

Borough of Rocky Hill

Council Minutes

March 3, 2003

A regular meeting of the Rocky Hill Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Nolan at 7:33 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country and a moment of silent meditation. It was announced that this meeting has been advertised in the Somerset Messenger Gazette issue of December 12, 2002 in accordance with "The Open Public Meetings Act".

Roll Call:

Present

- Mr. Richard Batchelder
- Mr. Martin Engelbrecht
- Ms. Connie Hallman
- Ms. Peggy Harris
- Mr. George Morren

Absent

- Mr. Charles Pihokken

Minutes

The Minutes of the February 18, 2003 Meeting of the Rocky Hill Borough Council were approved as presented with a motion by Ms. Harris, second by Mr. Morren. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Public Comment

Mr. Serravallo, 56 Washington St., again expressed his strong objection to the sidewalk installed in front of his home which he says was installed with out notification to the owner. He also said he felt the sidewalk served no purpose and he felt he should not have to remove snow from the sidewalk in front of his home. He asked to have it removed or the Borough take over the maintenance.

Mayor Nolan said the sidewalk was installed with the other traffic calming measures installed along Rt. 518. The Mayor also said there were several public hearings on the Traffic Calming along Rt. 518 and the ordinance requiring homeowners to clear sidewalks of snow in front of their homes has been a law for many years.

Ms. Karen Alexander asked why traffic calming was not on the agenda and was told that sub committee reports at the Mid Month Meeting of Borough Council.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Staph reported that work on the Tennis Courts should resume in April.

The drainage project along Young Drive is complete and the Borough has held \$1500.00 to ensure any restoration required will be completed by the contractor.

Mr. Staph has notified Montgomery Twp. that before any flow of sewerage from Stonebridge at Montgomery, Rocky Hill's Borough Engineer must inspect and approve the flow metering system.

Mr. Staph reported he had received a letter from Somerset County concerning Rocky Hill's sewer main in relation to the River Road Bridge Replacement Project. He said this is a standard letter and the project is a long way off.

Ms. Michael DeCicco, Trinity Church spoke and said the Church against the project.

Mayor Nolan said the Borough has not approved this project.

Bill List

Mr. Morren presented the following RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS THE TREASURER HAS CERTIFIED THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO PAY SAID VOUCHERS: BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING VOUCHERS BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. Second by Ms. Harris. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix #1 for the Bill List.

Committee reports

Administration & Records: Ms. Hallman reported she is still working on Borough Employee Job classifications and Salary Ranges. It was also reported that the Borough Printer and Copy Machine have been repaired.

Buildings & Grounds: No Report.

Finance & Insurance: No Report

Public Safety/ Emergency Services: Mr. Morren said the Constable made many phone calls to residents concerning snow removal from sidewalks and issued one summons for not removing snow from the sidewalk. Mr. Batchelder asked about snow on sidewalks along Princeton Avenue and was told there is only one Constable now and he has been working the other end of town. Ms Harris expressed concern about cars double parking at the Post Office and was told the Constable will check it out.

Streets & Roads: Ms. Harris said she felt the County did a good job of snow removal during the storm of February 17, 2003 and they were called back to clear some intersections.

She will check with Emergency Services to see if Rocky Hill can receive funds to help with the last snow removal. She also asked the Rocky Hill Gazette to remind people to shovel out Fire Hydrants in front of their homes.

Water, Sewer, & Environmental Protection: Mr. Engelbrecht is working with Mr. Staph on the sewer bill from Montgomery Twp. and is also working with Mr. Staph to complete the Storm Water Report to the State.

Council representative to Planning Board: Mayor Nolan said changes to the Lyric Hall Application were approved as was the George White Application. He said the proposed fence ordinance was discussed.

Zoning Official: No Report.

Special Business

Nothing at this time.

Communications

They were discussed and ordered filed.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Nolan said the antenna issue is still being discussed.

Mr. Batchelder said he has received a letter from Patriot Communications the new owners of RCN Cable TV and they have raised the Cable TV rates effective April 1, 2003.

Mr. Morren stated the reason for the Health Contract increase was because the State finally enacted Federal Regs from years ago.

Mayor Nolan said Mr. Jim Hackler, Federal EPA Superfund Site, would like a meeting with Borough Officials.

New Business

Ms. Harris said the Newspaper Vending Machines in front of the Post Office are a safety hazard and must be addressed. She said there are eleven machines in front of the Post Office and it is almost impossible to exit a car from the passenger side. After some discussion it was decided Ms. Harris will try to fine out who owns the machines and Mr. Rankin our Attorney will write to them and explain our Ordinance and rules covering Newspaper Vending Machines.

Public Comment

Ms. Oakley said she also agrees it is almost impossible to exit from the passenger side of a car in front of the Post Office.

Mr. Moore asked where the Newspaper Vending Machines can be placed and was told our Ordinance is very specific as to where they can be placed.

Ms. Karen Alexander asked about how to get information about the Rocky Hill Historic District and was told the Planning Board is working on an information booklet for residents and copies of the Ordinance are available from the Borough Clerk. She next asked why the Mayor felt Sub Committee Meeting are better held with out Public attendance and was told it was the Mayor's decision to move forward that way and the Public is updated every month on the progress of the Sub Committees.

Mr. Germain said he felt Public attendance at meeting is generally good but he understood sometimes closed meetings are necessary.

Mr. Brad Alexander said he felt nothing is being done to improve traffic calming in the Borough.

Mayor Nolan said he and the sub committee are working on several issues to help improve traffic calming in the Borough.

Mr. White asked about the sewer Bill from Montgomery Twp. and was told a new bill is being worked on and Rocky Hill wants a clear explanation for the large increase in sewer fees from Montgomery Twp. in 2002.

Executive Session

Mr. Morren Moved, second by Ms. Hallman at 8:50 PM to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of possible litigation and Contract negotiation. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Mr. Morren Moved, second by Ms. Hallman at 9:35PM to return to Public Session. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Adjournment

Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Ms. Hallman to adjourn the meeting at 9:36PM. On a voice vote all present voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Whitlock Jr.
Borough Clerk



Borough of Rocky Hill New Jersey

EXECUTIVE SESSION
MARCH 3, 2003

Mayor
Brian A. Nolan

Council President
George E. B. Morren

Council Members
Richard D. Batchelder
Martin Engelbrecht
Connie Hallman
Peggy Harris
Charles T. Pihokken

Chief Financial Officer – Treasurer
G. Ross Bobal

Tax Collector
Donna Griffiths

Assessor
George Sopko

Engineer
Neil I. Van Cleef

Borough Magistrate
Eric Perkins

Borough Clerk
Raymond E. Whitlock, Jr.

Borough Attorney
John D. Rankin

Prosecutor
Christopher "Kip" Bateman

Mayor Nolan gave Borough Council Members an update on meeting he has had with Mr. David Schafer concerning the fifteen acres of land he owns in the Borough how Mr. Schafer feels the zoning and possible development should be.

Mayor Nolan said the Planning Board in trying to implement the new Master Plan had proposed down zoning his site. He is waiting to hear from Mr. Schafer as there are several ideas on the table.

Mayor Nolan gave an update on talks he Ms. Harris and Mr. Morren have had with South Bound Brook concerning the possible pilot program of some Police protection from them. He said its looks good and he Ms. Harris and Mr. Morren will continue to talk to South Bound Brook and the County Prosecutor.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Whitlock Jr.
Borough Clerk

All bills and communications should be sent to
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