

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
September 19, 2011**

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 transmitted to the Courier News and Somerset Spectator on January 5, 2011. Notice remains continuously posted as to required notices under the Statute. A copy of this notice is available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Tom Bremner-present, Mr. Jeff Donahue-present, Ms. Julia Hasser-present, Mr. Mark Pausch-present, Mr. Josh Hochberg-present, Mr. Robert Steen-absent

Also present: Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, CFO Joseph Monzo, Borough Engineer Bill Tanner (arrived 8:40), Borough Clerk Rebecca Newman, Deputy Clerk Christine Witt, Mayor Ed Zimmerman, Zoning Officer Toby Whitlock

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a moment of silence to remember residents Carl Robbins Jr. and Seneca Ottey. The Mayor also wished a speedy recovery to former Mayors Al Robotti and Tony Bianculli.

The Mayor reminded the Council that starting in October meetings will resume to the twice a month schedule. The next Somerset County Governing Officials Association meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 12th, 2011, at the Millstone Grille in Manville.

The Mayor thanked the Council and first responders for their outstanding service during Hurricane Irene.

The Mayor congratulated Councilman Donahue and Borough Clerk Newman for their efforts to make the 9/11 memorial dedication ceremony a success.

The Mayor awarded a Proclamation to Noelle Harris in recognition of her Girl Scout bronze award project of planting trees in Van Horne Park.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2011 –Motion was made by Donahue to approve the minutes as presented. Hasser seconded motion. Motion carried on roll call vote- all ayes.

For: Bremner, Donahue, Hasser, Hochberg, Pausch

Against: None

Abstain: None

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

Nothing was added.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor was opened to the public for comments/questions.

Bob Ayrey of 77 Washington St. raised concerns about the drainage problems with the pond next to the business park. This issue was further addressed during the Engineers report.

Hearing no further comments/questions the floor was immediately closed.

STATE POLICE REPORT

The state police report for the month of August, as received from Lt. Steve Grillon of the NJSP, was summarized by Council Member Pausch (copy on file in the office of the Borough Clerk)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

CFO Monzo stated that the Borough is on target for expenditures this year, and there are no issues of concern. Hasser made a motion to approve the CFO's report, Donahue seconded the motion. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

For: Bremner, Donahue, Hasser, Hochberg, Pausch

Against: None

Abstain: None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Tax Collector Report – August 2011

Court Administrator Report – August 2011

Mayor Zimmerman summarized the Court Administrator's report for the month of August 2011. Motion was made by Hasser to accept the reports as presented. Motion seconded by Pausch. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

For: Bremner, Donahue, Hasser, Hochberg, Pausch

Against: None

Abstain: None

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Bill list dated September 19, 2011 was presented for approval. Hasser made a motion to approve all vouchers.

Motion seconded by Donahue. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

For: Bremner, Donahue, Hasser, Hochberg.

Against: None

Abstain: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Records – Council Member Hochberg stated that a Personnel Handbook is in progress. Also he is working on getting volunteers trained for traffic control during emergencies.

Buildings & Grounds – Council Member Donahue thanked everyone who helped with the 9/11 Memorial. A tree that fell onto the swing set behind Borough Hall during Hurricane Irene was removed and the swing set will be repaired. Two other trees are scheduled for removal, one in Borough Hall Park and one in Panicaro Park. He is also looking into replacing some of the trees that have come down. The mulching of Borough Hall Park went well, but the mulching of Panicaro Park has been pushed back because of the storm. The delivery of the mulch to Panicaro Park has also been an obstacle, and Crescent Ave. may have to be closed for the delivery. This issue was further addressed in the Engineer's Report.

Mayor Zimmerman commented that the new motion sensor lights installed in the Court Administrator's office as part of the energy audit have caused the lights to go out while staff is working. In addition, he suggested that the locks should be changed in Borough Hall, or perhaps changed to a RFID system.

Finance & Insurance – Nothing to report at this time.

Public Safety & Emergency Services – Council Member Pausch thanked the Fire Department and First Aid Squad for their work during Hurricane Irene. Announced that the Preservation Celebration will take place on October 8th and 9th.

Streets & Roads – Council Member Bremner reported that a sign was knocked down by a driver arrested for DUI, and that he would get the police report so that he could try to have the insurance company pay for the repair. Also working on having storm water receptacles and the sinkhole on Lemore Circle repaired.

