

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
May 7, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Rocky Hill was called to order by Mayor Edward Zimmerman at 7:30 PM followed by the salute to the Flag.

NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The following statement was read into the record by Mayor Zimmerman: This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting was included in a list of meetings notice advertised in the December 16, 2006, edition of the Somerset Messenger Gazette and transmitted to the Courier News and Somerset Spectator. Notice has been posted accordingly and a copy of this notice is available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Jim Banks-present, Mr. William Hallman-present, Mr. Dan Harrington-present, Ms. Courtney White-present, Mr. Jared Witt-present.

Absent: Mr. Brian Griner

Also present: Deputy Borough Clerk Raymond Whitlock, Borough Auditor Robert Morrison, Borough Engineer William Tanner.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Zimmerman provided an update on Councilman Griner's recent surgery. Request to silence all cell phones, pagers, electronic devices was made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Minutes - April 16, 2007 - Motion was made by Witt with a second by Banks to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes.

REQUEST OF COUNCIL FOR NEW OR OLD BUSINESS (NOT ON AGENDA)

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Martin Engelbrecht, resident, presented a copy of the PSE&G Street Lamp Outage Report now being used; Councilwoman White will follow-up. A link will be added to the Borough's website for the reporting of the outages to PSE&G.

Alan Querec and Peggy Harris, residents, advised that there have been parking problem issues on Crescent Ave. and Route 518 since the establishment of the new restaurant, One 53, and requested that this issue be addressed during the liquor license renewal hearing.

Eileen Uhrik, resident, inquired as to when the pedestrian signs would be installed; Councilwoman White advised that alternative sign options are being explored and this matter will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

(Public comments carried after Engineer's Report)

(Agenda order of business changed at the direction of the Mayor)

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Report dated May 3, 2007, for April 2007 was received and distributed (copy on file in the Borough Clerk's Office). The following items were discussed:

County Park Project - punch list items completed; restrooms to be installed by June; Montgomery Township awarded contract for mowing of fields; shelter and concrete slab to be installed at an approximate cost of \$34,000 - bids to be solicited for this work; fertilizing quotes have been received - one treatment will be deleted - Engineer Tanner to follow-up; a formal quote is being solicited from ARC for janitorial services; Engineer Tanner will request quote from ARC for trash pick-up from all of the Borough parks. A list of remaining items still needed for the park was provided to the Auditor and CFO by Engineer Tanner totaling the Borough's share of \$73,864.00

Princeton Ave/Montgomery Ave. Improvements - sinking problem seems to have been rectified; contractor will be re-seeding.

2006/07 Grove St. Grant - Engineer Tanner was authorized to oversee this project per his request in lieu of combining with a County contract due to the need for reconstruction of the roadway.

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Tier B Storm Water Permit - It was noted that handout materials were provided at the April 28th Earth Day/Arbor Day Event held within the Borough thus fulfilling obligations under the Tier B Storm water Permit.

Recreation Grants - Discussion carried to June meeting.

Lawn Services Contract - Discussed under special business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (continued)

Peggy Harris, former Councilperson, provided the history of the traffic calming measures that have been taken by the Borough since 1996 to include the installation of the pedestrian signs. Ms. Harris urged the continuance of the installation of the type of signs that are currently used noting the costs of replacement are minimal compared to the benefit they provide to the residents. Mayor Zimmerman advised that Ms. Harris' comments will be taken into consideration at the continued discussion of this matter at the next meeting.

Cliff Moore, resident, reported low hanging wires between Green Acres and the First Aid Squad; Councilman Harrington to follow-up.

STATE POLICE REPORT

Mayor Zimmerman advised that the computers have been installed; NJSP will be providing 50 hours/month of service to the Borough for traffic detail, special events, park patrol, and attendance

at municipal court. NJSP will work in conjunction with the South Bound Brook Police Department. The Hamilton Barracks is now responsible for covering the Borough.

(Regular agenda order of business resumed)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT - none presented at this time.

Resolution 2007-36 - Temporary Emergency Appropriations - Resolution not adopted; 2007 Amended Budget adopted as temporary budget under Special Business.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS TO BE PAID

Motion was made by Harrington with a second by Witt for the approval of the bill list as presented. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes. (Appendix 1)

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Public Hearing - Resolution #2007-32 - 2007 ROCKY HILL BOROUGH MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Public hearing carried from April 16, 2007 meeting. RMA Morrison provided further explanation of items to be addressed as follows: Resolution to adopt a budget amendment (which includes the adjusting of cap figures for insurance and park maintenance) and resolution requesting permission for the dedication by rider of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund to be adopted at this meeting.

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

Introduction - Resolution 2007-37 - Resolution to Amend 2007 Budget - Resolution was read in full by RMA Morrison. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Banks with a second by Harrington. Motion carried on roll call vote. Public hearing on the amended budget is scheduled for May 21, 2007, at 7:30 PM at Borough Hall.

