



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 6, 2005

APPROVED MINUTES

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held on the above date in Council Chambers with the Honorable Thomas W. Fromm presiding. All Councilmen were present.

A moment of silent prayer was followed by the flag salute.

Mayor advised that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law.

Mrs. Gage moved to approve the minutes of 5/16/05, regular, seconded by Mr. Daley. Vote all yes.

Mr. Daley motioned to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Former Chief Daniel DeMora stated that June is Public Safety Month and that he is fortunate to be associated with a Swedesboro based company, Wellshire Farms. Mr. DeMora stated that the Police Dept. has one defibulator and presented a second one to Chief Dupper. Mr. DeMora also stated that Welshire Farms is making available to all senior citizens in the Borough a CO detector. Mr. DeMora stated that Lou Colameco is very involved in the community and he is proud to have him in our community.

Chief Dupper praised Mr. Colameco for all his help with the Police Dept. and that he is very generous and active in the community. Chief Dupper read a Certificate of Appreciation from the Police Dept. Mayor added that Mr. Colameco has done alot for the local sports teams and also thanked Mr.DeMora for staying active in town.

Karen Murray offered to deliver the CO detectors to the senior citizens.

Jason Nothdurft, Chairman of the Environmental Commission, reported that they are working with surrounding environmental boards to help benefit all the towns. Mr. Nothdurft stated that they meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Borough Hall and that ANJEC will be giving a power point presentation.

Mr.Nothdurft stated that he is also working on a newsletter to be distributed to all residents regarding recycling rules.

Mr.Nothdurft volunteered to make sure the notice of the CO detectors being available to seniors be placed in the New Town Press.

Mayor stated that when he attended the Expo on Saturday, he asked how to get rid of computer monitors and was told by the County to take them to the landfill.

Cindy Kershaw, 318 Weatherby Ave. stated that she received a letter regarding an overpayment



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of her taxes and that she called and asked how long ago did the overpayment occur and found out that it was in 1997. Ms. Kershaw asked why it took 8 years to be notified and stated that she wanted interest added to the overpayment.

Mayor stated that it is the result of having a new auditor and they are fixing the problem. Mayor stated that there are 11 overpayments and they are being reimbursed to the residents and that the Borough CFO and Solicitor are looking into the interest and finding no law regarding giving interest on the reimbursement. Mayor stated that the refund will be processed so that no more interest can accrue and if found that interest is to be given it will be received. Mayor stated that he trusts Mrs. Hoffmann and that every year she brought it up and it was never corrected and that the CFO and the Solicitor are looking into it. Mayor stated that the problem was inherited and it is our fault and it will be corrected and if interest is warranted it will be given.

Karen Murray asked that it not end at the refund and if the resident accepts the refund to have the Borough still look into the possibility of getting interest on the money. Mayor stated that he will prepare a letter stating that it is an open issue until the determination of whether interest can be received or not.

Mr. Murray stated that the Murray family is also due a refund.

Isabella O Mahoney, 8 Styvestant asked if an audit is prepared every year and that it is not necessarily the auditors fault but that sometimes it is the mortgage company who is at fault.

Karen Murray, 423 Weatherby thanked everyone for their support of the Lunch Lady fight and that there will be at least another year that they will serve the students. Mrs. Murray thanked everyone again.

Mrs. Murray reported that the horse trough at the island will be moved and that at the last Historical Society meeting they asked the Board of Education to move it to the front of the Hill school.

Mayor stated that the trough will be moved by the contractor overlaying Kings Hwy. and that maybe something might be done at the St.Joes School in the future and if the Historical Society can have some first floor space it may be in front of that school.

Isabella O Mahoney, Styvestant referred to the problem on Glen Echo and Styvestant for the 7 children who take the bus. Ms. O Mahoney stated that they realize that nothing can be done immediately to change the bus route but would like to see a change in Sept.

Mr. Flaherty stated that he and Chief Dupper met with Mr. Fisher and they are trying to make the bus route better or at least make the bus route the same as it was before and that when Mr. Dupper is on vacation, Mr. Worrell will do the crossing of the children.

