

Highlands council delays vote that could affect trailer park

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HIGHLANDS — The Borough Council last night tabled its vote on land-use revisions that could affect residents of a waterfront mobile-home park, instead passing a resolution to hire a special counsel to make the revisions.

Although the second reading and vote on adopting the revised ordinance were postponed, the council held a public hearing for the residents who live at the Paradise Trailer Park.

Gregory Vella of Collins, Vella and Casello LLC, Farmingdale, was hired to revise the ordinance to insure the residents were not left without protection from redevelopment.

The ordinance would change the waterfront property's zoning to mixed use, allowing property owner James Bollerman to redevelop the area. The homeowners could be left without some rights if provisions for such rights are not made in the ordinance.

As the owner, Bollerman has the right to retire the trailer park, Vella said. According to law, the owner would have to give tenants 18 months' notice, he said.

But without proper wording in the ordinance, residents could be asked to vacate the property without compensation. However, borough officials are including tenant compensation in the revised ordinance as well as a clause in case Bollerman were to sell the property to another buyer. If the new owner did not want to pay compensation, the land would revert back to its original use — not allowing redevelopment.

The next hearing on the land use ordinance will be at 8 p.m. March 21 at borough hall, Bay Avenue.

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