

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
June 4, 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 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. Brian Griner-present, Ms. Courtney White-present, Mr. Jared Witt-present.

Absent: Mr. William Hallman, Mr. Dan Harrington

Also present: Deputy Borough Clerk Raymond Whitlock, Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, Borough Engineer William Tanner, Chief Financial Officer G. Ross Bobal.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Zimmerman extended condolences to Councilman Harrington. Mayor Zimmerman advised that the adoption of Ordinance #3, 2007, and the public hearing for the renewal of the alcoholic beverage control license for Restaurant One 53 will be held over until the June 18, 2007.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Minutes - May 21, 2007 - Motion was made by Banks with a second by Witt 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)

Councilman Griner requested that the duties/responsibilities of committee members be discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

STATE POLICE REPORT

Mayor Zimmerman advised that the memorandum of understanding with the NJSP is under review.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Report dated June 1, 2007, for May 2007 was received and distributed (copy on file in the Borough Clerk's Office). The following items were discussed:

County Park Project - Recommendation for a change order for the exterior surface of the restrooms was made by Engineer Tanner. Montgomery Township has agreed to the change. Confirmation of certification of funds was received by CFO Bobal at the meeting. Motion was made by Griner with a second by Witt for the expenditure of \$600.00 (Borough's share) for the change order. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes. Quotes have been received from ARC for the cleaning of the park three times per week for emptying the trash, recycling, and cleaning restrooms in the amount of \$308.16 per week (20% of the total to be borne by the Borough). Engineer Tanner will request whether ARC is available to empty the trash from the Borough grounds/parks.

Grove St. - Authorization was given to Engineer Tanner to bid this project for possible award at the July 16th meeting. Confirmation of receipt of the grant monies will be made by the CFO and Clerk.

NJDOT Grant Opportunities - Engineer Tanner advised of several grant opportunities available to the Borough for road work, walkways, and bike paths. It was recommended that Engineer Tanner check for the availability of funds for the following: repaving of Hickory Court, sidewalk repair/replacement, sidewalk on Washington St. from the library to Merritt, cross walk cut out at Hickory and Princeton Aves., paving of stone paths in the park, walkway from center of town to VanHorne Park, signage for downtown circulation, pedestrian signs, benches, shrubbery along Panicaro Park.

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Public Comments/Questions:

Peggy Harris, resident, was provided with information by Engineer Tanner about the horse shoe pits;
Signage for park hours is being done.

Peggy Querec, resident, expressed opposition to a fence along Crescent Ave. in the area of the park.

Peggy Merritt, resident, stated that a low hedgerow should be considered in the area on Crescent Ave. for the park.

Brad Merritt, resident, suggested that consideration be given to applying for grant monies for a bike path through the Green Acres property. Engineer Tanner will look into this suggestion.

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

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Motion was made by Witt with a second by Griner to accept the Budget Balance Report dated 6/3/07. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS TO BE PAID

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

SPECIAL BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE #3, 2007 - "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A FIRE PUMPER BY THE BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NJ, 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. Proof of publication was presented. Acknowledgment of the Supplemental Debt Statement filed with the Division of Local Government Services on 5/14/07 was received by the Division. The floor was opened to the public. Hearing no comments/questions, the floor was closed. Adoption of the ordinance carried to the June 18, 2007, meeting.

INTRODUCTION; ORDINANCE #4, 2007 - "AN ORDINANCE SETTING GUIDELINES FOR VIDEOTAPING ANY PORTION OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MUNICIPALITY'S GOVERNING BODY" - Ordinance as filed in the Borough Clerk's Office was read by title. Motion was made by White with a second by Griner for the introduction of the ordinance. Motion carried on roll call vote -all ayes. Public hearing scheduled for June 18, 2007.

Public Hearing: Resolution 2007-44 - Annual Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Control License for 2007/08 - Santa Fe Grille - Susan Kleinman appeared on behalf of the licensee. Application for renewal, required fees, and tax clearance certificate were received and found to be in order. The floor was opened to the public for comments/questions. Hearing none, the floor was closed. Motion was made by Griner with a second by White for approval of the resolution granting the renewal of the license for the 2007/08 license period.

Public Hearing: Resolution 2007-45 - Annual Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Control License for 2007/08 - Cajo Enterprises/One 53 - Mayor Zimmerman reiterated that the hearing would be continued to the June 18, 2007, Council meeting due to the fact that the licensee has not received the required State tax clearance certificate. It was noted that the licensee was not present to address any questions or concerns due to the hearing being carried to the next meeting. Resident, Brad Merritt, voiced his disagreement with the carrying of the public hearing to the next meeting. Mr. Merritt was offered the opportunity to address the matter during the public comment segment of the meeting.

Resolution 2007-46/Renewal of Agreement for Police Services with South Bound Brook - Mayor Zimmerman advised that South Bound Brook has agreed to an extension of the contract through 12/31/07; the rates will be the same as the current contract (\$3,000/month); minor changes to the agreement to be made (names of Mayor and Clerk) and extension date to be added. Motion was made by Witt with a second by Banks approving the resolution and authorizing the execution of the agreement by the Mayor. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Renewal of Rocky Hill Cooperative Nursery School Lease - Request was made for a one year extension of the lease (through June 2008) at the same rate of \$1322.25/month. It was noted by Attorney Cruz that an ordinance for the lease of public property would be needed but an extension of the current agreement through July 2007 could be granted. Motion was made by Witt with a second by Griner to authorize the drafting of the ordinance and agreement with the same terms currently in effect. Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes. Ordinance to be introduced at next meeting. In response to questioning by resident, Peggy Harris, as to whether consideration has been given to raising the rental fees, Ms. Harris was advised that the nursery school has incurred substantial increases over the term of the current agreement.

Committee Descriptions - In response to concern expressed by Councilman Griner for the need for the establishment of some type of guidelines for committee duties/responsibilities, it was agreed that Councilmen Griner and Witt would work on developing some type of standards.

Introduction: Ordinance #5, 2007 - "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY TO AMEND ARTICLE 5 AT SECTIONS 502.1(A) AND 507 - Ordinance as filed in the Borough Clerk's office was read by title. Motion was made by Griner with a second by White for the introduction of the ordinance Public hearing scheduled for July 16, 2007.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peggy Harris, resident, questioned what committee projects are planned for the year and whether the light for the flagpole at Panicaro Park was included in these projects. Mayor Zimmerman advised that Engineer Tanner is finding out if grant monies are available for this purpose, and the list of projects could be obtained from Councilman Harrington. Ms. Harris also expressed concern that the planters along Route 518 which have not been planted. Ms. Harris was advised that this project is being addressed by the Shade Tree Commission and donation of the flowers has been received from Peppi's.

Peggy Merritt, resident, commented that the monies budgeted for the flowers should be applied to another project. Ms. Merritt also expressed displeasure with the fact that no one was present from Restaurant One 53 for the public hearing.

Hearing no comments/questions, the floor was closed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM was made by Witt with a second by White. All voted in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths, RMC
Borough Clerk

