



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2006

APPROVED MINUTES

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held on the above date in Council Chambers with the Honorable Thomas W. Fromm presiding. Councilmen Daley and Murray were absent, all others 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 motioned to approve the minutes of 2/21/06, regular, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Mrs. Gage motioned to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Vote all yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sam Casella, 224 Vanneman Ave. expressed his concerns about the Borough taking over Swedesboro-Woolwich Day and asked when discussion was held on this. Mayor stated that the decision was not to handle anything in the Borough Hall and the Mayor and Council made a decision. Mr. Casella asked what was the resolution that was passed at the last meeting. Mayor stated that there was no resolution that a motion was made to proceed with dialogue to take over Swedesboro-Woolwich Day. Mr. Casella asked if there were any discussions prior to the decision. Mr. Casella stated that he has been involved for 16 years with the Business Assoc. and it's a slap in the face to the Assoc. Mr. Dryden stated that he regrets the way the situation was resolved and that some are in agreement with Mr. Casella but nothing can be done regarding the decision. Mr. Dryden stated that he knows that any money raised was put back into the town. Mayor stated that he spoke to the businesses in town and they are in agreement that we need to do something and move on. Mayor stated that he is putting a committee together and members of the SWBA will be on it. Mr. Casella stated that in the future before a decision is made the SWBA should be notified. Mayor stated that he understands Mr. Casella's disagreement and spoke to people around town and they feel it should be handled differently. Mayor stated that he met with members of the SWBA and businesses and it was a positive meeting. Mayor stated that it is time to try a different way. Mr. Casella stated that he feels the Mayor has good ideas but should speak to someone first before making a proposal. Mayor stated that he would attend a SWBA meeting to explain his actions.

Mrs. Gage thanked Mr. Casella and stated that she agrees with his points and that a decision was made and some disagreed and is sorry for the SWBA for all their hard work and will have to have another activity to offset the loss.



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Mr. Flaherty stated that it is time to move forward and everyone will come together and have a successful day.

Gretchen Kunkle, Merklng St. stated that she looks forward to attending and enjoys it and hopes that the SWBA can forgive and have a great day. Mrs. Kunkle stated that she feels the Mayor went about it in the wrong way.

George Harris, New Castle, DE, asked what way the town is going regarding the redevelopment plan. Mayor stated that there are planners coming up with a plan and it could be a company or an individual person to be able to apply for low interest loans. Mr. Harris asked where do you find out about the programs. Mayor stated that you can go on line to SwedesboroWoolwich.com and there is a PDF program to read. Mr. Harris stated that both sides of his property are vacant. Mayor stated that the Borough will foreclose on some of the properties and working on an ordinance that would allow a contractor to demolish the abandon properties and then they would put a lien on the property. Mr. Dryden commended Mr. Harris for attending tonight and that most people ignore problems and commend him for being concerned.

Mayor stated that the area will be a hot area in the future and anything we can do to help to just get in touch.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. thanked Mayor for attending the Swedesboro-Woolwich Black History Program and that they had a great turn out and thanked everyone for their support.

Mrs. .Edwards reported that the Love Tea will be held on Sunday, 3/11/06 and will honor people who have contributed to the community.

Mr. Dryden reported that he attended last year and that he is not a tea person and figured he would have to sit through something but found that he thoroughly enjoyed it.

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

Committee Reports

Garbage & Recycling – Mr. Dryden reported that Casworth is doing a great job and the Lore Dr. residents are very happy to have the dumpster.

Mrs. Gage stated that the only problem is one dumpster is open and the other one is closed but that once filled they are to use the second dumpster and it is difficult to lift the lid.



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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2006

Mr. Dryden asked about the Tonnage Grant resolution and it was decided that if a Coordinator name is needed to use Mayor Fromm as Acting Coordinator.

Ms. Churchville reported that there was a meeting regarding the Streetscape Project and discussed the lighting from Atlantic City Electric and they are checking into the pricing and try to resolve it. Engineer is putting together bids and Phase 1 will begin in 7/06 and construction will not interfere with Swedesboro-Woolwich Day. Phase 1 and Phase 2 will overlap. Mayor stated that he is not accepting that it will not begin until 7/06 and will get in touch with the DOT.

Streets & Roads – Mr. Flaherty stated that he spoke to most of the businesses on Kings Hwy. and has received permission from Botto's, and Bank of America to use their lots for parking. All know of the time frame. Clerk asked if anyone knew when exactly the work will begin due to residents inquiring. Mayor stated that ht 3/6/06 date was the earliest date to start and hope by 3/13/06 it will begin.

Mr. Flaherty reported that the bowl has been emptied of dirt and there are no water lines inside. Mayor stated that he was told that there is a gas line there. Mr. Flaherty stated that the approximate cost to move the bowl is \$3000. Mrs. .Gahrs is speaking to the businesses and the Borough will also help.

Mrs. Gage asked if anyone spoke to Fr. Joe. Joanna Gahrs has spoken to him and can place the bowl there. Mrs. Gage stated that she meant the parking at St. Josephs. Mayor stated that Borough Solicitor is handling it and they are trying to get a curb cut so that it doesn't cost the Borough anything. Mayor stated that he is meeting with Father the end of this week.

