

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
AUGUST 15, 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: Ms. Peggy Harris-present, Ms. Connie Hallman-present, Mr. George Morren-present, Mr. Edward Zimmerman-present, Mr. Jared Witt - present

Absent: Mayor Brian Nolan, Mr. Richard Batchelder

Also present: Borough Clerk Raymond Whitlock, Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, Borough Engineer William Tanner

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 18, 2005, was made by Morren with a second by Witt contingent upon the following recommended changes by Mayor Nolan: Page 2 – Committee Reports – Adm/Records - language to be inserted, "...the by-laws, *concerning Council President and Council Committee appointments...*"; Council Rep. to Planning Board – correction to spelling, "*Ferriero*"; Page 3 – Communications – language to be inserted, "...pertaining to the meeting *being* held at the library *on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>...*"; and "...guides are available to all interested residents *at the Boro Hall, Mary Jacobs Library and on the Boro website.*" Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Marjorie Yuschak read letter on behalf of the Rocky Hill Community Group thanking Mayor and Council for the funding and assistance for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July community event.

**STATE POLICE REPORT**

Tpr. Todd Carbone, representative of the Hamilton Barracks, appeared at the request of his superiors to provide the State Police report for the month of July, 2005. It was noted that Lt. Devlin, Station Commander of the Hamilton Barracks has been reassigned and that Sgt. DeLuca has been appointed as the Acting Station Commander. Mr. Morren will make contact with Sgt. DeLuca.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Tanner's report dated August 10, 2005, was distributed (copy on file in Borough Clerk's Office). Engineer Tanner provided an update on the Stormwater Management regulations and advised that the Borough's Tier B Permit has been filed. An update was provided on the construction progress of the County (VanHorne) Park; the Princeton Ave. drainage project is ready for bid.

Clean up day has been confirmed with Raritan Valley Disposal for October 12, 2005. RVD has requested a stipulation that nothing over 6 ft. be put out for pick up. It was noted that notice should be sent to residents reminding that air conditioning units and refrigerators must have Freon removed and tag reflecting same must be affixed in order for these articles to be removed; Lemoore Circle project is in the process of being scheduled.

Bids for the municipal recreation shelter (pavilion) were received and opened on August 10, 2005. One bid was received which was in excess of the amount available. Motion to reject the bid and authorization for the project to be re-bid with contractor clarifications was made by Zimmerman with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

Brush and limb pick-up has been scheduled for October 19, 2005.

Leaf Contract – Motion to authorize Engineer Tanner to put out to bid the leaf pick-up was made by Witt with a second by Morren. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. It was agreed that the bid would stipulate that a minimum of four pickups would be needed and the need for two additional (up to six) pickups may be necessary. Engineer Tanner will report back with the bid results for possible award at the September meeting.

Transportation Grants – Two grant requests were filed with the State for the extension of the Washington Street sidewalks and the beautification of Route 518 from Crescent Ave. east to the Borough's Panicaro Park. Engineer Tanner will follow-up with a letter to the State noting that we are on the historic register.

Princeton Ave. Sidewalks – Engineer Tanner advised that he has received two responses to the Borough's written request for dedication of the right-of-way for the sidewalks. One resident is willing to agree to the dedication (Mr. Foster); the other resident (Ms. Soika) has declined. The third property owner (Eden Acres) has not responded to date. It was agreed that Clerk Whitlock would reach out to Ms. Soika (who has declined) to personally discuss the Borough's request and Engineer Tanner will make contact with Eden Acres.

County Capital Improvements Plan – It was agreed that Engineer Tanner would write a letter to the County requesting consideration for the construction of sidewalks along Route 518 to encourage walking, biking - thoroughfare to Town and consideration for the beautification requests for Route 518. In response to a concern regarding the pond flooding and freezing over onto the sidewalks as expressed by resident, Marjorie Yuschak, Engineer Tanner will combine this with the Princeton Ave. drainage project which may result in an increase of approximately \$3,000 to the price same of which is ready to go out to bid.

Share Grant – Engineer Tanner provided Council with information regarding a NJ Department of Community Affairs Share Grant being offered for the Stormwater Outfall Assessment Program which requires a zero dollar local match. The County will loan the equipment and software to municipalities for use in locating outfalls. Engineer Tanner advised that a couple of boy scouts may be interested in doing this for the Borough, and he would oversee the project. It was suggested that while we have the equipment, other data should be obtained relating to fire hydrant valves, water department valves, utilities, etc. Motion was made by Morren with a second by Witt for approval of the Participant's Resolution for Implementation and Interlocal Services Agreement between the County and the Borough as presented by Engineer Tanner. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

Pathways Grant – Engineer Tanner advised that notice has been received from the NJDEP that the grant request for the Statewide Livable Communities Grant FY2005 for the Somerset County Park has been denied.

Larry Raffaelli, resident, expressed concern with potential vandalism to the County (VanHorne) Park. It was noted that gates will be installed at the entrances and Mr. Zimmerman advised that the Park Committee is currently discussing security issues with Montgomery Township. Mr. Morren will discuss the matter with the NJSP Acting Station Commander.