Water, Sewer & Environmental Protection – No report.

Council Representative to Planning Board – Council Member Hasser reported that a Planning Board resolution was amended to increase the scope of the use variance for 10 Princeton Ave. The property may now be used as professional office space excluding medical and personal services. Christine Witt will replace Rebecca Newman as Planning Board Secretary on October 1, 2011.

Council Representative to Board of Health – Council Member Pausch reported that all eating establishments in the Borough were inspected by the County after Hurricane Irene and deemed fit to reopen. He also recommended that a communications kiosk, other than the bulletin board inside Borough Hall, be put up in a public space.

Zoning Official's Report – Zoning Officer Whitlock reported a whole-house generator was approved for 15 Washington St. to be shared with 19 Washington St.

Grants Committee – Council Members Donahue and Hochberg reported that the contract with the software developer for the 2003 historic grant is still in progress, and Borough Attorney Cruz will review the contract. Donahue made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$6,750 for the 2003 Historic Grant and to allow the Mayor and Clerk to sign the contract to retain Mr. Marxen's services once drafted. Bremner seconded the motion. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

For: Bremner, Donahue, Hasser, Hochberg.

Against: None

Abstain: None

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Retirement Announcements/Appointments

Mayor Zimmerman announced the following:

Larry Merk retired as the Water Superintendent, effective September 1, 2011.

Toby Whitlock will retire as Zoning Officer, effective October 1, 2011.

Mayor Zimmerman submitted the following appointments:

Tim Lesko as Water Superintendent.

Mark Blasch as Zoning Officer and Class 2 member of the Planning Board. Toby Whitlock as Class 4 member of the Planning Board.

Pausch made a motion to appoint Mark Blasch as Zoning Officer and a Class II member of the Planning Board and Toby Whitlock as a Class IV member of the Planning Board. Hasser seconded the motion. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

For: Bremner, Donahue, Hasser, Hochberg, Pausch

Against: None

Abstain: None

Hasser made a motion to appoint Tim Lesko as Water Superintendent. Donahue seconded the motion. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

For: Bremner, Donahue, Hasser, Hochberg, Pausch

Against: None

Abstain: None

Rocky Hill Hook and Ladder Memberships

Hasser made a motion to appoint Sal V. Jahn-Errante and Neil B. Hunt as full members of the Rocky Hill Hook and Ladder Company, Pausch seconded the motion. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

For: Bremner, Donahue, Hasser, Hochberg, Pausch

Against: None

Abstain: None

Rocky Hill First Aid Squad Update

Mayor Zimmerman presented a letter from Montgomery EMS stating that they are withdrawing their services as first responders in Rocky Hill, effective October 14th 2011.

Scott Gorman, President of the Rocky Hill First Aid Squad (RHFAS), discussed the plan to accommodate that change. Princeton First Aid Squad will take calls in Rocky Hill when the RHFAS is not on duty, and the Kingston First Aid Squad will work with RHFAS squad during its weekend shifts. A discussion ensued regarding Princeton's billing process. Princeton utilizes a "soft bill" system, which means when a person is transported to the hospital a bill is sent. If a person has insurance, typically this bill is covered by insurance. A second bill is sent if the first one is not paid. If the person communicates they do not have insurance, or if the bill is not paid by the second billing cycle, the bill is abated. Mayor Zimmerman expressed concern for the residents that may not realize this. RHFAS stated they would have a person communicating that and helping residents with concerns.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Report dated September 19, 2011 as received by Engineer Tanner was distributed and filed in the Borough Clerk's office. Engineer Tanner provided an overview of the report.

Van Horne Park-Engineer Tanner will work with the Montgomery Township Public Works department to try to repair and restore the pond that is causing flooding to private property and sidewalks on Crescent Ave. One-third of the pond is owned by Van Horne Park and two-thirds is privately owned. Residents Bob Ayrey of 77 Washington St., JoAnne Sherry of 61 Washington St., Ray Durling of 65 Washington St., and Terese Rosenthal of 6 Crescent Ave. each spoke of the problems caused by the flooding from the pond. Cliff Moore of Skillman Ave. suggested the problem may be exacerbated by the above average rainfall recently.

