

Borough of Rocky Hill

Council Minutes

SPECIAL MEETING

May 13, 2003

A special meeting of the Rocky Hill Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Nolan at 6:30 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country and a moment of silent meditation. It was announced that notice of this meeting was faxed to three newspapers on May 8, 2003 and Public Notice was put up on the Rocky Hill Post Office and Rocky Hill Public Library at the same time.

Roll Call:

Present

- Mr. Richard Batchelder
- Ms. Connie Hallman arrived at 6:58PM
- Ms. Peggy Harris
- Mr. George Morren
- Mr. Charles Pihokken

Absent

- Mr. Martin Engelbrecht

Public Comment

Mr. George White asked the purpose and was told it would be explained as the meeting went along.

Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Ms. Harris to go into Executive Session at 6:34PM to discuss contract proposals. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Mr. Pihokken to return to Public Session at 7:04PM. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Special business

Mayor Nolan stated Mr. Morren, Ms. Harris, and himself have been working, for the last several months, with a community in Somerset County to enhance traffic enforcement in Rocky Hill Borough. Discussions have been going on with Councilmembers, the Traffic Advisory Sub Committee, and leaders of the other community. Mayor Nolan said an agreement is close with the Borough of South Bound Brook to provide enhanced police traffic enforcement in the Borough. He explained it is a pilot project and the cost for the pilot program will not increase taxes for the year 2003. Mayor Nolan said he hoped the details of the agreement could be worked out soon and if ready they will be explained and open for discussion, by the residents, at the May 19, 2003 meeting of Borough Council. If the agreement is approved by Borough Council it is hoped the pilot program could start in early June. It was stated that the State Police will still be our Local Police Force and South Bound Brook would just enhance traffic enforcement. Mayor stated he had a press release he would like to read if Borough Council approves. Mr. Morren moved, second by Ms. Harris to approve the reading of the press release. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Mayor Nolan read the following Press Release:

In what will be the first in the State of New Jersey and has the potential to be an unprecedented example of the benefits of shared services among municipalities, the governments of the Borough of South Bound Brook and the Borough of Rocky Hill are exploring the benefits of a pilot program for shared police services. Ongoing negotiations are addressing the possibility of having the South Bound Brook Police provide part-time traffic and pedestrian safety enforcement to the Borough of Rocky Hill.

The goal of the program is to increase public safety and traffic enforcement in Rocky Hill while adding an element of targeted policing with regular police coverage continued by the New Jersey State Police.

Details of an Interlocal Agreement that will establish the parameters of the program are expected to be introduced shortly by the respective Borough Councils in the upcoming weeks. The agreement will address the number of hours, per month, that the South Bound Brook Police Officers will provide coverage for their D & R Canal Neighbors while not reducing the coverage or services in South Bound Brook.

“Our arrangement with the New Jersey State Police has been very beneficial in the areas of crime prevention and establishing a police presence,” stated Rocky Hill Mayor Brian Nolan. “We are in need of reevaluating traffic in the areas of speed limits, signalization, and traffic calming. Chief Verry and his Officers have a proven record in this area; therefore we are negotiating a mutually acceptable agreement by which we may bring their expertise to Rocky Hill,” added Mayor Nolan.

South Bound Brook Police Chief Robert A. Verry explains, “I am conducting a traffic assessment to determine the prime coverage days, times, and locations in Rocky Hill. In addition, I am analyzing traffic patterns to determine if

changes in flow will calm traffic and positively impact the Borough. Our goals are to assure that traffic control in Rocky Hill meets the current needs of their community, while providing increased enforcement to secure the safety and welfare of their citizens.”

Issues of reimbursement for services are also being negotiated and will be included in the agreement. Elements of the arrangements under consideration are payment of an hourly rate to South Bound Brook in addition to a sharing of revenue for violations and court costs.

South Bound Brook Mayor Jo-Anne Schubert stated, “We have to be certain that we will not sacrifice the safety of our residents, and at the same time maintain the same level of quality police coverage that the people of South Bound Brook have come to expect.”

Communications

They were discussed and ordered filed.

Mayor Nolan said he and John Rankin have sent a letter to Montgomery Twp. Traffic Committee listing concerns Rocky Hill Borough has with their proposed traffic solutions around the Rt. 518 Rt. 206 intersection.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Nolan stated he will be meeting with Capt. Wendy Galloway. New Jersey State Police, concerning policing issues in the Borough. He also said SGT. Reilly will be at the next Council Meeting.

New Business

Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Ms. Harris to send a \$100.00 donation to the Rocky Hill Rescue Squad in memory of Dorothy T. Whitlock mother of Borough Clerk Raymond E. Whitlock Jr. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Public Comment

Nothing at this time.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21PM with a motion by Mr. Batchelder, second by Mr. Pihokken. On a voice vote all present voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Whitlock Jr.
Borough Clerk



Borough of Rocky Hill New Jersey

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MAY 13, 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

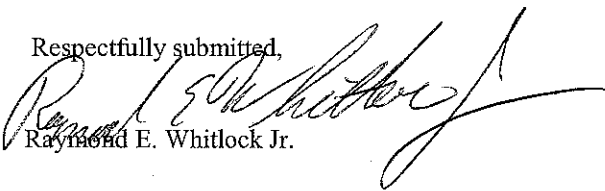
Christopher "Kip" Bateman

The Executive Session was opened at 6:34PM and attended by Mayor Nolan, Council President Morren, Councilmembers Batchelder, Harris, and Pihokken. Councilmember Hallman arrived at 6:58PM.

Mayor Nolan explained to Councilmembers that an Interlocal agreement with South Bound Brook Borough for enhanced police traffic and pedestrian safety enforcement is close to being finalized. Mayor Nolan distributed confidential material to Borough Council Members concerning the proposed Interlocal agreement with South Bound Brook Borough.

If approved by both communities it will be a three month pilot program of about 50 hours per month coverage by South Bound Brook Police. This program will not cause any increase in taxes for the year 2003.

Respectfully submitted,


Raymond E. Whitlock Jr.

All bills and communications should be sent to

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