#### **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. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Morren with a second by Witt. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (See Appendix 1 for Bill List)

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Administration & Records** – Recommendations for code revisions were e-mailed to Council members by Mr. Witt. Due to their being a problem with the transmission, discussion was carried to the September meeting. Mr. Witt will contact former Borough Attorney Rankin and explore previous minutes for information regarding previously agreed upon changes recommended by Mayor and Council.

**Buildings & Grounds** – Mr. Zimmerman reported that the memorial bench donated by Mrs. Lott of Toth Lane in memory of her husband for the Green Acres park is in place, and he provided a summary of purchases by the Recreation Committee.

**Finance & Insurance** – No report at this time.

**Public Safety & Emergency Services** – Mr. Morren provided an overview of the Constables' report for the month of July to include enforcement of sidewalk obstructions. It was noted that areas of Montgomery Ave. and Lemore Circle are overcome with weeds. Mr. Morren will bring this matter to the attention of the constables. A summary of the July 2005 Court Administrator's report was provided.

**Streets & Roads** – Ms. Harris reported that a new "No Outlet" sign has been installed at Youngs Drive. Clerk Whitlock noted that the "no parking" sign between the firehouse and the Samus property needs to be repaired. Ms. Harris advised that another traffic study on Princeton and Montgomery Aves. Will be done after school starts.

**Water, Sewer & Environmental Protection** – Ms. Hallman read in part the July utilization report as provided by Superintendent Larry Merk noting favorable results in same. It was noted that approximately 200,000-300,000 more gallons of water were used in July.

**Council Representative to Planning Board** – Ms. Harris provided an update of the applications reviewed by the Board, to include approval of the gazebo and approval for tables and chairs for the coffee shop.

**Council Representative to School Board** – No report at this time.

**Council Representative to Board of Health** – No report at this time.

**Zoning Official** – Larry Raffaelli provided an oral report of projects before him. Mr. Raffaelli informed Council that he has been collecting real estate signs that are on public property and newspaper racks that have become a hazard.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING/SECOND READING:**

**ORDINANCE #4-2005 PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE 1B OF PARK IMPROVEMENTS IN AN DBY THE BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$52,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$49,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.**

Ordinance #4 -2005 as filed in the Borough Clerk's Office and entitled as above was read by title. The floor was opened to the public for questions/comments. Hearing none, the floor was closed. Motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Zimmerman with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #5-2005 PROVIDING FOR STORMWATER CONTROL MANAGEMENT**

Ordinance #5-2005 as filed in the Borough Clerk's Office and entitled as above was read by title. Motion to introduce the ordinance was made by Zimmerman 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 September 21, 005, at 7:30 PM at Borough Hall.

**RECEIVE QUOTE TO CLEAN WINDOWS AT BOROUGH HALL**

Motion was made *by Harris* to approve quote received from Larry's Window Cleaning for the cleaning of the Borough Hall windows in the amount of \$569.00 with a second by Zimmerman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Communications as listed on the agenda were discussed, disseminated and/or ordered filed. Letter from VanCleaf Engineering to the Planning Board Chairman regarding completeness review fees will be deferred to the Planning Board.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**By-Laws – Discussion of Standing Committees** – Proposed New Committees correspondence dated August 11, 2005, as prepared by Councilman Witt was provided for Mayor and Council's comments/recommendations. It was agreed to discuss the proposal, however, no formal action would be taken until the Mayor and full Council are present. Mr. Witt is proposing six, newly organized committees as follows: Finance Committee, Infrastructure Committee, Services Committee, Public Safety Committee, Information Committee, Office of Borough Council President. Council members and Attorney Cruz discussed the role of the Mayor as the Chief Administrative Officer, the Borough's form of government, the duties of the Borough Council President as they currently exist and the responsibilities proposed, primarily the duty as co-chair of the Committees, and whether one or more individuals should serve on committees. Also discussed was whether there is a need for a provision in the by-laws regarding resolutions presented by the public. It was agreed that the Mayor and Council will continue to make judgments as to whether a resolution from the public should be considered without the need for inclusion of same in the by-laws. It was the consensus of Council that the proposed Infrastructure Committee has too much responsibility attached to it. It was suggested that the Information Committee's ~~Community Outreach~~ *Press Relations* responsibility should be changed to a "press releases" responsibility. It was suggested that the proposed Office of Borough Council President's responsibility of Council Representative to neighboring communities should continue to be the responsibility of the Mayor, and the need for the Committee of the Office of Borough Council President was questioned. Discussion carried to the September meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms. Harris noted that Appreciation Day is scheduled for October 1, 2005, and assistance by the Mayor and Council will be needed. Ms. Harris also stated that donations for gifts are welcome.

Mr. Zimmerman was provided with the following by Mayor Nolan to ~~present to Council~~ *hang in Borough Hall*: 2005 New Good Neighbor Award presented to Lyric Hall, Outerbridge Morgan Office, from the NJ Business and Industry Association and the New Jersey Business Magazine, nominator, Charles Pihokken, Chairman of the Rocky Hill Planning Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM was made by Zimmerman with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths  
Deputy Clerk