Crosswalks Signs- Plans were submitted in August but need approval of the State Historic Office.

NJDOT Local Aid Grant Applications- Engineer Tanner will apply for Streetscape Improvement grant for Washington St.

Well Closure-Engineer Tanner will pursue the closure plan.

Leaf Pickup-Received a quote of \$13,000 from the town of Branchburg. Attorney Cruz will draft a formal agreement with Branchburg for leaf pickup.

Councilman Bremner asked Mr. Tanner about ongoing sewer water intrusion, and if his firm had been able to look into the low interest loan program. Mr. Tanner said they would be looking at the program tomorrow, but also noted that it was not a grant program.

Councilman Bremner mentioned that the storm drain near 7 Toth Lane was clogged.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Large Trash and Brush Pickup

Large trash pick up will be on October 18th, 2011 and the brush and limb pick up will be the following week.

Merritt Lane Storm Water Repair

Engineer Tanner will investigate sink holes on Merritt Lane, Lemore Circle, and Princeton Ave.

Stonebridge Sewage

Toby Whitlock received a complaint from the residents of 31 Montgomery Ave. that the sewage from Stonebridge is creating a foul odor. Engineer Tanner will contact the Montgomery Township Sewer Division regarding this problem.

Change in Voucher System

CFO Monzo requested that Borough discontinue using paper vouchers in addition to purchase orders since the current accounting system generates each PO with all the necessary accounting information.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications as listed were distributed, disseminated and filed accordingly.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor was opened to the public for comments/questions:

Cliff Moore of Skillman Ave. asked if there is a date for the flu clinic. The Board of Health has not set a date.

Peggy Harris, 66 Crescent- Ms. Harris asked that the Borough consider enacting an ordinance restricting the parking of non-motorized vehicles on the streets of the historic district. Mayor Zimmerman suggested that such an ordinance addressing motor homes, campers and pods may be appropriate since homes in the district are regulated to keep the look historic.

Charles Hich, 70 Crescent Ave. questioned why the police were sent to his house to ask him to move his camper from the street rather than receiving the request from within the Borough.

Executive Session-

None

Results of Executive Session

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Hochberg with a second by Hasser to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 PM. All voted in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Witt
Deputy Borough Clerk

September 19, 2011

List of Bills - (0110101001) CASH
CURRENT FUND

Bill List

Check#	Vendor	Description	Payment	Check Total
6909	29 - BOLLINGER INC	PO 3449 Liability Insurance 8/5/11 to 8/5/1	4,599.00	4,599.00
6910	39 - CENTRAL JERSEY SECURITY	PO 3472 4th qtr alarm monitoring boro hall	87.00	87.00
6911	60 - COURIER NEWS	PO 3433 Planning Board legal notices: BAJ R	26.84	26.84
6912	71 - DIFRANCESCO BATEMAN PC	PO 3474 legal exp july 2011	847.00	847.00
6913	72 - DUO BLDG MAINTENANCE	PO 3452 Janitorial services September 2011	185.00	185.00
6914	81 - ROCKY HILL FIRE COMPANY NO 1	PO 3448 Matcing grant payment	900.00	900.00
6915	354 - IKON Office Solutions Inc	PO 3447 Copy machine rental August 2011	124.50	124.50
6916	115 - JML LANDSCAPING INC.	PO 3475 park maint & tree replacement panic	1,600.00	1,600.00
6917	122 - KENCOR INC	PO 3468 bimonthly elevator insp	75.00	75.00
6918	123 - JOHN KESSLER	PO 3436 Lawn mowing 6/18-7/26/11	1,550.00	1,550.00
6919	482 - KNOX COMPANY	PO 3471 Fire department aid: sentralok A de	778.00	778.00
6920	163 - MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP	PO 3453 Lawn mowing of Van Horne park 5/1/1	2,902.54	2,902.54
6921	181 - NEW JERSEY PLANNING OFFICIALS	PO 3455 Planning Board Dues	315.00	315.00
6922	210 - PSE&G	PO 3451 Electric bill for street lights Aug	612.44	612.44
6923	210 - PSE&G	PO 3464 Crescent Point Park electric	7.46	7.46
6924	210 - PSE&G	PO 3465 flag pole electric	17.47	17.47
6925	210 - PSE&G	PO 3466 Municipal building electric	436.79	436.79
6926	319 - RARITAN VALLEY DISPOSAL INC	PO 3467 August 2011 garbage collection	3,808.49	3,808.49
6927	457 - REBECCA NEWMAN	PO 3462 9/11 memorial ceremony: desserts,	81.95	81.95
6928	479 - RICHARD M. CONLEY LLC	PO 3432 Legal Services for real estate tax	334.95	334.95
6929	223 - ROBERT WELLS TREE & LANDSCAPE	PO 3469 Tree removal from swing set behind	350.00	350.00
6930	247 - SOMERSET COUNTY TREASURER	PO 3473 road signs installed	233.12	233.12
6931	253 - SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS	PO 3470 Mayor's and Clerk's blackberries	166.28	166.28
6932	286 - VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING	PO 3445 Engineering expenses July 2011	3,755.25	3,755.25
6933	289 - VERIZON	PO 3434 Emergency Services Phone August 201	60.94	60.94
6934	289 - VERIZON	PO 3435 Boro phone Aug. 2011	207.36	207.36
6935	386 - W.B. Mason Co., Inc.	PO 3454 Office supplies	216.00	216.00
6936	480 - WORKS IN STONE, INC.	PO 3444 9/11 Memorial per resolution 2011-6	7,000.00	7,000.00
6937	481 - FLOWER BARN OF HILLSBOROUGH	PO 3444 9/11 Memorial per resolution 2011-6	11,000.00	18,000.00
		PO 3463 Wreath for 9/11 ceremony	90.00	90.00
TOTAL				42,368.38

