



Borough of Rocky Hill  
Borough Council  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
January 17, 2018

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Rocky Hill was called to order by Mayor Phil Kartsonis at 7:30 PM followed by the salute to the flag.

**NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

**ROLL CALL**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Amy Kirtland	Council Member	Present	
Robert Ashbaugh	Councilman	Absent	
Billy Dawson	Council Member	Present	
John Hagemann	Council Member	Present	
Mark Sibley	Councilman	Late	7:50 PM
Robert Uhrik	Councilman	Present	
Phil Kartsonis	Mayor	Present	

Also present: Clerk Rebecca Newman, Deputy Clerk Christine Witt, CFO Joe Monzo, Attorney Albert Cruz

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Borough Council - First Meeting of Month - Jan 3, 2018 7:30 PM

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	John Hagemann, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Amy Kirtland, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Kirtland, Dawson, Hagemann, Sibley, Uhrik
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ashbaugh

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Barbara Preston of the Montgomery News asked if the Council had been informed that the library was planning to move to Montgomery. Mayor Kartsonis answered that the library was on the agenda for later in the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

A. Bill List

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Billy Dawson, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Robert Uhrik, Councilman
<b>AYES:</b>	Kirtland, Dawson, Hagemann, Sibley, Uhrik
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ashbaugh

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

### Tax Collector

1. Tax Collectors Report December 2017

### Court Administrator

### Water Department

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administration & Records-Dawson

No report.

Buildings & Grounds- Hageman

Mr. Hagemann received an estimate for additional lighting in the Borough Hall parking lot. The soccer goals have been equipped with new netting, and Mr. Hagemann plans to line the field and replace the benches. The toilet in the kids bathroom is broken but may be under warranty.

Finance & Insurance- Kirtland

No report.

Public Safety & Emergency Services- B. Dawson

The radar signs need a software update which will delete all data history. The Franklin Police conducted 57 traffic stops in December and issued 42 summons. The Constable issued 3 tickets for snow removal in December.

Street & Roads- Sibley

Water, Sewer & Environmental Protection-Uhrik

Discussion of rates to follow later in the meeting.

Council Representatiive to Planning Board- R. Ashbaugh

Reorganization meeting schedule for January 18th. Will hear application for final subdivision

Council Liason to Recreation Committee-Kirtland

No report.

Council Representative to Board of Health- B. Uhrik

The Board of Health met in December. The rabies clinic will be scheduled for April. A voting member from Rocky Hill is need for the Municipal Alliance, and Mr. Uhrik recommends Dr. Beverly Poelstra.

Zoning Official's Report- M. Blasch

The Zoning Officer is following up with 98 Washington Street and Salon Azzuro.

Grants Committee- Kirtland

No report.

## **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

- A. RESOLUTION-2018-23 First Amendment to Shared Services Agreement by and Between the Township of Franklin and the Borough of Rocky Hill

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Billy Dawson, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	John Hagemann, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Kirtland, Dawson, Hagemann, Sibley, Uhrik
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ashbaugh

- B. RESOLUTION-2018-24 Appointment of Borough Conflict Attorney/Corporation Counsel

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Billy Dawson, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mark Sibley, Councilman
<b>AYES:</b>	Kirtland, Dawson, Hagemann, Sibley, Uhrik
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ashbaugh

- C. RESOLUTION-2018-25 Endorsing Somerset County Purchasing 25 Washington Avenue Tabled.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Sewer Discussion

The CFO recommended a sewer rate increase. The 2017 budget for water/sewer was \$225,000 but only \$216,000 was collected. The emergency spending for water main breaks in 2017 must be paid for from the 2018 budget. The proposed budget for 2018 is \$318,000.

- B. Sewer Discussion

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion of Potential Lighting Project

Mr. Hagemann recommended additional lighting for the parking lot at Borough Hall.

B. Montgomery Township Library Discussion

Mayor Kartsonis explained that Montgomery Township is including a library facility in its new municipal complex and did not give the Borough any prior notification of its decision. The new library in Montgomery is still years away.

C. Website Maintenance/Email Server

Mr. Dawson is launching a communications initiative that includes updating the website, moving the email to Gmail, upgrading Nixle, and increasing the social media presence. The total cost is budgeted at \$6,600.

D. School Algorithm

Mayor Kartsonis explained that Rocky Hill's school tax is based 38.5% on the total assessed value of all homes and 61.5% on the percentage of students in the school district. This formula was created in when the school districts were merged in 2009 and is not easily changed.

E. 2015 Property Maintenance Code

The Council discussed the Borough's property maintenance code.

F. Initial Budget Reports

The CFO gave the following highlights of the proposed budget for 2018: the assessed value of homes is \$130 million, COAH spending in 2017 was \$30,000, the expense for the insurance JIF will remain the same in 2018, there was \$14,000 in the OEM line in 2017 that was not spent, the snow removal costs so far in 2018 is impactful on the budget, pensions will cost \$13,500, capital improvements \$16,000, and the Borough has completed it Green Acres payments. The 2018 budget will be introduced March 20th and adopted on April 16th.

G. Motion to Approve New Member of the Firemen's Association

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Kirtland, Dawson, Hagemann, Sibley, Uhrik
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ashbaugh

H. Motion to Nominate Dr. Beverly Poelstra to the Montgomery/Rocky Hill Municipal Alliance

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Kirtland, Dawson, Hagemann, Sibley, Uhrik
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ashbaugh

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robert Steen, 9 Toth Lane, expressed his disappointment about the library moving to Montgomery with no warning and no discussion. Mr. Steen also commented that best practices for city planning call for libraries to be located in the center of towns.

Raymond Whitlock, 94 Crescent Avenue, commented that the toilet in the kids bathroom was installed 20 years ago when 1 toilets were mandated.

Marianne Mencher and Charles Ilich of 12 Montgomery Avenue, question if the Borough could receive a grant for water efficiency to offset the usage costs.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.