

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
November 19, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Rocky Hill was called to order by Mayor Edward Zimmerman at 7:30 PM followed by the salute to the Flag and a moment of silent meditation in memory of Borough resident, Lorraine Feher.

NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The following statement was read into the record by Mayor Zimmerman: This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting was included in a list of meetings advertised in the December 16, 2006, edition of the Somerset Messenger Gazette and transmitted to the Courier News and Somerset Spectator. Notice has been posted accordingly and a copy of this notice is available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

CERTIFICATION BY COUNTY CLERK OF GENERAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 6, 2007

Certification of Election Results of the November 6, 2007, from County Clerk Brett Radi was read into the record by Borough Clerk Griffiths. The following results were certified: Two, three year terms to be filled by James Banks and Linda G. Goldman; One unexpired term through 12/31/08 to be filled by Courtney H. White.

OATH OF OFFICE – COUNCILMEMBER COURTNEY WHITE

The oath of office was administered to Councilmember Courtney White by Borough Clerk Griffiths for the unexpired Borough Council vacancy through 12/31/08.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Jim Banks-present, Ms. Linda Goldman-present, Mr. Brian Griner-present, Mr. William Hallman-present, Ms. Courtney White-present. Mr. Jared Witt-present

Also present: Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, Deputy Clerk Raymond Whitlock .

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Mayor Zimmerman provided a summary of the topics of discussion at the New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference held last week urging attendance of future training sessions by Council members.
- By-Laws/Council Committees – Discussion ensued regarding the need for review of the Borough Council by-laws and possible realignment of duties of committees. It was agreed to have discussion carried to the next meeting regarding the duty re-alignment of committees. Mayor Zimmerman noted a requirement in the by-laws for the submission of a written annual report by each committee chair at the end of the calendar year. It was agreed that compliance with this requirement would be instituted effective with the 2008 calendar year. A format for the report will be developed.
- PSE&G – Information was received regarding the “Switch and Save Program” which provides residents the opportunity to obtain free compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Reminder was received from the Somerset County Freeholders that this month is Lung Cancer Awareness month.
- NJ Mayors’ Healthy Cook Off 2007 Cookbooks are available for purchase through the Rocky Hill Community Group.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Minutes – November 5, 2007 – Motion was made by Witt with a second by Griner to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes; Hallman – abstain.

REQUEST OF COUNCIL FOR NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS (NOT ON AGENDA)

None presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor was opened to the public for comments/questions; hearing none the floor was closed.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Motion was made by Goldman with a second by Griner for the approval of the vouchers/bill list with the exception of check #5590 – AT&T - \$14.10 which will be voided. Billing issue for the water department phone long distance line has been resolved with AT&T by Councilman Banks and reimbursement for previous charges is expected. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

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DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Motion was made by Witt with a second by Goldman to accept the following reports:

Tax Collector – October 2007

Court Administrator – October 2007

Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Records – Councilmember Goldman is working on the code book updating, the website, and the development of standard operating procedures. It was requested that Council members provide Ms. Goldman with guidelines and/or descriptions of duties/responsibilities carried out as the chair of the various Council committees.

Buildings and Grounds - It is expected that the carpeting will be installed by the end of the year.

Finance & Insurance – It was requested that committee chairs meet with boards/commissions under their direction for the purpose of ascertaining needs for the 2008 budget.

Public Safety & Emergency Services - A summary of the constables' report was given by Councilmember Hallman. Suggestion was made by Mr. Hallman that consideration be given for the purchase of vests and/or jackets and traffic wands for the constables. Deputy Clerk Whitlock will check to see if funds are available in the 2007 budget for purchase of same. Councilmember Banks suggested that consideration be given also for the purchase of boots and pants.

Streets & Roads – Councilmember White advised that the pedestrian signs have been taken down; Mayor Zimmerman will advise the park committee of the problem with the trash bins at Van Horne Park filling up with water; street lights have been replaced by PSE&G; tree trimming will be done tomorrow by PSE&G on Montgomery Ave; Ms. White and Gabrielle Dietrich attended the annual Shade Tree Federation Conference; the tree lighting will be held on 12/9/07 between 4-6 PM. Notice of a 2008 Green Communities Grant from Forestry Services was provided to Councilmember's White and Hallman.

Water, Sewer & Environmental Protection – Water report from Superintendent Larry Merk for October 2007 was received and summarized by Councilman Banks. It was noted that there was extra usage for the month, however, the usage appears to be back to normal. Mr. Merk will continue to monitor the readings. Inquiries from residents as to a difference in the taste of water have been referred to Mr. Merk. He has advised that there have been no purity problems found and he suggests that residents perform regular maintenance of water heaters which could affect the taste of the water; overfilling issue with AT&T has been resolved; reimbursement is expected. Mr. Banks will be meeting with a new representative from ARC next month to discuss the landscape plan issue.

Council Representative to Planning Board – Planning Board meeting cancelled.

Council Representative to School Board – No report at this time.

Council Representative to Board of Health – No report at this time.

Zoning Official – Report dated 11/19/07 was distributed and summarized by Zoning Official Raffaelli. Discussion ensued regarding property at 98 Washington St., specifically, issue with the condition of the outbuilding on the property and reports of vermin. It was agreed that a letter be sent by the Zoning Official to the property owners advising them of the concerns and requesting access to the property for inspection. In the event there is no response to the request, consideration will be given to referring the matter to the Board of Health for follow-up and enforcement if required.

Grants Official – Councilmember Hallman advised that the Borough was not awarded the General Mills grant recently applied for by the Borough.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Introduction – Ordinance #12, 2007 – “AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NOS. 7-86 AND 7-87 AND ADOPTING A NEW ORDINANCE WHICH COMBINES THESE TWO (2) ORDINANCES INTO ONE (1) UNIFIED ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A MANDATORY PROGRAM FOR THE SEPARATION AND COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES, AND FIXING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF IN THE BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY” - as filed in the Borough Clerk's office was read by title.

Attorney Cruz advised that questions raised last month have been addressed by the Somerset County Recycling Manager Diana Vigilante, specifically, that the curbside recycling program remains the same for 2008. Residents are not required to further separate recyclables and should continue what they are currently doing. Language has been included in the ordinance (Section 4) regarding the use of blue recycling containers as recommended by the County. Motion to introduce the ordinance as of the latest revision date of 11/14/07 was made by Griner with a second by Witt. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Public hearing scheduled for 12/3/07 at 7:30 PM.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications as listed on the agenda were disseminated and/or ordered filed.

- Somerset County Planning Board correspondence dated 11/8/07, RE: 2007 Somerset County GIS Parcel-based Zoning Dataset was received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Municipal Approval of Fireman's Application – Stephen Seeley - Formal application was received from Stephen Seeley for membership with the Rocky Hill Fire Department. Motion was made by Griner with a second by White authorizing municipal approval of the application. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor was opened for comments/questions; hearing none, the floor was closed to the public.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM was made by Griner with a second by Witt.
Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths, RMC
Borough Clerk