

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Rocky Hill was called to order by Council President George Morren at 7:30 PM. Mr. Morren led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silent meditation. Mr. Morren stated that the meeting has been properly advertised in the December 31, 2004, issue of the Somerset Spectator and is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Mr. Richard Batchelder-present, Ms. Connie Hallman-present, Ms. Peggy Harris-present, Mr. George Morren-present, Mr. Jared Witt-present, Mr. Edward Zimmerman-present.

Absent: Mayor Brian Nolan

Also present: Borough Clerk Raymond Whitlock, Borough Attorney Albert Cruz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 7, 2005, was made by Morren with a second by Zimmerman contingent upon the correction of typographical error "funds", under the public comments section. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The floor was opened for public comments. Hearing none, Mr. Morren closed the floor to the public.

STATE POLICE REPORT

Sgt. Wayne Burke of the Hamilton Barracks appeared before Council and provided the activities report for the Borough for February 1 to present as follows: one unattended death, two burglaries (resulting in the arrest of one individual), nine general calls and four auto accidents. Sgt. Burke advised that a meeting is being set up with local municipalities, OEM, and the State Police for the purpose of discussing the "Reverse 9-1-1" program soon to be implemented. Sgt. Burke provided an overview of the system and indicated that some minor costs to municipalities may be incurred. Council representatives will attend the meeting for further information on the system and to investigate the fees that may be imposed.

Sgt. Burke was provided with a letter from the Office of the Courts addressing security issues for Court sessions in Somerset County. Council members stressed to Sgt. Burke the necessity for State police presence during all Court sessions as has been the agreement between the State Police via Lt. Devlin and the Borough. Sgt. Burke indicated that the State Police is currently understaffed and some municipalities have had to pay overtime for police coverage during Court sessions. It was the consensus of Council that the Borough has not had to pay for services in the past and would like written confirmation of whether the Borough will have to pay for these services in the future. Sgt. Burke was requested to confirm with Lt. Devlin that an officer would be present at this week's Court session on Thursday and as to the issue of possible expense to the Borough.

Mark Germaine, resident of 15 Washington St., expressed his concern with the "Reverse 9-1-1" system with Sgt. Burke such as procedures to be followed in the event of power failure and the possibility of providing cell phone numbers in lieu of land line numbers. Sgt. Burke will relay his concerns at the joint meeting. Sgt. Burke also addressed Mr. Germaine's concerns about one of the recent burglaries and provided information on the status of the crime scene identification work regarding this incident.

In response to Council's concern about the long delay in response from tow services utilized for accidents/motor vehicle incidents in the Borough, Sgt. Burke advised that

there is a 30 minute response requirement imposed on towing agencies. Mr. Morren will provide a local tow service with the information needed to be included on the State Police tow list.

BILL LIST

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.

Clerk Whitlock clarified that \$165.00 will be reimbursed to the Borough from the nursery school in regard to Check #3576 issued to DuoBldg Maintenance.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Morren with a second by Harris.

Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (See Appendix 1 for Bill List)

SPECIAL BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #3-2005 AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ORDINANCE #17-04, ENTITLED, “AN ORDINANCE ADDING AN AGE RESTRICTED/TRADITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT – R-1C – ZONING DISTRICT, DELETED THE R-1A ZONING DISTRICT, MODIFYING RELATING PROVISIONS, AND AMENDING THE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY”

Ordinance #3 -2005 as filed in the Borough Clerk’s Office and entitled as above was read by title. Attorney Cruz provided explanation as to the amendment of the ordinance which is to ensure consistency in building height requirements as defined in the Schafer Tract development approval and as outlined in the land development ordinance. Attorney Cruz advised that Mr. Schafer and his counsel are aware of the amendment and are in agreement of same. Motion to introduce the ordinance was made by Morren with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. The public hearing for the adoption of the ordinance is scheduled for April 18, 2005 at 7:30 PM at Borough Hall.

Tax Collector’s Report for February 2005 – Report received and distributed to Council and referred to Mr. Batchelder for disposition.

RESOLUTION – Community Development Block Grant Program –

Mr. Morren read a letter addressed to Congress and Senate as provided by Mayor Nolan requesting them to not eliminate the Community Development Block Grant Program. It was agreed by way of motion made by Zimmerman with a second by Hallman to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to prepare and send a resolution in support of continuing this program and restoring funding to the program for the benefit of the Borough as well as other local municipalities. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications as listed on the agenda were discussed and ordered filed. Mr. Morren provided an overview of communications as provided by Mayor Nolan. A request was received by the NJLM for a Council representative to attend a meeting to be held on May 6, 2005, regarding tax relief. Mr. Morren requested that anyone interested in attending should contact him. It was noted that Engineer Tanner would be addressing the Storm Water Management Plan at a future date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Clean Up Day – Motion to designate clean up day as Wednesday, April 27, 2005, was made by Zimmerman with a second by Harris. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Clerk Whitlock will advise the Gazette to publish the notice in their April issue.

Fire Company Building/Rescue Squad Discussion – It was the consensus of Council to request representative(s) from the rescue squad to attend the April 18, 2005, meeting of Council to discuss the following: the potential for shared services with Montgomery Township, possible co-location with the fire department, and to inquire as to the sale of the old ambulance and utilization of monies received from same. The issues to be discussed are to be relayed to the squad representative(s) prior to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A request was received by Mayor Nolan as to whether the Borough is interested in contributing monetarily to a Business Partnership Health Plan Study for consideration of a regional health department and animal control department. It was the consensus of Council not to contribute to the study whereas the Borough is satisfied with the current services provided.

Ms. Hallman advised Council of a water report received from Mr. Merk detailing the circumstances of a sewer main blockage at Route 518 and Princeton Ave, in the area of the Santa Fe Grill which occurred in February. It was noted in the report that Montgomery Township assisted in rectifying the problem and may be submitting a bill to the Borough for reimbursement. It was agreed that a determination should be made as to whether or not the Santa Fe Grill was responsible for the blockage and whether or not monthly inspections of their grease traps are being conducted. Ms. Hallman will follow up with Health Department Official Steve Pattenburg.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM was made by Batchelder with a second by Morren. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths
Deputy Clerk