Parks & Recreation – Mrs. Gage reported that over 100 people attended the Bowling Party and it was a great time. Mrs. .Gage went over the upcoming activities:

Phantom tickets for sale

Easter Egg Hunt will be held on 4/15/06 and if anyone would like to volunteer to hide eggs to see her.

St. Judes Walk-A-Thon will be held on 5/20/06.

Tickets are being sold for a Medieval Times Show at the Baltimore Inter-Harbor on 5/13/06. Woolwich Fun Day will be held on 6/10/06 with a rain date of 6/11/06.

Golf Tournament will be held in either Sept. or Oct.

5 K run being planned.

Mrs. .Gage reported that the Borough came in First Place in all departments at the JIF Incentive Program and commended all involved.

NEW BUSINESS



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Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2006

Mrs. Gage went over the letter received from a resident regarding junk cars. Mayor went over the procedure that Mr.Orbanus follows once complaint is received. Mr. Dryden stated that the procedure takes time and that maybe Mr.Orbanus should get in touch with Mr. Spithaler. Mayor stated that Mr. Spithaler knows most of the Council members and himself and he was also on Council and knows how things are done and they take time. Mr. Dryden stated he will call Mr. Orbanus to apprise Mr. Spithaler of situation.

Mayor stated that he will have a meeting to discuss who is responsible to do what and reinforce who is to enforce ordinances. Mrs. Gage received a call about an abandoned car and they called the Police and they tell the resident that Mr.Orbanus handles it. Mrs. Gage feels the meeting is a good idea and then they will all know who is in charge of what. Mr. Dryden stated that Mr. Kunkle who works in Woodbury told him that they have a meeting once a week with the Police, Construction office and Board of Health and they communicate among each other.

Mayor told Mr. Flaherty that he spoke to Mr.Kunkle and he will have someone to do the Landlord Registration Inspections by 3/20/06.

Mrs. Gage motioned to accept with regret the resignation of Jim Lovegrove from the Parks & Rec. Com., seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Mrs. Gage stated that they need 2 people from Swedesboro to fill the vacancies on the Board.

Mr. Dryden motioned to appoint Frank Lusch, 8 Maybrook Ave. as the Clean Community Coordinator, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Mr. Dryden stated that during campaigning many residents felt that the home assessments should be more fair and that the Borough is at 70% of actual property values. Mayor stated that some residents are paying their fair share and many are not paying their fair share. Mayor reported that he was told it could cost between \$150,000 and \$175,000 to do a reassessment and that the County was putting together a package to get a good bid to have the reassessments done. Mayor stated that we need a reassessment but right now we do not need to do it. Once percentage gets to a lower rate then it will have to be done.

Clerk read the following resolution: (BAN \$57,000-Computers & Programs)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Safe & Secure Grant)

Mr. Dryden moved to adopt the resolution but not to submit until all corrections that the Mayor asked are made, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Roll Call Vote- Daley, Murray absent, all others yes.



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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2006

Mr. Murray arrived at 8:29 PM.

Mr. Dryden moved to approve the request to cancel one unit of W & S for account #522, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Mrs. Gage approved the request of St. Joseph/St. Alfio Feast Day Committee to have the procession through the Borough on 3/18/06 between 5:30 PM and 6:00 PM, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve sick pay benefits for John Gangemi, 2/15/06, Angie Michener, 2/21/06, and Mike Sparks, 2/23/06, seconded by Mr. Murray. Vote all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Tonnage Grant)

Mr. Dryden moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Murray. Roll Call Vote-Daley absent, all others yes.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Gage reported that she distributed the Vials of Life to the Lore Dr. residents and they were thrilled.

Mrs. Gage asked the status of the repairs to the slate roof at Borough Hall. Mayor stated that the roof is not part of the grant and they are determining have to spend the money and it is to be for repairs to the police dept., clock tower, chimney and the exterior painting and the front door replacement.

Mr. Murray asked if the Vials of Life were give to the rest of the senior citizens in town. Mayor stated it is not just for seniors but anyone who would be on medication. Mr. Dryden stated that Craig Borrie is very involved with the Boy Scouts and that maybe they could distribute them. Clerk to order more vials.

Mr. Flaherty reported that he is waiting for info from the Borough Engineer for the Library expansion.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Eric Voight, 208 Helms reported that the County has made available two drugs to be offered to Public Officials in the event of a terrorist attack. Police, Fire and DPW already have been made aware of the availability and to let Clerk know the number of people who will be taking the medication. It is urged to include family members because if the employee is exposed they could bring home the contaminant and expose their family.



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2006

Mr. Voight stated that the County is stockpiling the medication and it is optional if the employee wants to take the medication but if they decide not to sign up for the medicine and then decide later that they do want it, they will have to wait until it is available for the general public.

Mayor stated that we need to get a letter out to the residents to have them call in mass to the railroad company to complain about the ringing of the railroad crossing and we need to reinforce with the Police to have them call when they see it ringing.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. asked what exactly the Vials of Life are. Mr. Dryden explained the program and also the Lock Box Program.

Mrs. Edwards asked how they will be distributed. Mr. Flaherty stated that they are trying to get a group to distribute them.

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

Ms. Churchville moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Murray. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM.

Dolores M. Connors,
Borough Clerk