

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Rocky Hill was called to order by Mayor Brian Nolan at 7:35 PM. Mayor Nolan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silent meditation. Mayor Nolan 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.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 4, 2005, was made by Batchelder with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The floor was opened for public comments.

Jeanette Muser thanked the Mayor and Council for funding “Rocky Hill Remembers” on behalf of the town.

Peg Schafer addressed Mayor and Council regarding the continual problems encountered due to the deer population. Other residents, David Dorey, John Yuchmow, Pam Wagner, expressed mutual concern regarding the problem with the deer eating shrubs, causing erosion, and the health hazards associated. The committee previously appointed to research this ongoing problem, to include Mr. Morren, the Board of Health, and some of the residents, will meet for further discussion and possible suggestions for resolution of the problem. It was suggested that a notice be published in the Gazette requesting residents to not feed the deer.

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

STATE POLICE REPORT

Mr. Morren provided the statistics of the report as provided by the State Police from 3/15 to date. An increase in ticket productivity was noted.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

A copy of the tax collector's report for March 2005 was provided to Mayor and Council.

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 the sewer bill for the period ending 9/30/04 was paid out of the 2004 budget. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Batchelder with a second by Morren. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (See Appendix 1 for Bill List)

SPECIAL BUSINESS

ORDINANCE #3 – 2005 – PUBLIC HEARING/SECOND READING

Ordinance #3-2005 as filed in the Borough Clerk's Office and entitled.”

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” was read by title. Mayor Nolan provided an overview of the ordinance. Clerk Whitlock advised that the Planning Board ~~offers no recommendations to the ordinance as presented~~ reviewed the proposed ordinance and confirms it is in accordance with the Borough's Master Plan. Mayor Nolan opened the floor to the public for comments. Hearing none, the floor was closed. Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Harris with a second by Hallman. Roll call: Batchelder-aye, Hallman-aye, Harris-aye, Morren-aye, Witt-aye, Zimmerman-aye.

CONTRACT FOR TRASH REMOVAL - Engineer Tanner provided a report to Mayor and Council clarifying concerns/questions raised at the previous meeting. Attorney Cruz has reviewed the contract and has found same to be in order. It was clarified that residents would be provided with a standard size bin (64+/- gal) and if a resident requests a smaller or larger bin, it would be provided at no extra cost. In response to questioning by the residents present to include Mr. Germain and Ms. Schafer, there is no limit on the amount of bags placed out for pickup, one trash bin per unit will be provided as outlined in the breakdown included in the contract, pick up will be one day per week to include the summer months for 52 weeks. Motion to award a five year contract effective 6/1/05 to Republic Services of New Jersey, LLC d/b/a/ Raritan Valley Disposal, was made by Harris with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

ROCKY HILL RESCUE SQUAD DISCUSSION

Alan Querec, President of the Rocky Hill Rescue Squad appeared before Mayor and Council on behalf of the Rescue Squad. Mr. Querec addressed previous questions/concerns offered by Mayor and Council to include the following: the potential for shared services with Montgomery Township, possible co-location with the fire department, and the sale of the old ambulance and utilization of monies received from same. Mr. Querec provided an overview of the establishment, financial analysis, and functions of the squad from its establishment in 1949 to present. Mr. Querec advised that in speaking with representatives from Montgomery Township Rescue in regard to the possibility of their squad getting a new facility which may be conducive to sharing services, they have no idea if, and when, that may occur. In the meantime, it was agreed that both agencies will continue to help each other as needed. The old ambulance has not been sold to date. However, Mr. Querec advised that any monies received from the sale will be offered to the Borough. In regard to a possible co-location with the fire department, Mr. Querec advised the squad is not aware of what they are proposing. It was noted that the consensus of the squad members is to remain a separate organization, however, if the Borough finds there will be a considerable cost savings to co-locate with the fire department, they will take this matter into consideration.

Mayor Nolan thanked Mr. Querec for his presentation and for all of the efforts put forth by the squad members. Mayor Nolan advised that he has spoken to Mayor Wilson of Montgomery Twp. and was advised that the location of the proposed rescue squad facility in the Township *adjacent to the Princeton Airport* was not conducive to their needs and, therefore, is no longer under consideration.

