

Borough of Rocky Hill

Council Minutes

May 3, 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
- Mr. Edward Zimmerman

Minutes

The minutes of the April 19, 2004 meeting of the Rocky Hill Borough Council were approved as presented with a motion by Mr. Morren, second by Ms. Harris. On a roll call vote Mr. Batchelder, Mr. Engelbrecht, Ms. Hallman, Ms. Harris, and Mr. Morren voted aye. Mr. Zimmerman abstained.

The minutes of the Executive Session of April 19, 2004 were approved as presented with a motion by Mr. Morren, second by Ms. Harris. On a roll call vote Mr. Batchelder, Mr. Engelbrecht, Ms. Hallman, Ms. Harris, and Mr. Morren voted aye. Mr. Zimmerman abstained.

Public Comment

Nothing at this time.

Engineer's Report

A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

Mr. Tanner presented two quotes to correct the drainage problem near the soccer field, turf restoration around tennis courts, and asphalt curbing along Merritt Lane to prevent erosion. The quotes were \$6915.00 from JLM Assoc. and \$13,590.00 from K & A Assoc. It was brought up that there is an erosion problem along Montgomery Avenue and Mr. Tanner will obtain a quote to include asphalt curbing along Montgomery Avenue and present the project for all the work at the next Council Meeting.

Mayor Nolan said VanCleaf Engineering has submitted a bid for permit preparation and coordination and site inspection for Somerset County Park in the amount of \$45,000.00. Rocky Hill Borough's share of 20% would be \$9000.00.

Mr. Zimmerman moved, second by Ms. Harris to authorize payment of \$9000.00 to VanCleaf Engineering when completed. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

A recreation grant application will be submitted to Somerset County for wind screens, practice board, and benches for the tennis courts.

Mr. Tanner said the resurfacing of Crescent Avenue both County and Borough sections will be completed this summer. The EPA has acknowledged our letter and is asking for more information. The plans for the speed humps are complete but grant awards have not been announced yet. The County has said they will paint the intersections along Rt. 518 this summer.

Mr. Zimmerman said he had three proposals to light the parking lot at Borough Hall: 1. To install two poles and one light at a cost of \$18.95 per month no installation cost from PSE&G 2. Install 4 decorative lamps and four foot lamps approx. \$21000.00 from PSE&G. 3. Install 3 19' lamps controlled by a timer \$16000.00 from John Naomi. After much discussion about the different proposals and budget problems it was decided Mr. Engelbrecht will dig out his book from PSE&G to see what type of light could be installed on one pole and will report at the next meeting.

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 Mr. Batchelder. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix #1 for the Bill List.

Committee reports

Administration & Records: Ms. Hallman said the code review will need to move on a fast track since new summons books will be printed soon.

Buildings & Grounds: Mr. Zimmerman reported Earth Day Clean Up went well and he hopes it will be an annual event. The Grants Committee will be meeting soon. The Nursery School sand box has been completely removed and a new one will be built in the same area without treated wood. The Tree dedication for the child who recently died from the Nursery School will be held on May 8, 2004.

The Court Administrator's Office must be relocated as it can not be in same room as court. There was much discussion and it was decided to make the storage area the Court Administrator's Office and the area off the Council Meeting Room the storage area. It was decided no money will be spent for the project until the County Judge signs off and approves the project.

Finance & Insurance: Mr. Batchelder has reviewed the audit action report and will discuss some questions he has with our auditor and CFO. He will be reviewing Borough Insurance with Mr. Merritt soon. Our Web Site has been upgraded with QScend. Mr. Batchelder will hold a computer information class Saturday May 8, 2004 at 10:00AM at Borough Hall.

Public Safety/ Emergency Services: Mr. Morren reported the Constables issued no summons during April but they did help at Court. He also said the new Court Administrator is working out well.

Streets & Roads: Ms. Harris said she surveyed all street signs in the Borough and said all existing signs need to remain in place. She asked if anyone noticing a street light out to call her so she can notify PSE&G.

The Clerk will call Reilly Street Sweeping to clean the Borough Streets.

