

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
February 4, 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, Borough Engineer William Tanner, Chief Financial Officer G. Ross Bobal.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Zimmerman reported on an upcoming meeting to be held with the Rocky Hill Rescue Squad.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Minutes – January 23, 2008 – Motion was made by Hasser with a second by Goldman to approve the minutes with the following amendment: Streets & Roads – clarification that “lights around the Borough Hall signs should be re-wired.” Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

Executive Session Minutes – January 23, 2008 – Motion was made by Hallman with a second by Banks for the approval of 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 COMMENTS**

Cliff Moore, resident, expressed concern with the recurring problem of people not adhering to the Borough’s “pooper scooper” ordinance on the Green Acres property. He also expressed concern with the lack of adequate signage in the park pertaining to same. It was noted that this problem is also occurring in other areas of town. Council member Banks will follow-up on the signage issue and Council member Hallman will follow-up with the constables on the enforcement issue.

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

**STATE POLICE REPORT**

No report at this time.

### **ENGINEER’S REPORT**

Report dated January 4, 2008 for January was received and distributed (copy on file in the Borough Clerk’s Office). The following items were discussed:

County Park Project – Engineer Tanner advised that a meeting of the Van Horne Park Committee is rescheduled for this week and he will present the request for signs relative to the “pooper scooper” issue along with suggestion for the installation of bag dispensers. Engineer Tanner will also follow up on the following outstanding issues: numbering/lettering of the markers throughout the park for emergency services purposes; lack of covers on the trash cans; hole in the area of the water line; steel rods sticking out around electric box in the area of the restroom.

Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) – Engineer Tanner advised that canvassing is being done throughout the Borough by representatives from VanCleaf Engineering.

Sidewalk Repair/Replacement Project – Engineer Tanner advised that the survey work has been done on Washington St. as a follow-up to the NJDOT grant that the Borough received. Engineer Tanner is in the process of completing the application for a possibly needed permit from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) relative to this project. He indicated that he would like to pursue the remainder of the sidewalk repair/replacement project in the meantime for the other sidewalks while awaiting a response from the SHPO.

There were no comments/questions from members of the public.

**Resolution 2008-22 - Change Order – Grove St.** – Resolution authorizing a change order resulting in a reduced amount of the contract of \$2538.24 as recommended by Engineer Tanner was presented. Motion was made by Banks with a second by Hallman to adopt the resolution. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

### **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER’S REPORT**

Budget Expenditure Balance Report for 2007 dated 12/31/07 and Analysis of 2007 Revenues Report dated 12/31/07 was presented by CFO Bobal. Discussion ensued regarding the analysis of the reports submitted. Request was made by Mayor and Council for detailed spreadsheets of budgetary line items to aid in the composing the 2008 budget. Mayor Zimmerman also recommended that a more detailed chart of accounts needs to be looked into. Mayor Zimmerman requested that CFO Bobal schedule a meeting for the upcoming week to include: Mayor Zimmerman, Auditor Morrison, CFO Bobal, and the Chair or Vice Chair of the Finance Committee for preliminary discussion of the 2008 budget.

It was noted that the 2007 Annual Debt Statement of the Borough has been filed by CFO Bobal with the State as required (copy on file).

### **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS TO BE PAID**

Motion was made by Goldman with a second by Banks for the approval of the bill list contingent upon the correction to reference made to “Ordinance 12-08” to “#12-07”. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS**

**Introduction – Ordinance #1, 2008 – “An Ordinance Adopting a Codification and Revision of the Ordinances of the Borough of Rocky Hill, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, providing for the maintenance of said code; repealing and saving from repeal certain ordinances not included therein; establishing a penalty for altering or tampering with the code; and making certain changes in previously adopted ordinances** “as filed in the Borough Clerk’s office was read by title. Attorney Cruz advised that as a follow-up to last month’s meeting, General Code has advised the Borough Clerk that as referenced in the draft ordinance, all ordinances through May 6, 2002, should be saved from repeal. They recommend the adoption of the ordinance as presented with the May 6, 2002 cut-off date. All applicable ordinances adopted after this date will be codified automatically after the adoption of the code. Correction of the date on the title page of the ordinance will be made to read “March 2008” and request will be made for the updating of the officials page. Motion was made by Goldman with a second by Hasser for the introduction of the ordinance. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Public hearing scheduled for March 3, 2008 at 7:30 PM in Borough Hall.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Montgomery War Memorial** – As a follow-up to the last meeting, Mayor Zimmerman advised that the Montgomery War Memorial Committee has requested assistance in developing the list of pre-1890 veterans from Rocky Hill. The Committee has advised that they are meeting with the Montgomery Township Committee to discuss the possibility of moving the memorial location to the Skillman Village. It was noted that there is no fee/no donation required for the Borough’s involvement. Continued discussion will ensue regarding the post-1890 veterans’ memorial.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Request for Funding – Mary Jacobs Library** – Anthony Bianculli, Trustee, of the Mary Jacobs Library appeared before Mayor and Council. Mr. Bianculli provided an overview of the financial operations of the library. The usage of the library facility by the contributing municipalities was noted as: 10% - Rocky Hill; 75% Montgomery Township; 15% - Franklin Township and others who work in Somerset County. The Library is requesting funding from the Borough for calendar year 2008 in the amount of \$10,000.00 (the same amount that was provided by the Borough last year). Mayor Zimmerman advised that consideration will be given to this request during the budget process.

**Somerset County Governing Officials’ Meeting – 2/13/08** – Mayor Zimmerman suggested that invitation should be extended to members of the Rocky Hill Fire Department and Rescue Squad to attend this dinner meeting due to the fact that Alan Querec, Emergency Services Coordinator, is the guest speaker. Motion was made by Griner with a second by Banks approving the expenditure of up to \$210.00 (six attendees x \$35/person) in order that members may attend this event. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

- Letter dated 1/22/08 from Municipal Court Division Manager Cordell of the Superior Court of NJ  
Re: 2007/08 Annual Visitation of Rocky Hill Municipal Court was received;
- Public hearing notice from Franklin Township, Re: Proposed Ordinance #3740 was received;
- Request for Resolution of Support from Hopewell Township, Re: Impact of Toll Hikes was received.  
Mayor Zimmerman suggested that consideration be given to supporting this resolution due to the potential impact on the Borough’s roads from truck traffic due to the proposed toll hikes. Copy of the resolution will be distributed to Council for review and further discussion.

- Safe Routes to School Program Grants – Council member Hallman advised that upon following up on the details of the grant, it has been determined that the Borough does not qualify for the grant. The grant only covers projects within an approximate two mile radius of a K-8 school. Council member White will follow-up with Engineer Tanner as to whether there are any other applicable grants that would assist in the purchase of the proposed on-demand crossing light that would have been considered via this grant.

**FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Hearing no comments/questions, the floor was closed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM was made by Hallman with a second by White.  
All voted in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths, RMC  
Borough Clerk