

**BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS**  
Borough Council Regular Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
August 10, 2020  
VIA CONFERENCE CALL ONLY

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vallone called the conference call meeting to order at 7:04 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, Councilman Richard Hand, Council President David Karner, Councilman Ted McLean, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, MD

Absent, as Excused: Councilman Joseph Carty

Absent

Also Present: Borough Clerk Dorothy S. Hicks, Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo

**REPORTS**

**Councilman Richard Hand – Fire, Water, Light, Buildings & Grounds**

Councilman Hand reported that he contacted Nelson Tree Service to schedule a meeting to review tree trimming and removal work in the Borough and asked Council President Karner if he would also be able attend.

A brief discussion ensued regarding areas in need of weed whacking at the J. Malcolm Belcher Fairgrounds resulting in Ms. Hicks being asked to reach out to DPW Director, John Mantz for clarification of their scope of work.

Lastly, Councilman Hand indicated that Ms. Cindy Ehrenclou, Executive Director of Raritan Headwaters Association inquired about the installation of a sign to designate their property that runs adjacent to the Raritan River and extends beyond the Fairgrounds as a Natural Preserve. A brief discussion ensued resulting in a consensus to formulate a subcommittee to further review this request.

**Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation**

No report.

**Councilman McLean – Roads**

Councilman McLean provided a brief overview of the road projects in the Borough.

Council President Karner inquired as to the status of the Ludlow Avenue and Dumont Road Drainage. Mayor Vallone responded that test sampling of the road way had been conducted and some relocation of the water infrastructure may be necessary. Ms. Hicks was asked to reach out to Ferriero Engineering for a timeline for the commencement of this project.

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

No report.

### **Council President Karner – Police**

Council President Karner indicated that Chief DeCarolus was unable to attend the meeting tonight but Council President Karner offered his congratulations to the DeCarolus family on the recent birth of their daughter.

Council President Karner provided an update on the recruitment efforts for a Class II Special Officer.

Council President Karner also reported that a branch had fallen on the fence at the Fairgrounds and asked that it be reviewed for remediation. He also noted that the roof for the gazebo was in need of attention and indicated that a local carpenter had offered his assistance.

Lastly, he informed the Council of the progress in the planning for the Borough's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary country picnic style event to take place on May 15, 2021 and emphasized the need to ensure that the Fairgrounds continued to be well maintained.

### **Mayor Vallone**

Mayor Vallone also expressed his congratulations to the DeCarolus family on the birth of their daughter.

Mayor Vallone apprised the Council of the efforts undertaken to restore power to Borough residents as a result of Tropical Storm Isaias which affected nearly 800,000 people throughout NJ/NY/PA. He indicated that 100% of Far Hills was without power for a period of time and was largely attributed to dependency upon three different substations. He added that along with the Office of Emergency Management and the New Jersey State Police, there was constant communication with representatives from First Energy/JCP&L to ensure power was restored as soon as possible. Mayor Vallone indicated that continual updates were communicated to residents via Nixle and the Borough website and expressed his appreciation to all residents for their understanding and patience.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

7/27/20 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

7/27/20 – Executive Session Minutes

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Hand was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content only.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION**

**ORDINANCE 2020-10** – AN ORDINANCE GRANTING RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO COMCAST TO CONSTRUCT, CONNECT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY.

Mr. Sordillo provided a brief overview of the review of Ordinance 2020-10 by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU). He indicated that due to the revisions it was necessary to re-introduce the Ordinance which occurred at the July 27, 2020 Borough Council meeting and the public hearing was noticed and scheduled for tonight's meeting. Mr. Sordillo also indicated that there were no changes to the originally negotiated terms.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Hand and 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 Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Council President Karner that Ordinance 2020-10 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Hand, Karner, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION**

**ORDINANCE 2020-14 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A CONSTRUCTION RECORDS CLEARANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS**

Ms. Hicks provided a brief overview of Ordinance 2020-14, which established a requirement for property owners to obtain a Construction Records Clearance Certificate prior to closing on the sale of the property, ensuring that all work was properly permitted and inspected.

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Council President Karner that Ordinance 2020-14 be introduced.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Hand, Karner, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

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 and are considered routine and will be enacted with one motion of 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 20-107 – Authorizing the Approval of the Special Event - Drive-In Movie  
Moorland Farm
2. Resolution 20-108 – Acceptance of Resignation Planning Board Member – Alternate #2
3. Resolution 20-109 – Re-Appointment – Construction and Fire Sub Code Official
4. Resolution 20-110 – Payment of Bill List

Councilman McLean inquired about the identity of the entity sponsoring the drive-in movie night being authorized by Resolution 20-107 and expressed concern over the non-disclosure.

A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Sordillo advising that the Borough's agreement for the event was with the property owner, Far Hills Race Meet Association/Moorland Farm and not the sponsor of the event. He added that the property owner was responsible for providing indemnity for the Borough.

It was determined that Resolution 20-107 should be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted upon separately.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Hand that Resolution 20-107 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Tweedie

Nay: McLean

Abstain:

Recused:

Motion Carried.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Hand that Resolutions 20-108 through 20-110 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Hand, Karner, McLean, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Recused:

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 Council President Karner to open the meeting for public comment.

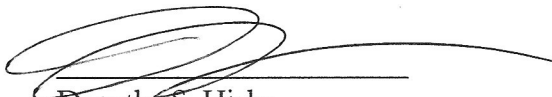
There were no comments from the public.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilman Hand and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy S. Hicks', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dorothy S. Hicks  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 8-24-2020