Mayor stated that Mrs. Rode will be hired tonight for a crossing guard position and that his job



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is the safety of the children and all pedestrians in town and that the Borough is accepting applications for the crossing guards positions. Mrs. O Mahoney thanked everyone for looking into the situation.

Bob Gahrs, 550 Park Ave. stated that he was there for the purpose of the basketball court on the Conrail property. Mr. Dryden stated that Mr. Page was unable to attend the meeting tonight but that he spoke to the Mayor and a letter is being sent to Conrail that the Borough is interested in the property. Mr. Gahrs offered his services to help and stated that he thought it was a good spot and we could use something like that in town and that maybe a tot lot be associated with it.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. asked where the lot was located. Mayor stated that Mr. Dryden is talking to Conrail and it is where the old train station was.

Lucille Stewart, Richardson Ave. asked why there is not a basketball court at the Locke Ave. Park. Mrs. Gage stated that they have purchased additional property and the plans in the future do include a basketball court.

Mr. Gahrs stated that not just older children but also include the younger children. Mayor stated that they must make sure that there is nothing toxic by the railroad tracks.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. thanked Mayor Fromm and Councilman Murray for attending the first Richardson Ave. Alumni gathering on Saturday.

Mr. Dryden moved to close the public portion, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Committee Reports

Economic Deve. – Mr. Murray reported that the TEA Grant application is due on 8/5/05 and that they are applying for two grants. One to expand the grant just received for a streetscape on Kings Hwy and also exploring another project. Mr. Murray urged everyone to attend the Woolwich meeting regarding Rt. 322 development at the Stratton School on 6/8/05 at 7:30 PM.

Mr. Murray stated that the Business Expo sponsored by the PTO was very successful. Mayor stated that Mrs. Dombrosky represented the Library and did a great job.

Shade Tree – Ms. Churchville reported that the Shade Tree Commission walked Kings Hwy. pruning and trimming trees.

Mr. Flaherty asked about the high grass on the Hoertter property. Mr. Daley to get in touch with Mr. Orbanus.

Police – Mr. Flaherty reported that they are getting quotes for a police car and 4 wheel drive vehicle. Mayor suggested that the Borough CFO get the prices.



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Mr. Flaherty stated that there will be an end of the year auction of some vehicles that are just sitting around. Mayor asked for a list of vehicles not being used in the Public Works Dept.

Parks & Recreation – Mrs. Gage reminded everyone of Fun Day on 6/11/05 rain date of 6/12/05 from 3 – 7 PM and Movie Nite will be held afterward.

Mrs. Gage stated that lights are being purchased for the fields and also a lightening detection system.

Mrs. Gage announced that they are planning another New York Bus trip for the fall.

Garbage & Trash – Mr. Dryden stated that he is putting a flyer together to remind everyone of the rules of recycling.

Mayor stated that he received correspondence from TLAM Corp. and that they had made a mistake when they asked Council permission to name the street in their development Chestnut Hill Drive and it should have been Chestnut Hill Court.

Mrs. Gage motioned to accept the change from Chestnut Hill Drive to Chestnut Hill Court, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Vote all yes.

Mayor reported that the owners of the DeVault house on Railroad Ave. were given notice in early April that they had until 5/31/05 to do something with the building or it would be demolished and a lien placed on the property. Mayor stated that the Tax Collector got a call last week and was told that the property was sold and settlement was on 6/3/05 and that the new owner will demolish the building. Mayor stated that they must move on this situation and that we need something in writing that the property is sold and the date that the building is going down. Mr. Dryden to get in touch with Mrs. DeVault.

Mayor went over the letter from our engineer regarding the Water Quality Management Plan Amendment which would include the development of a wastewater management plan for the Borough. The intent is to expand the Borough sewer service to include a portion of Woolwich Twp. Our engineer has requested a pre-application conference with DEP.

Mayor stated that he has received notice that the TEA application is due on 8/5/05 and that the legislators fought to get the Borough discrecenary funds for the Swedesboro central business district streetscape in the amount of \$200,000 and the TEA grant would extend that area.

Mayor stated that we need to get the \$150,000.00 grant for the repairs to Borough Hall moving. The repairs would be made to the Police offices, the clock tower and brick repair.

