

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
July 7, 2008**

The special 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.

NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The following statement was read into the record by Mayor Zimmerman: This special meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of this meeting was transmitted to the Courier News and Somerset Spectator on June 25, 2008. In addition, copy of said notice was posted accordingly and filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk on aforementioned date. Notices on the bulletin boards have remained continuously posted.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Ms. Julia Hasser

Also present: Deputy Clerk Raymond Whitlock Jr., Borough Auditor Robert Morrison, CFO Ross Bobal.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Public Hearing: Ordinance #3, 2008 – “Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank” – The ordinance as filed in the Borough Clerk’s Office was read by title into the record. Proof of publication was received. The floor was opened to the public for comments/questions. Hearing none, the floor was closed to the public. Motion was made by Banks with a second by Goldman for the adoption of the ordinance as presented. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

Public Hearing: Resolution 2008-37 – 2008 Rocky Hill Borough Municipal Budget – Mayor Zimmerman delivered a budget message relative to the adoption of the Borough’s 2008 budget. Mayor Zimmerman noted efforts put forth last year to alleviate a local tax rate increase. However, in light of recent State aid cuts by the Governor (30% cut in actuality), the Borough is faced with a local tax increase for the 2008 budget year. Appreciation was extended to Senator Bateman and Assembly members Biondi and Coyle for their attempts in getting some of the state aid funds restored and for voting against the State budget. Mayor Zimmerman advised that in addition to the “small town” tax imposed upon the Borough, the Governor has signed into effect a mandate requiring municipalities served by the State Police Rural Patrol to enter into a cost sharing agreement which requires an additional direct expenditure by the municipality and does not authorize a new revenue source other than property tax. Letter dated July 7, 2008, to the Borough Council from Mayor Zimmerman was read into the record. By way of formal letter, Council was advised of the Mayor’s intent to file a formal complaint with the Council on Local Mandates finding the new law to be an unfunded State mandate thereby resulting in a request for injunctive relief. Council was in agreement with the complaint to be filed.

Budget Resolution 2008-37 - A summary of the budget as introduced was provided by Auditor Morrison. All statutory requirements for the noticing of the budget have been complied with and Auditor Morrison noted that the Division of Local Government Services has authorized the adoption of the budget at this scheduled hearing. Due to the restoration of additional State aid funds since the introduction of the budget, a five cents increase in the local tax will be realized as opposed to the eight cents increase as initially projected. The five cents increase equates to \$120.90 per year for a house assessed at \$250,000.00. The floor was opened to the public for comments/questions on the budget as introduced. Hearing none, the floor was closed to the public.

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Amendment to Budget – The floor was opened to the public for comments/questions on the amendment to the budget as summarized by Auditor Morrison. Hearing none, the floor was closed. Motion was made by Banks with a second by Goldman for the adoption of the budget amendment. Roll call: Banks-aye, Goldman-aye, Griner-aye, Hallman-aye, White-aye. Motion carried.

Adoption of 2008 Budget as Introduced and Amended – Motion was made by Banks with a second by Goldman for the adoption of the budget as introduced and amended. Roll call: Banks-aye, Goldman-aye, Griner-aye, Hallman-aye, White-aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS/BILL LIST

Bill list was presented to include previous payments authorized for Park Night and the Fourth of July Event. Motion was made by Griner with a second by Banks for the approval of the bill list as presented. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Hearing no questions/comments, the floor was closed to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM was made by Hallman with a second by Banks. All voted in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths, RMC
Borough Clerk