



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 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 8/15/05, regular, 9/6/05, regular, seconded by Mr. Murray. Vote all yes.

Mr. Dryden moved to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Daley. Vote all yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Art Stanley informed Council that the Christmas House Tour will be held on Friday, December 16, 2005 at 4:00 PM. There will be 13 houses on the tour and 8 are in the Borough and that there will also be a Civil War Encampment and the re-enactors at the Ruhlon house, and a colonial tea. Mr. Stanley went on to announce that there will be an ad in the South Jersey Travel Time which will be out in 11/05 and will highlight the Christmas Tour and then again in 3/06 which will highlight the businesses in town. Tickets for the house tour are \$10.00 each and it is admission to all the sites and the colonial tea.

Mike Murray introduced PHLAT Productions who will show a video that they had produced of Swedesboro. The purpose of the video is to show history and shopping, economic development and experience. Everyone watched the video and applauded the product.

Bob Kunkle, 515 Redrow suggested putting the video on Swedesboro-Woolwich.com so that everyone can see it.

Edie Rohrman, 1428 Kings Hwy. thanked the Police Dept. and the Fire Dept. for their assistance during the 9/11 Memorial Service. Ms. Rohrman reported that \$132.00 was collected which will go to the Red Cross to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Bob Kunkle, Redrow Ave. asked about the paving of Redrow Ave. Mayor explained that in 2004 the overlay award was for East Ave. and then in 2005 additional funds were needed to finish East Ave. to meeting the stormwater regulations and it is #1 on the list for 2006. Mr. Kunkle stated that it is beyond maintenance that it needs to be totally



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replaced and asked if the residents will be notified when the work will begin. Mr. Flaherty stated that he will meet with the contractor and the residents.

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

Committee Reports

Economic Dev. – Mr. Murray referred to Diane Hale, Chairperson of the Economic Deve. Committee, who reported that they are still working on the streetscape for downtown.

Finance – Mr. Daley reported that the 2004 Audit has been completed and asked Council to read at a minimum the Comments & Recommendations. Mr. Daley stated that he met with the auditors to discuss the comments and will have another meeting shortly. Mr. Daley announced that the CFO for the Borough, John Willadsen has resigned but will stay to help until a new CFO is appointed. Mrs. Gage asked who she should direct questions to regarding the audit. Mr. Daley replied either call John or the auditors or himself.

Garbage & Recyc. – Mr. Dryden reported that we have an agreement for signature that has better rates for newspapers and recyclables.

Parks & Rec. – Mrs. Gage announced that Halloween Fun Day will be on 10/15/05 at Stechers from 10 AM – 4 PM and if is \$4 per ticket. Christmas Spectacular to New York City will be on 11/19/05 at \$110 per ticket. Price includes transportation and a show.

Mrs. Gage reported that the lightening detection system will be installed at Locke Ave. Park shortly and that the bench for the Kunkle family will be redone and installed and will let the family know when.

Mrs. Gage reported that the Borough men are rolling up fencing and getting items out of the buildings at the field on Chestnut St.

Mrs. Gage announced that leaf pick up will begin next month and will have a definite date at the next meeting.

Mayor stated that Mark Lail will be taking care of removal of everything at the Chestnut St. development.

Police – Mr. Flaherty reported that the traffic signal at Rt. 539 and Kings Hwy. is being installed. Mayor stated that there will be a left hand turn lane at that location.



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Gretchen Kunkle asked if you will be able to make a right hand turn on red. Chief Dupper stated that the stop line is set back further so he did not think there will be a turn on red.

Library – Mr. Flaherty reported that the Mayor signed the contracts for the architect and engineer to proceed for the library addition and that their cost is included in the grant funds.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the grant allowed 6 computers and 2 laptops to be installed and the lines to wait for use are longer than when there were only 2 computers and that it shows that the Library has increased in activity.

Mr. Flaherty suggested placing Pedestrian Crossing signs at King Hwy. and Poplar St. Chief Dupper reported that he has applied to receive 3 more signs from AAA.

Mr. Flaherty reported that the East Ave. overlay is coming to completion and will finish in a week or two.

Mr. Flaherty thanked the Swedesboro/Woolwich Business Assoc. for a great day.

Mayor stated that the drainage on East Ave. will collect the discharge that previously went into the sewer lines to now drain into the storm drain.

Mayor announced that the Borough will rebid the installation of the curb cuts and that the Borough will receive a grant to tie the gas station at Glen Echo into the sewer system.

Mayor stated that Westrum Development on the South Ave. and Kings Hwy. development is waiting for State approval to run 5600' of sewer lines and 3500' of water lines down Kings Hwy. and are rushing to get the approval before Kings Hwy. is paved.

Diane Hale, Chairperson of Economic Dev. reported that discussion of the streetscape continues with the Economic Dev. Committee, Businesses and Historical Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Churchville is the leading effort and they are trying to get everything done before winter.