Total to be paid from Fund 01 CURRENT FUND

42,368.38

=====

42,368.38

List of Bills - (1926005) INTERFUND - DUE CURRENT
TRUST OTHER

Check#	Vendor	Description	Payment	Check Total
6938	71 - DIFRANCESCO BATEMAN PC	PO 3474 legal exp july 2011	30.00	30.00
TOTAL				30.00
Total to be paid from Fund 19 TRUST OTHER			30.00	
			=====	
			30.00	

**List of Bills - (0810101001) CASH
UTILITY OPERATING**

Check#	Vendor	Description	Payment	Check Total
6552	415 - AQUA PRO TECH LABS	PO 3441 Water test 7/5/11	137.70	137.70
6553	415 - AQUA PRO TECH LABS	PO 3459 Water testing August 2011	69.36	69.36
6554	71 - DIFRANCESCO BATEMAN PC	PO 3477 sewer utility work	420.00	420.00
6555	380 - HANS OLSEN	PO 3443 Water Dept. maintenance	125.00	125.00
6556	380 - HANS OLSEN	PO 3457 Replacement of sink	40.00	40.00
6557	123 - JOHN KESSLER	PO 3439 Water Dept. lawn mowing 6/10-8/2/11	400.00	400.00
6558	155 - MGL FORMS-SYSTEMS	PO 3476 water & sewer bills forms	390.25	390.25
6559	321 - MIRACLE CHEMICAL CO	PO 3460 Chemicals: sodium hypochlorite	44.10	44.10
6560	450 - ONE CALL CONCEPTS INC	PO 3461 August 2011 one call	4.48	4.48
6561	204 - PITNEY BOWES	PO 3440 Postage machine rental Aug. 2011	29.00	29.00
6562	210 - PSE&G	PO 3478 Water Department electric	2,500.00	2,500.00
6563	259 - NEW JERSEY STATE TREASURER	PO 3450 Catastrophic illness fund	22.50	22.50
6564	311 - TIM LESKO	PO 3438 Water Dept. maintenance	175.00	175.00
6565	311 - TIM LESKO	PO 3442 Water Dept. maintenance 8/9/11	125.00	125.00
6566	311 - TIM LESKO	PO 3458 Parts and labor for new sink in wel	178.37	178.37
6567	286 - VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING	PO 3446 Water and Sewer general engineering	199.50	199.50
6568	289 - VERIZON	PO 3437 Water Dept. phone Aug. 2011	28.79	28.79

TOTAL

4,889.05

Total to be paid from Fund 08 UTILITY OPERATING

4,889.05

=====

4,889.05