

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Rocky Hill was called to order by Mayor Brian Nolan at 7:30 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. Peggy Harris-present, Ms. Connie Hallman-present, Mr. George Morren-present, Mr. Edward Zimmerman-present, Mr. Jared Witt - present

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

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 6, 2005, was made by Morren with a second by Zimmerman contingent upon the following recommended changes/modifications as requested by Mayor Nolan: Page 1 – Mayor’s Comments – note that *a copy is on file in Borough Hall*; Page 2 – Public Hearing/Renewal of Liquor License, Rocky Hill Pub – second paragraph – *Mayor Nolan noted comments received by residents of Washington St. also*; Under conditions of approval, “...to include the *potential removal...*”; Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes; Harris-abstain, Hallman-abstain

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Motion to approve the executive session minutes of June 6, 2005, was made by Batchelder with a second by Morren. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes; Harris-abstain, Hallman-abstain.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

STATE POLICE REPORT

Lt. Devlin, Station Commander, reported on activities within the Borough. In response to Mr. Morren’s question regarding the feasibility of the establishment of a sub-station within the Borough, Lt. Devlin advised that she will have an IT person contact Mr. Zimmerman for further discussion. Lt. Devlin further advised that two troopers would be available for the upcoming court session if needed. Two troopers will also be assigned for the July 2nd community event.

The floor was opened to the public for comments/questions. Hearing none, the floor was closed.

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 referenced the addition of check #3727 and 3728, issued to the Band and Ice Cream vendor, respectively, for the July 2nd community event. Mr. Zimmerman reported that the Recreation Committee approved of the expenditure of these funds as a follow-up to Council’s recommendation from the last meeting. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Morren with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (See Appendix 1 for Bill List)

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Resolution of Approval – Rocky Hill Pub Liquor License Renewal – The resolution of approval was presented. Attorney Cruz noted that the owners of the Pub agreed to the conditions of approval as outlined in the resolution at the previous meeting of Council. Motion to approve of the memorialization of the resolution was made by Zimmerman with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (Attached as Appendix 2)

Resolution of Approval – Christopher’s Law – Resolution in support of A3526 & S2144, Christopher’s Law, was presented. Motion for approval and memorialization was made by Morren with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (Attached as Appendix 3)

Santa Fe Grille – Mayor Nolan noted that the owner of the Santa Fe Grille has submitted documentation as a follow-up to the previous Council meeting confirming that outside dining is included in their liquor license approval. A copy of same will be kept on file.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Mayor Nolan noted the award of the County Recreation grant in the amount of \$15,000 which will be used for the pavilion. Motion was made by Zimmerman to authorize the execution of the agreement for the acceptance of the grant by Mayor Nolan with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

Stormwater Management grant information was provided to Ms. Harris. Motion was made by Hallman with a second by Morren to authorize Ms. Harris to review the grant in conjunction with the participation of other municipalities. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

Municipal Planning Partnership Grant information was provided to Ms. Harris for further review by the Planning Board.

An invitation from Arc of Somerset was extended to the Borough for their annual awards ceremony. The Borough of Rocky Hill will be the recipient of the Community of the Year 2005 Award. Mayor Nolan will attend along with any other interested Council members. Mayor Nolan provided an update on the parking design for the Arc property. A preliminary meeting will be held with residents of Washington Knoll, Mr. Zimmerman, and Mayor Nolan prior to their presentation to Council.

Mayor Nolan noted that traffic study count results have been received and a meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss potential speed reductions.

Correspondence and Resolution prepared by Jeanette Muser – Rocky Hill Heritage – Letter dated April 13, 2005, from Jeanette Muser with accompanying Resolution was distributed to Mayor and Council.

Ms. Muser provided Mayor and Council with an overview of her involvement in Rocky Hill history and with the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission. Ms. Muser stated that she is presenting this resolution due to it being an advantage for the community to have Rocky Hill's heritage and materials officially recognized that they are part of this community, protection of these materials is important for preservation, and for the possibility of establishing partnerships to become stewards of these materials.

In response to Ms. Muser's concerns about the protection of the archives due to the recent renovation of the Amy Garrett House, it was agreed that the Borough would be willing to provide some temporary storage during construction. However, it was the consensus of Council that due to the fact that the materials are the property of the Rocky Hill Community Group, authorization would be needed from them for action of any sort regarding the issues presented by Ms. Muser. It was suggested that the Community Group draft a resolution for consideration.

Public Comments:

Connie Grieff, member of the Rocky Hill Community Group, provided Mayor and Council with an update of the renovations and efforts being made for the preservation of these materials. Ms. Grieff stated that a successor organization should be considered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Maple Tree Problems – Panicaro Park – Mr. Zimmerman reported on a quote received from Greenscapes to take the maples out. Due to the high cost of same, it was agreed to contact the boy scouts for interest in possible community service.

Tree – Borough Hall Parking Lot – Motion was made by Harris with a second by Zimmerman for authorization of the expenditure of up to \$500.00 to Bob Wells to take down the tree in the parking lot which is in need of removal. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

Quotes – Brush and Tree Limb Removal – Clerk Whitlock provided the following three quotes: G&T Landscaping - \$275/hr.; JML Landscaping - \$130/hr; Robert Wells - \$195/hr. Motion to accept the quote from JML for \$130/hr. was made by Morren with a second by Harris. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Clerk Whitlock will request the vendor to do the removal after the fall cleanup.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Harris requested Mayor and Council's support of an appreciation day for *volunteers of the community to include emergency services volunteers*. It was agreed that a committee be formed to consist of Ms. Harris, Mr. Zimmerman, a member from the Rocky Hill Community Group, and a member from the Recreation Committee. It was agreed that a date be set in September for the event.

Mr. Zimmerman provided information regarding the proposed pavilion to include the scope, size, and placement of same as discussed by the Recreation Committee. It was noted that a pre-fab structure is being considered at an approximate cost of \$12,000.00. Mr. Zimmerman will procure the necessary permits/approvals needed.

The Nursery School Addendum for the cleaning contract was signed by the Mayor and Clerk.

Flagpole – Panicaro Park – It was noted that Mr. Wells will bring the necessary equipment, and he and Mr. Whitlock will paint the flagpole.

Discuss Borough Council By-Laws – discussion carried to a later date.

Copy of E-mail correspondence from Al Burns, Owner, Haynes Motor Fuels, to Mayor Nolan was distributed. Mr. Burns expressed opposition to the proposed WAWA project and is requesting the Borough's support. Motion was made by Hallman with a second by Harris to authorize Mayor Nolan to send a letter to Mayor Wilson of Montgomery Township expressing our concerns and requesting information on any formal requests and/or plans on file with the Township regarding this proposal. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cliff Moore, resident, suggested the idea of the purchase of blocks by residents for the walkway to the pavilion. Mr. Zimmerman advised that this idea is under consideration.

Mr. Morren advised that as a follow-up to the last meeting, confirmation has been made via the 9-1-1 system that Mr. Moore's address is listed as 30 Skillman Ave. Ms. Harris will contact the County for the installation of a street sign.

Susan Bristol, 104 Washington St., addressed the Cultural and Heritage Archive Resolution presented by Ms. Muser. Ms. Bristol expressed her opinion that it would be a benefit to everyone in the community for the Borough Council to support the idea of promoting Rocky Hill heritage and cultural resources in one way or another and requested further discussion of this matter by Council. Ms. Hallman and Mr. Witt will bring the matter to the attention of the Board of the Community Group.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM was made by Zimmerman with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths
Deputy Clerk