Resolution 2007-38 - Resolution Requesting Permission for the Dedication by Rider of an Affordable Housing Trust - RMA Morrison provided an explanation of the resolution. Motion was made by Hallman with a second by Witt to approve the resolution. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes.

Amended 2007 Budget Adoption as Temporary Budget - Motion was made by Witt with a second by Hallman to adopt the amended 2007 budget as the temporary budget. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes.

Resolution 2007-39 - Resolution Authorizing Amendment to 2007 Capital Budget - Resolution summarized by RMA Morrison. Resolution amends the 2007 capital budget by allocating monies for the purchase of a fire pumper. The floor was opened to discussion. Councilman Hallman questioned the implications of the adoption of the resolution and ordinance in relation to the securing of fire and rescue loans/grants for the purchase of the truck. RMA Morrison advised that the Borough is requesting permission to incur debt only if need be and low cost loans/grants could be explored. Motion to adopt the resolution was made by Witt with a second by Banks. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes.

Introduction - ORDINANCE #3, 2007 - "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A FIRE PUMPER BY THE BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$360,000 THEREFORE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$324,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF - Ordinance as filed in the Borough Clerk's Office was read by title. Borough Auditor Morrison provided an overview of the ordinance. . Motion to introduce was made by Banks with a second by Witt. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes. Public hearing scheduled for June 4, 2007, at 7:30 PM at Borough Hall.

Resolution 2007-40 - Resolution of Approval - Extension of Agreement for Police Services with South Bound Brook - Resolution was presented authorizing the extension of the agreement for police services between the Borough of Rocky Hill and Borough of South Bound Brook for 30 days from the expiration of the current contract (May 6, 2007) until a mutual agreement for a new contract is reached. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Hallman with a second by Banks. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes.

Award of 2007 Lawn Maintenance Service Contracts - Quotes were solicited for lawn maintenance services for the Borough grounds on a two part basis, Section A, Items A1 through A8) - Lawn Area Maintenance Services - Borough grounds; Section B - Open Field Mowing - Green Acres/Washington St. Sewer Easement. Recommendation was made by Engineer Tanner for the award of the contract as follows: John Kessler, Monmouth Junction, NJ - Section A for a total of \$6,996.00; Maitland Van Nostrand, Skillman, NJ -\$600.00/mowing for a total of \$1200.00. Funds were certified as being available via the adoption of the amended budget as the temporary budget. Motion was made by Harrington with a second by Banks to award the contracts contingent upon a confirming resolution being presented at the next meeting. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion of Rules for Public Videotaping of Municipal Meetings - discussion carried to next meeting.

Update on Tax Revaluation - - Mayor Zimmerman advised that the County has agreed to extend the Borough's time frame for a revaluation to the year 2010. Engineer Tanner will be contacted as to an estimate of cost for the updating of tax maps. Discussion ensued regarding the need for future budgeting of this project.

Request for Funding - Recreation Committee - July 4th Celebration - Melissa Bernardi appeared on behalf of the Recreation Committee. Request was made for the expenditure of funds in the amount of \$1,000.00 for expenses for the band, ice cream, decorations, for the July 4th celebration. In response to questioning by resident, Joseph Shipman, Mayor Zimmerman advised that this is an annual Borough event and the Borough approved the expenditure of monies for last year's event for ice cream and the band.

Resident Martin Engelbrecht offered support of the expenditure of funds for this event. Motion was made by Witt with a second by Banks authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Recreation O.E. budget line item. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request to Renew Participation in Community Development Block Grant & Home Investment Partnership Program for 2008-2010 with Somerset County - It was agreed that the Borough would renew the agreement with the County. Resolution of support to be presented for adoption at the next meeting. Information on the program qualifications will be posted on the website.

Request for Funding - Recreation Committee - Park Nights - Melissa Bernardi advised that three park nights have been scheduled: June 15th at Borough Hall Grounds; July 13th at Panicaro Park; August 10th at VanHorne Park. Request was made for funds in the amount of \$100 for the first event to pay for the entertainment (band). Additional request was made for \$100 for advertisement costs for flyers for the Recreation Committee. Motion was made by Banks with a second by Witt authorizing the expenditure of the funds for a total of \$200.00. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peggy Harris, resident, advised that a street sweeping normally follows the Borough's clean-up day.

Arrangements will be made for the scheduling of the street sweeping.

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Cliff Moore, resident, was advised that the title search for the Skillman St. issue is still pending

Alan Querec, resident, was advised that the Borough's budget is available on-line.

Ralph Terragrossa, resident, questioned the appearance of a vagrant living in the Green Acres Park.

Mayor Zimmerman advised that the state and local police departments have been made aware of the situation and will be responsible for taking any appropriate action.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(9:05 PM)

Resolution 2007-24 to Retire into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing "Personnel" was read into the record by the Borough Clerk. Motion was made by Banks with a second by Witt to adopt the resolution. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes. (9:10 PM)

RESULTS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF ANY)

Not available for release to the public at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10PM was made by Witt with a second by Banks.
Motion carried on voice vote - all ayes.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths, RMC
Borough Clerk