Mayor reported that he and Mr. Murray attended a meeting at the school and they suggested that the school board get in touch with Spector Development regarding the purchasing of property at the south end of town to build a new school. Mr. Flaherty spoke to Mr. Fisher and it was suggested that when the school board no longer needs the Walter Hill School it could



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possibly go to the town.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Dryden reported the signs are up for the Jake Braking.

Mrs. Gage asked Ms.Churchville if Shade Tree Commission will be doing anything with the large stumps left behind when trees were removed. Ms. Churchville to get in touch with Mrs Homan.

Mrs. .Gage thanked everyone attending the Memorial Day Service and especially thanked Joanna Gahrs for doing such a great job. Over 120 persons were in attendance.

Mr. Dryden asked the status of the removal of the catawba tree in front of the Vasta property. Ms. Churchville to check with Mrs.Homan.

Clerk reported that Deputy Clerk, Tanya Goodwin passed the Registrars Course and that she is certified.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Award Bid for overlay of East Ave. – Pierson)

Mr. Daley moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

Mayor stated that the Engineer thought the bid was high because of the trench drain on the south side and Mayor asked that they also run a drain on the north side of the street.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Renew Mem. In JIF)

Mr. Daley moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Murray. Roll Call Vote – all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Trans. Welfare to County)

Mayor stated that we are only one of two towns that do the General Assistance out of Borough and that since the County does it for free we will transfer it to them. Mayor stated that Leeann Azzari has done an excellent job but that economically it is cheaper for the County to do it.

Mr. Murray moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote-all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Tax O/P cancelled)

Mrs. Gage moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Daley. Roll Call Vote – Murray abstain, all others yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Tax Refunds)

Mr. Daley moved to adopt the resolution , seconded by Ms. Churchville. Roll Call Vote – Murray abstain, all others yes.

Mrs. Gage moved to approve the application to the NJ State Firemen’s Assoc. for Mackenzie



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Besso, seconded by Mr. Daley. Vote all yes.

Mr. Daley moved to approve sick pay benefits for John Gangemi, 5/9/05, Charles Simmerman, 5/9/05, and Michael Sparks, 5/11/05, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Clerk reported that the Police Dept. will receive a \$5000 grant for Domestic Violence Training.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Gage stated that she has had inquiries from residents regarding the intersection at Railroad and Second and asked that a 4 way stop be put there. Mayor asked to check with Chief Dupper and see if any other intersections need to be addressed and suggested Second & Church. Mr. Flaherty to check with Chief Dupper.

Mr. Murray asked the status of the pedestrian crossing on Kings Hwy. Mr. Flaherty stated that the Police have spoken to drivers and when Kings Hwy. is repaved that they will get signs stating pedestrian crossing. Discussion followed and it was decided to get the signs now.

Mr. Flaherty reported that Mrs. Dombrosky is setting up a date to meet with the Architect and Engineer regarding the expansion of the Library. Mr. Flaherty commended Mrs. Dombrosky for a job well done.

Ms. Churchville motioned to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Daley. Vote all yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Edith Rohrman, 1428 Kings Hwy. stated that Mrs. Gage worked very hard on the Memorial Day Service and that it was very impressive and to keep up the good work.

Marcie Voight, 208 Helms expressed her concern for the safety of the toddlers and children on Helms regarding the truck traffic exceeding the speed limits and suggested possibly speed bumps or at least have someone look into it.

Mrs. Voight also asked about the parking on Kings Hwy. near the intersection of Kings Hwy. and Railroad and that if you want to make a left onto Kings Hwy. you cannot see the cars coming because of the cars parked close to the corner and asked that the parking be limited.

Mr. Flaherty moved to close the public portion, seconded by Mr. Daley. Vote all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Closed Session)

Mr. Daley moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Roll Call
Vote- all yes.



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Mayor adjourned the meeting to closed session at 8:50 PM.

After returning from closed session, Ms.Churchville moved to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Mr. Murray. Vote all yes.

Mrs. Gage moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Dolores M. Connors
Borough Clerk