Mayor stated that the Borough Hall renovations will be the ceiling in the Police Dept., remove the rug in that office, replace front door and repairs to clock tower. Trying to do so that not all of the grant money will be used for the architect.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Gage reported that there will be a 4 way stop at the end of the 100 block of Broad and the end of the 200 block of Broad where Weatherby and Vanneman meet. This is in addition to the previous intersections of Railroad & Second, Weatherby and Helms, and



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Weatherby and Leahy. Mrs. Gage to give a list to the Clerk to send to the Borough Solicitor.

Mayor reported that they are in the final stages of getting permission to use the parking lot behind St. Josephs School and construct a curb cutoff off Kings Hwy. between Schoeners and the school to go out onto Second St.

Mr. Murray reported that there will be a referendum at the beginning of December for the Swedesboro/Woolwich School District to purchase property for additional schools.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Mayor to sign TWA-Westrum)
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Daley. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Extend 3rd Qt. tax due date)
Mrs. Gage moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote – all yes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF ALL RENTAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO, GLOUCESTER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY; REQUIRING CERTAIN INSPECTIONS, ON A PERIODIC BASIS TO QUALIFY FOR SUCH LICENSE; ESTABLISHING FEES; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

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

Mae Rogers, 1320 Kings Hwy. asked how extensive the inspection would be and expressed concerns that the inspector may have an “agenda”. Mayor stated that it is his job to make sure that doesn’t happen. Mayor stated that the inspections would be very extensive and that we will need to hire someone and they will do the inspection the way the town wants it to be done. Mayor stated that he wants all tenants to reside in livable conditions.

Mr. Dryden stated that it will allow the inspection to be done annually.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. asked if there would be a check list of items to look for. Mayor stated that they would only be looking to see that it is a safe environment for the tenant.



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Mike Warner, Kings Hwy. stated that the ordinance states that the name and address of the mortgage holder would be listed and he owns a rental property and does not want his tenant to know his mortgage company.

Mayor stated that the ordinance is modeled after others that are very successful. Mrs. Gage felt that it may mean that the mortgage holder would just be registered at the Borough. Mr. Murray read a portion of the ordinance and felt that it would be a list of owners of the property to contact in the event of an emergency. Mr. Flaherty stated that by having the name of the mortgage company, the Borough would be able to get in touch with them in the event of the owner walking away from the property. Mr. Murray felt that the town would be privy to that information not the tenant. Clerk stated that under the OPRA Law if requested the information would have to be given. Mr. Murray to look into it.

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

Mrs. Gage moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Roll Call Vote – all yes.

Mrs. Gage moved to pay sick pay benefits for Dolores Connors, ½ day 9/9/05, and Dominick Colavita, 9/12/05, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Mr. Dryden motioned to go to bid for Garbage & Trash Collection, seconded by Mr. Daley. Vote all yes.

Clerk read the following ordinance: **ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS FOR THE AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS**

Mayor opened the meeting to discussion among Council. Mr. Dryden stated that he feels it is a valuable ordinance to remove the impression that professionals are buying their way to an appointment but he felt that it did not go far enough. Mr. Dryden felt that a fair and open process should be specified for the professional positions and there be no sunshine provision and also that it does not allow you to contribute on a local level but a contribution could be made at a County level and then the County could pass it on to the local. Mr. Dryden stated that the resumes are reviewed by the Mayor and he in turn could choose the person that he wants and they may not necessarily be the one qualified and he also felt that the resumes should be available to all and the ordinance does not state that. Mayor suggested that everyone write down their concerns and it will go to the Solicitor and those concerns will be discussed at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS



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Mrs. Gage asked what the status of the traffic light at Kings Hwy. and Chestnut St. Mayor stated that a judge ruled that a light does not have to be placed and Chestnut St. will have two way traffic.

Mr. Flaherty stated that a resident has requested a street light placed on East Ave. Mr. Flaherty will check with other residents on the street to see if all feel it is necessary.

Mr. Daley moved to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Lucille Stewart, Richardson Ave. asked if information is given to new residents regarding the collection days of trash and recyclables. Ms. Stewart stated that there was a mattress out on the sidewalk on Saturday and it would not be picked up until Thursday. It was suggested that the Post Office give out the name of new residents or when the CO inspection is done.

Mayor asked Council to meet with their committees and decide what would go into a packet to be given to new residents.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. stated that a property was torn down on Kings Hwy. and asked what the plans are for that property. Mayor stated that he knows the owner had architectural delays and will proceed shortly.

Karen Murray, Weatherby Ave. asked what was being done with the Hoertter Property. that there had been activity and now there is nothing. Mayor stated that they were given notice to mow the grass and then they took it upon themselves to start to demolish the property. Mayor stated that there are legal issues with the property that need to be resolved first.

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

Mr. Flaherty moved to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Mr. Dryden motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:53 PM.

Dolores M. Connors
Borough Clerk