Mr. Querec addressed further comments/questions by Council members one of which was their involvement with Franklin Township and their fundraising campaign. In response to questioning as to the feasibility of becoming a paid entity, Mr. Querec advised the squad would lose their tax deductible status, they are too small an organization, and it would be too costly.

Members of Council expressed their gratitude to Mr. Querec and the squad members for their dedication, continued service, and for attending the meeting to clarify their questions. It was noted that the squad will continue to work closely with Borough liaison George Morren.

Public Comments:

David Dorey - 142 Washington St. - Mr. Dorey expressed concern as to the contents of the discussion and expressed his opinion that it would take more time and money for an outside agency to respond to emergencies. Mr. Dorey also noted that the value of the *old* ambulance is minimal.

John Yuchmow, resident, provided insight as to his experience with the rescue squad and urged Council to continue to support the squad.

Eleanor Yuchmow, resident, noted there is no price for knowing the people who will respond to take care of you such as is the case with the rescue squad.

Albert Robotti, resident, expressed thanks to the squad and urged Council to give them any equipment needed.

George Fowler, representative of the squad, noted for the record that the misconception that there is a problem between the Rocky Hill and Montgomery Twp. Squads is not valid. Both squads work together willingly.

Mayor Nolan noted that the granting of the ambulance was voted on unanimously. Mayor Nolan invited Council to direct any further questions/concerns regarding these issues to the Council liaison, Mr. Morren. In response to a concern posed by Ms. Harris regarding a question on voting eligibility in regard to the Squad issues, Attorney Cruz advised the matter is confidential in nature and has been resolved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications as listed on the agenda were discussed and ordered filed. Mayor Nolan advised Council as to discussions conducted at the Mayor's Conference as they related to property tax reform and the updates provided as to the status of the bill.

Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders Youth Athletic Grant Program information was provided to Ms. Harris for the Grants Committee *and Mr. Zimmerman for follow-up with the Recreation Committee.*

Mr. Batchelder advised he was in receipt of correspondence from environmental group, FreeCycle, requesting their information be included on the Borough's website. Mr. Batchelder will research further.

In regard to ongoing problems at the Borough's tennis courts, it was recommended that an ordinance be drafted and signs erected prohibiting certain actions to include skateboards, rollerblades, dogs, etc. and the requirement that tennis shoes be worn. *Mr. Zimmerman will follow-up with the Recreation Committee concerning signage.*

NEW BUSINESS

Request was received from the First Reformed Church of Rocky Hill to use Panicaro Park on June 12, 2005. Motion to approve the request was made by Morren with a second by Zimmerman. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes. It was noted that a certificate of insurance would need to be submitted.

Mayor Nolan reported on the successful groundbreaking ceremony for VanHorne Park. Pictures will be posted on the website.

Ms. Harris requested that the erection of a flagpole at Panicaro Park be considered for installation by Memorial Day as was previously discussed. Mr. Zimmerman advised he had contacted Bank of America for possible donations but has not heard back from them to date. It was suggested that Mr. Zimmerman contact Amboy National Bank.

Ms. Harris requested that Clerk Whitlock make arrangements for street clean-up to be held after the Borough's clean up day.

Mayor Nolan advised Council of information obtained from Mayor Wilson of Montgomery Twp. regarding the recent sale of the Princeton Gamma Tech property. It was noted that the new purchaser is in negotiations with WAWA convenience stores to possible relocate or expand to that property. It was noted that the installation of gas pumps is also under consideration. Mayor Nolan will further research this situation as it relates to zoning issues and the implications of the potential of sinking tanks near the Borough's well. The Council confirmed their support of further investigation into this matter.

Mayor Nolan advised of correspondence he received from Kevin Cann of the Recreation Committee regarding an available tennis camp program for the residents. Mayor Nolan and Mr. Zimmerman will further research the program to determine if it would be a joint program with Montgomery Township, determine how the program should be funded, and the insurance liability.

Mr. Zimmerman noted there is a large tree on wires leaning towards the Dean property on the Lemore and Montgomery Ave. path. Clerk Whitlock will contact Engineer Tanner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Germain of 15 Washington St expressed concern with the fate of the existing WAWA if they move to the Gamma Tech location as to safety, traffic, and environmental issues.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM was made by Batchelder with a second by Zimmerman. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths
Deputy Clerk