

Borough of Rocky Hill

Council Minutes

April 19, 2004

A regular meeting of the Rocky Hill Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Nolan at 7:30 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country and a moment of silent meditation. It was announced that this meeting has been advertised in the Somerset Messenger Gazette issue of December 6, 2003 in accordance with "The Open Public Meetings Act".

Roll Call:

Present

- Mr. Richard Batchelder
- Mr. Martin Engelbrecht
- Ms. Connie Hallman
- Ms. Peggy Harris
- Mr. George Morren

Absent

- Mr. Edward Zimmerman

Minutes

The minutes of the April 5, 2004 meeting of Rocky Hill Borough Council were approved as presented with a motion by Mr. Morren, second by Mr. Engelbrecht. On a roll call vote Mr. Batchelder, Mr. Engelbrecht, Ms. Harris, and Mr. Morren voted aye. Ms. Hallman abstained.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of Rocky Hill Borough Council held on April 14, 2004 were approved as presented with a motion by Mr. Batchelder, second by Ms. Harris. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Public Comment

Mr. Mark Germain asked why there was a meeting with the owners of the Schafer 15 acres tract concerning the zoning. Mayor Nolan said as was stated at the Special Meeting on April 14, 2004 parties felt it was in the best interest of Rocky Hill Borough to see if any common ground or compromise could be reached that would satisfy both parties and possibly avoid litigation. The agreement reached was Mr. Schafer would pull his current development application (without prejudice) and Borough Council would table the proposed Ordinance while talks were going on.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Batchelder presented a line item budget report and asked each Councilmember to watch line items under their control.

Bill List

Mr. Morren presented the following RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS THE TREASURER HAS CERTIFIED THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO PAY SAID VOUCHERS; BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING VOUCHERS BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. Second by Ms. Harris. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix #1 for the Bill List.

Special Business

A RESOLUTION authorizing participation of the Borough of Rocky Hill in the State Development and Redevelopment Plan, was moved by Mr. Morren, second by Ms. Harris. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See Appendix #2 for the RESOLUTION.

A RESOLUTION authorizing the Borough of Rocky Hill to execute an inter-local agreement with Somerset County to accept a County/Municipal Cross-Acceptance Grant to offset the cost of participation in the cross-acceptance process, was moved by Ms. Harris, second by Mr. Morren. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix #3 for the RESOLUTION.

Communications

They were discussed and ordered filed.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Batchelder asked Councilmembers to look at the QAlert-Resident Service Request and make any suggestions by the next meeting or he will activate it as is.

Mr. Morren asked about signing up for use of the tennis courts and after some discussion it was decided Mr. Batchelder will check with Ms. Zimmerman, Recreation Director in Montgomery Twp., for advice.

There was quite a bit of discussion by several Councilmembers concerning displaying the US Flag on utility poles along Rt. 518. Some felt it should not be done since the Flags are not lighted at night and the flags are not to be a decoration. Others felt they were attractive and should be displayed. It was decided by Borough Council not to have the Fire Co. install the Flags at this time. Mr. Morren said he would research proper Flag etiquette.

New Business

Ms Harris asked about cleaning the Borough Streets and it was decided the Borough Clerk will call the vendor to clean the Borough Streets after the spring clean up day.

Councilmembers reviewed a letter from Dr. Ackley, 16 Merritt Lane requesting that a road sign in front of his house be removed because the speed humps on Merritt Lane control the speed of traffic and the curve ahead sign is not necessary. After some discussion Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Mr. Morren to have the sign removed on Merritt Lane. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. The Borough Clerk will notify Dr. Ackley.

Mr. Morren moved, second by Ms. Hallman a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the recreation grant application to Somerset County for 2004. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Mayor Nolan stated Ms. Marilyn Staats, Borough Court Administrator resigned, and the Borough is seeking a replacement. It was said court this month will be April 29, 2004. The Mayor has spoken with the auditor and the Court Administrator's books will be audited soon.

Mayor Nolan said he received a request to send a letter of support concerning grants for the Rocky Hill Community Group from Ms. Greiff. The Mayor will send a letter.

Public Comment

Nothing at this time. It was stated Borough Council will go into Executive Session but no more business will be discussed when they return to Public Session.

Mr. Morren moved to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of potential litigation concerning the Schafer Tract 15 Acres, second by Ms. Harris. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. 8:20PM.

Mr. Morren moved, second by Mr. Batchelder to return to Public Session. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. 8:48PM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49PM with a motion by Mr. Batchelder, second Mr. Morren. On a voice vote all present voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Whitlock Jr.
Borough Clerk