Water, Sewer, & Environmental Protection: Mr. Engelbrecht reported that 2,970,000 gallons of water was pumped during March and 2,730,000 during April. There were no leaks reported and all tests were O.K. It was reported there was a major sanitary sewer blockage on April 10, 2004 and Montgomery Twp. sewer Dept responded to help with the emergency. It was determined grease was the problem and South Brunswick TWP. Health Officer was notified.

Council representative to Planning Board: Ms. Harris said Omni Point appeared before the Board to ask for permission to install 9 more antennae on the water tower for better communications. It was approved with several conditions. It was said the draft of the guidelines for the Historic District was complete and will be available to the public before being finalized.

Zoning Official: Mr. Raffaelli reported his office is busy with reviewing applications, and a copy of his report is on file with the Clerk.

Council Rep. to the School Board: Ms. Hallman reported Ms. Zimmerman and Ms. Petrane were elected to the School Board and Ms. Zimmerman was elected president at a recent meeting.

A RESOLUTION regarding Non-Operating School Districts was read by Mayor Nolan and after some discussion moved for adoption by Mr. Engelbrecht, second by Ms. Hallman. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. See appendix #2 for the RESOLUTION.

Council Rep. to the Board of Health: Mr. Engelbrecht reported Mr. Henry resigned as Health Officer in Montgomery Twp. no one has been hired to take his place. The proposed Health Contract with Montgomery Twp. is unacceptable to the Rocky Hill Board of Health as written. Mr. Rankin will contact Ms. Germain concerning the Rocky Hill Health Survey.

Special Business

The letter of resignation from Court Administrator Marilyn Staats was accepted with a motion by Mr. Engelbrecht, second by Ms. Hallman. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Borough Council reviewed the resume of Ms Cindy Hooven, a certified Court Administrator, who was appointed by Judge Perkins to handle the Municipal Court, held on April 29, 2004. It was stated she will work for \$25.00 per hour for a couple of months and then be put on an annual salary.

Mr. Morren moved, second by Ms. Harris to approve the appointment of Ms. Cindy Hooven as Rocky Hill Borough Court Administrator until December 31, 2004. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Communications

They were discussed and ordered filed.

Unfinished Business

It was decided Mr. Morren will work with Mr. Rankin to amend fees and fines of certain Borough Ordinances.

Ms. Harris asked about the flag etiquette question to be researched by Mr. Morren and was told it has not been completed yet. He will have information for the next Council Meeting.

Mr. Engelbrecht moved, second by Mr. Zimmerman to approve the first amendment to the lease between Rocky Hill Borough and AT&T Wireless to allow 3 additional antennae on the RH Water Tower at a fee of \$600.00 per month. The approval is conditioned upon AT&T Wireless paying escrow fees owned to the Borough. On a roll call vote all present voted aye.

Mr. Zimmerman stated he had a proposal from Bart's Janitorial Service to service the Borough twice a month for a fee of \$375.00. It was decided to table the request until fall and Mr. Zimmerman will explore other options.

New Business

Mayor Proclaimed the week of May 2 through May 8, 2004 MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK IN ROCKY HILL BOROUGH.

Ms. Harris moved, second by Mr. Batchelder to approve the proclamation. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. Mayor Nolan attended a meeting hosted by Governor Mc Greevey concern the proposed "Millionaire's Tax", proposal to freeze School Administration costs to a cap index, possible citizens task force to look into Property Tax Relief.

It was stated there will be a Grants Committee Meeting soon.

There was a question raised concerning a single Councilmember acting as press relation contact for Borough Council. After some discussion it was said there will be no single person to act as press relations contact and reporters should call the individual in charge of the item in question.

Ms Hallman raised concern over exposed tree roots along Montgomery Avenue near the Cemetery. Ms Harris will contact the Cemetery Personnel to check out the problem.

Public Comment

Mr. Harrington stated the temporary emergency evacuation site for the Rocky Hill Nursery School will be his home at 90 Washington At. while the Rocky Hill Library is closed for construction.

Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Ms. Hallman to go into executive session to discuss matters of possible litigation concerning the fifteen acres owned by David Schafer. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. 10:30PM.

Mr. Batchelder moved, second by Ms. Hallman to return to public session. On a roll call vote all present voted aye. 10:59PM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00PM with a motion by Mr. Batchelder, second by Mr. Engelbrecht. On a voice vote all present voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Whitlock Jr.
Borough Clerk