

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
February 20, 2008**

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.

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 7, 2007, edition of the Courier News and transmitted to the 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.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present: Borough Attorney Albert Cruz.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Zimmerman advised that a budget workshop was held on February 18, 2008; Borough Auditor Morrison is preparing a new form of the budget based on the budget workshop.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS

Motion was made by Hasser with a second by Banks confirming the 2008 Emergency Management appointments by the Mayor (attached). Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Minutes – February 4, 2008 - Motion was made by Goldman with a second by Hasser to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

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

None presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST/VOUCHERS TO BE PAID

No bill list was presented.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Tax Collector – January 2008
Court Administrator – January 2008

Motion was made by White with a second by Goldman for the acceptance of the reports as submitted. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Records – No report at this time.

Buildings & Grounds – No report at this time.

Finance & Insurance – No report at this time.

Public Safety and Emergency Services – Mayor Zimmerman noted that a Constable's badge has been issued to Constable Al Chini.

Streets & Roads – Councilmember White advised that she is waiting for a response from the County as to the amount of pedestrian signs that need to be replaced.

Water, Sewer, & Environmental Protection – January 2008 report from Superintendent Larry Merk was summarized by Councilmember Griner.

Council Representative to Planning Board – Councilmember Goldman advised that the Planning Board met and awarded their professional services contracts.

Council Representative to School Board – It was noted that the School Board is looking for candidates; petitions need to be filed by Monday.

Council Representative to Board of Health – It was noted that the Board of Health is currently looking into a new software program for dog and cat licensing. Invoice for \$127.35 for payment of the Board's website was presented. Motion was made by Hallman with a second by Banks for the approval of the voucher. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes; Hasser-no.

Zoning Official's Report – No report at this time.

Grants Committee - Councilman Hallman advised that several potential grants have been identified for further discussion with the Mayor and Fire Chief Harris. A grant workshop relative to fire/rescue is being held on Friday and will be attended by Mayor Zimmerman and Councilman Hallman.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Rocky Hill Fire Department – Annual Report/Fire Truck Presentation – Carried to the March 3, 2008 meeting at the request of Chief Harris.

Deer Control Program – Christopher Markham, part-owner, of New Jersey Deer Control, provided an overview of the company's services. The Borough has been afforded a free application of deer repellent for Borough property (value up to \$400.00). Information on the all natural repellent spray and application of same was provided. It was the consensus of Council to decline the service offered whereas an appropriate need on Borough property could not be identified.

Public comment:

Mr. Markham responded to questions raised by residents, Cliff Moore and Peggy Merritt, in regard to the ingredients in the spray, specifically noting that there are no pesticides in the product.

Rocky Hill Classic Bike Race – Tom Licker, Event Promoter, and Janine Lacava, Fund Raising Committee member, appeared before Mayor and Council. Mr. Licker requested permission to host this event in the Borough again this year. The proposed date is Saturday, June 21, 2008. Discussion ensued in regard to last year's event. It was noted that there were some minor issues but overall the event far exceeded everyone's expectations. There was no cost to the Borough; the traffic control and public safety costs were paid out of the fundraising monies. The volunteer organizations were pleased with the funds they received. It is hopeful that there will be increased sponsorships this year. Suggestions were made as follow: a new location for the registration area should be considered (possibly fireman's field), Van Horne Park should be considered for parking needs, more signage for parking and bathroom facilities should be erected, there should be consideration for a swap meet, and more advertisement of the event should be made within the community.

Public comment:

Cliff Moore, resident, suggested that a craft event be considered.

Peggy Harris, resident – expressed concern with the parking problems experienced on Crescent Ave. due to the cyclists parking in that area; consideration should be given to a designated parking area.

Peggy Merritt, resident – In response to questioning, Mr. Licker addressed questions regarding the staging format.

Motion was made by Griner with a second by Hasser to approve the permit for the event date of June 21, 2008. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

Resolution 2008-23 – Extension of Police Services Contract – South Bound Brook – Motion was made by Hasser with a second by Griner for approval of the resolution extending police services with the Borough of South Bound Brook through March 31, 2008. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Mayor Zimmerman will be meeting with representatives of South Bound Brook to negotiate a new contract.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Request for Resolution of Support – Impact of New Toll Hikes/Truck Traffic – Copy of the resolution of support from Hopewell Township was distributed. It was agreed that the Borough should draft a similar resolution of support in light of the potential impact of truck traffic on Route 518. A resolution will be drafted by Borough Clerk Griffiths for consideration of adoption at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

- Invitation to attend a silent auction and dinner being held on 3/6/08 was received from the Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peggy Harris, resident – Mayor Zimmerman provided information contained in the Court Administrator's report relative to revenues received for the month. Mayor Zimmerman agreed with suggestion from Ms. Harris that the report will be read into the record in the future in following with past practice. In response to concerns raised about the leash law signage and pet waste problems in the parks, Mayor Zimmerman advised that signs and pet waste bags are being installed at Van Horne Park. He further advised that consideration will be given to installing the signs and waste bag dispensers in the Green Acres Park after an evaluation is made of the units installed at Van Horne Park. Signage for the hours of operation of the park is still under discussion as the ordinance requirements differ between Rocky Hill and Montgomery.

In regard to the issue raised with the lids for the trash cans, Mayor Zimmerman advised that it was decided that holes would be drilled in the cans for drainage purposes. It is hoped that this will help alleviate the problem of the cans filling up with water. It was noted that the problem should be lessened once there is regular disposal of the garbage.

Tom Bremner, resident - In response to questioning in regard to access into Van Horne Park, Mayor Zimmerman advised that an access between the pond and the Business Park is being pursued.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RESOLUTION 2008-24 TO RETIRE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Resolution was read into the record by Borough Clerk Griffiths. The nature of the discussion is as follows:

Contract Negotiations – Police Services

Litigation – Rocky Hill Citizens for Responsible Growth v. Borough of Rocky Hill, et als.

Motion was made by Hasser with a second by Goldman to approve the resolution. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes (8:45 PM).

RESULTS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF ANY):

Results of the executive session were not available to the public at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM was made by Griner with a second by Goldman. All voted in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths, RMC
Borough Clerk