

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 2, 2005**

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

Absent: Mr. Richard Batchelder, Mr. Jared Witt

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 18, 2005, was made by Morren with a second by Hallman contingent upon the following recommended changes/modifications: Page 1 - Under Special Business, Mayor Nolan requested language be amended to read, "...*the Planning Board reviewed the proposed ordinance and confirms it is in agreement with the Borough's Master Plan*"; Page 2 - Under Rocky Hill Rescue Squad Discussion - Mayor Nolan the following language be added to the second paragraph, "...proposed rescue squad facility in the Township *adjacent to the Princeton Airport...*"; Page 2 - Under Public Comments made by Mr. Dorey - clarification was made that the value of the "old" ambulance is minimal; Page 3 - Under Communications - second paragraph, Mayor Nolan requested the following language be included, "...information was provided to Ms. Harris for the Grants Committee *and to Mr. Zimmerman for follow up by the Recreation Committee*"; fourth paragraph - Mayor Nolan requested the following language be included, "*Councilman Zimmerman will follow up with the Recreation Committee concerning signage.*" Motion carried on roll call vote - all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The floor was opened for public comments.

Mark Germain, 15 Washington St. - Mr. Germain expressed his displeasure with the manner in which the discussion regarding the squad was handled by supporters of the Rescue Squad at the last Council meeting apparently due to them having the wrong facts. It is the opinion of Mr. Germain that it is reasonable to have a cost analysis done by Council in order to plan for the expenditure of funds.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer's Report for April 2005, dated April 26, 2005, from William Tanner, PE, was received and summarized by Engineer Tanner and is on file in the Borough Clerk's Office. In regard to the garbage contract award, Engineer Tanner will ensure that the new contractor will keep Tuesdays as the pick-up day and a letter will be drafted for distribution to residents after approval by Mayor and Council outlining the new pick-up procedures, i.e. bins, schedule, etc. Same will be posted on the Borough website. Engineer Tanner will also confirm with the present contractor that the last pickup day will be May 31, 2005.

Regarding the lawn maintenance contract, two bids have been received and will be provided to Council before the next meeting; Engineer Tanner will check on the lawn maintenance issues regarding the fields for the park, the area along Princeton Ave., and the point at Montgomery. The current contractor will be advised to continue service until a new contract is awarded.

Engineer Tanner provided a summary of the proposal submitted by JML Landscaping for the Lemore to Montgomery walkway. Engineer Tanner will provide another quote for the next meeting.

In regard to the decal installation on the storm sewers, Engineer Tanner advised that the County is willing to provide work release individuals to perform this task. The work will be done in June with Engineer Tanner overseeing the project. Mayor and Council confirmed their approval.

In response to Mr. Zimmerman's previous concern about a tree on wires on the Lemore path, Engineer Tanner confirmed that the wires are telephone wires and are the responsibility of the homeowner.

Clerk Whitlock advised there are remaining monies from the 2004 Youth Athletic Grant. It was agreed that Mr. Zimmerman provide the information to the Recreation Committee for any additional needs.

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 Hallman.

Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (See Appendix 1 for Bill List)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration & Records – No report at this time.

Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Zimmerman provided a report on Earth Day; a request has been made to replace a picnic table; an update was provided on the Recreation Committee meeting held in March. A request has been made for a pavilion to be constructed in the Borough Hall park area. Kevin Cann of the Recreation Committee was also present for the discussion. It was noted that approximately \$26,000 is available in grant monies (\$11,000 from last year and \$15,000 this year). Mayor and Council concurred that the pavilion and a backboard be added to the grant request and Mayor Nolan was authorized to file the Somerset County Youth Recreation Program Grant. Ms. Harris noted that there has also been a continual request for picnic tables at Panicaro Park. It was agreed by way of motion by Zimmerman with a second by Morren that Mr. Zimmerman get pricing for tables and a pavilion. Motion carried on roll call vote. Motion was made by Zimmerman with a second by Morren for the approval of the purchase of mulch for Panicaro Park and the Borough Hall park not to exceed \$1,000.00. Motion carried on roll call vote. In regard to the prior request for the flag pole in Panicaro Park, Mr. Zimmerman provided an overview of the costs for a new pole vs. refurbishing of the existing pole. Mayor and Council concurred that the option of painting the flagpole at this time be explored as well as the installation of lighting (to include an option for solar lighting) for same. Motion was made by Zimmerman with a second by Hallman for the expenditure of not more than \$500.00 for the refurbishing of the flag pole. Motion carried on roll call vote.

Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Cann discussed the summer tennis camp program. It was noted that the instructor carries insurance. It was suggested that the program be offered through the Recreation Committee and a minimal charge (\$5) be imposed in addition to the cost of the program to the individual. Motion to approve the program was made by Zimmerman with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Details to be worked by Recreation Committee and information will be posted on the website and bulletin board by the tennis courts.

Request was made by Mr. Zimmerman for the appointment of an additional volunteer to the Recreation Committee, Ms. Amy Gottshalk. It was agreed that Ms. Gottshalk be able to participate in the program as a volunteer and Attorney Cruz will follow up as to whether an official appointment may be made.

Finance & Insurance – No report at this time.

Public Safety & Emergency Services – Mr. Morren provided a summary of the parking tickets issues and reported that the Court scheduled for May has been rescheduled for June 2. Mayor Nolan referenced receipt of correspondence from the State Police noting a major traffic enforcement initiation for the weekend.

Streets & Roads – Ms. Harris noted that pedestrian crossing signs are on order and will be installed; resurfacing is needed for Grove St. and should be considered for next year; Engineer Tanner and Ms. Harris will meet and walk the areas in need of sidewalk repair.

Water, Sewer & Environmental Protection – Ms. Hallman summarized the March and April 2005 reports from Superintendent Larry Merk. Ms. Hallman noted that Mr. Merk will be requesting a proposal from Montgomery Township for the annual maintenance of sewer lines. This recommendation is as a result of the sewer line problems encountered in the area of the Santa Fe Grille. It was recommended that the area of the Washington Street Pub be checked also. Engineer Tanner will contact Mr. Merk regarding this matter.

Council Representative to Planning Board – Ms. Harris reported on the approval of the amending ordinance to #17-04 by the Planning Board at last night's meeting and a front porch replacement application for the Dorey property on Washington St.

Council Representative to School Board – It was reported that the school budget was passed and the reorganization meeting has been rescheduled.

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

Zoning Official – No report at this time.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Quotes for Lawn Care and Field Mowing – Addressed under Engineer's Report.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications as listed on the agenda were discussed and ordered filed. Mayor Nolan reported on an award to be given to the Borough Planning Board on behalf of the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission for their Guide to Preservation in Rocky Hill; Note from COAH requesting updated service list was provided to Clerk Whitlock for a response by Planner Susan Kimball; Loan program information for the restoration of stream dredging was provided to Engineer Tanner for his review. Motion was made by Harris with a second by Hallman for the expenditure of \$130 for Mayor Nolan and Planning Board Chairman Charles Pihokken to attend a New Jersey Business and Industry Association dinner honoring the restoration of Lyric Hall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mayor Nolan provided an update on the purchase of the Gamma Tech property by WAWA. Montgomery Township Administrator Donato Nieman provided Mayor Nolan with names of representatives from WAWA that he will be contacting. Attorney Cruz advised that he spoke with a representative from EPA regarding the settlement between EPA and Princeton Gamma Tech concerning the TCE problem in the water and will obtain a copy of the settlement for Mayor and Council.

NEW BUSINESS

In response to a request from the County Community Development Office to participate in CDBG and Housing Rehabilitation, Mayor and Council recommended approval to participate. Letter prepared by Clerk Whitlock confirming same to be sent.

Mayor Nolan is preparing flyers for the Memorial Day service on May 30th.

Flags on Washington St. – Council member Morren recused himself from discussion on this matter. It was agreed that the flags on Washington Street be placed as follows: American Flags will be placed on poles with lights; Borough flags will be placed on poles without lights. It was noted that some flags are damaged and need to be replaced. Motion to grant the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$500.00 for the purchase of flags was made by Zimmerman with a second by Hallman. Roll call: Hallman-aye, Harris-aye, Zimmerman-aye.

In response to Ms. Hallman's request, Clerk Whitlock will e-mail the meeting agenda to members individually prior to the meeting. It was requested that all items requested to be placed on the agenda be submitted to the Clerk the Wednesday before the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Germaine of 15 Washington St offered the following: in regard to the proposed pavilion, he suggested that it be no higher than structures within the area due to lightning situations; in regard to the proposed gas station at WAWA, a large amount of pumps should be argued; in regard to the solar lights for the flagpole, he noted the high expense of batteries for solar lights.

Brian Griner of 303 Knoll Way, reported that there is a blockage in the drain off of Young Drive. Ms. Harris will follow up with Engineer Tanner.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM was made by Zimmerman with a second by Morren. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths
Deputy Clerk