheon was planned in honor of his retirement. She stated that Judge Wong-Taylor would preside over the April 26, 2022 court session.

**Council President Karner – Police**

Council President Karner reported the new officers were acclimating well to Far Hills.

**Chief Michael DeCarolis**

Chief DeCarolis reported the collection of donations for the Atlantic Visiting Nurse Association Rummage Sale was underway and there were minimal traffic concerns. He also apprised the Council that a vehicle was stolen from the Far Hills Mall on Sunday, April 10, 2022, in broad daylight, especially noting that the keys were left in the ignition. Chief DeCarolis reminded everyone that they must remember to lock their homes and vehicles. He also stated that residents should report any suspicious activity to the Far Hills Police Department immediately.

**Mayor Vallone**

Mayor Vallone commented that the number of vehicular thefts in the state has been increasing and echoed the Chief's recommendations to residents.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **03/28/22 Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **ORDINANCES**

##### **PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION**

**ORDINANCE 2022-04** – AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022

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

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Ordinance 2022-04 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **ORDINANCES**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

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

Council President Karner briefly reviewed the fire calls that were responded to last year, which were presented at the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department Annual Dinner held on March 19, 2022. He especially noted the special training and procedures that must be undertaken regarding calls concerning electric vehicles.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti to introduce Ordinance 2022-05.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie

Nay:  
Abstain:  
Motion Carried.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **Resolution 22-064 – Introduction of Municipal Budget for 2022**

Mayor Vallone provided a brief overview of the budget process and indicated that the Far Hills Police Department expenditures represented approximately 30% of the overall 2022 budget. He continued to outline other expenditures including: support for the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department and First Aid Squad; upgrades to computer equipment and software to streamline services to residents, and maintenance of our municipal building, specifically the replacement of the roof. The budget also provides for road improvement projects throughout the Borough.

Mayor Vallone stated the municipal tax rate in the 2022 Budget is 0.520 which is a decrease from the 2021 municipal tax rate of 0.521.

He acknowledged the efforts of the CFO, Debra Stern and the Borough Auditor, Kathryn Mantell of Nisivoccia, LLC. Both Ms. Stern and Ms. Mantell will be in attendance at the budget hearing, currently scheduled for the May 9, 2022 Borough Council meeting, to answer any questions from our residents.

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Council President Karner that Resolution 22-064 be approved.

Roll Call:  
Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie, Vallone  
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 22-065 – Acceptance of Resignation – Finance Administrative Assistant
2. Resolution 22-066 – Appointment of Finance Assistant
3. Resolution 22-067 – Appointment of Finance Assistant
4. Resolution 22-068 – Authorizing Submission of 2021 Recycling Tonnage Grant
5. Resolution 22-069 – Payment of Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty that Resolutions 22-065 through 22-069 be approved.

Roll Call:  
Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie  
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 Carty to open the meeting to public comment.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired if the two new Finance Assistant positions approved this evening would be receiving healthcare benefits.

Mayor Vallone responded that they were part-time positions and would not be eligible for healthcare benefits.

There were no further comments from the public.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty to close the meeting to public comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Carty was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy S. Hicks', written over a horizontal line.

Dorothy S. Hicks  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 4/25/22