



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 15, 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 Gage 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.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the minutes of 5/1/06, regular, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joanna Gahrs, Vice Pres. SWBA, submitted the amended letter requesting permission to close Broad St. on 10/7/06 between Second & Third Sts. Between 7 AM – 4 PM.

Mr. Flaherty stated that he has spoken to people in town and they are asking why the opposite dates. Mrs. Gahrs stated that we need the fund raiser to generate the money which the Assoc. puts back into the community. Mr. Flaherty stated that he thought that Kingsway Regional School would be a better location. Mrs. Gahrs explained that the school did not prepare their schedule until the middle of summer and that would be too late for us to solicit vendors. Mr. Flaherty suggested having it at the end of August and that some business owners do not have a strong feeling or being on board with this being a week apart. Mrs. Gahrs stated that the business owners should come to the SWBA if they have any questions. Mr. Flaherty stated that some businesses are not looking to be involved in it. Mrs. Gahrs stated that is their choice.

Dave DiFranco, Pres. SWBA explained that St. Joes only had a few available dates and the end of August is a busy time with vacations and the date was not offered due to scheduling conflicts. Mr. DiFranco stated that we need a fundraiser and fall is the only time that they can do this. Mr. DiFranco explained that the Assoc. does not have a raffle license so they are limited to their fundraisers and the closing of the street is for safety reasons.

Mr. Flaherty asked if permission was gotten from the residents on the street. Mrs. Gahrs stated not yet but it will be done. Mr. DiFranco stated that he does not feel it is a conflict



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and the Assoc. wants to keep it in town and a contractor will be hired to clean the street after the event.

Mr. Murray stated that an area has been put aside for the current Swedesboro Day for the SWBA and they can do whatever and continue with the car show etc. and that it seems to make more sense to join them. Mr. DiFranco stated that funds need to be raised and that was done through the vendors. Mr. Murray suggested having a carnival. Mr. DiFranco stated that the Assoc. does not have a license to run a carnival and that they are working in conjunction with St. Joes to jointly have the event. Mr. DiFranco stated that the Assoc. is having a craft show and being very specific who can be there and also a car show and chose St. Joes to hold the event.

Mayor offered to speak to Mr. Crowley to see if a date could be set to hold it at Kingsway and stated that he feels it is a conflict holding only a week apart and they will be competing regarding the vendors. Mr. DiFranco stated that the vendors set up their schedules and are booked every Saturday. Mr. Dryden stated that he did not feel it would hurt Swedesboro Day as much as it would hurt the SWBA.

Mr. Flaherty asked that if Kingsway was available would they reconsider it. Mr. Murray asked if they were planning on having the Dee Dots, Rosina, and Yi's karate performing. Mr. DiFranco stated yes that would be in the hall and there will be no pageant. Mr. Murray asked about how much the Assoc. makes on Swedesboro Day. Mr. DiFranco stated between \$4000 - \$6000. Mr. Murray asked how much the Assoc. has in their bank account. Mr. DiFranco stated that he would not disclose that at this time.

Mayor stated that there are things they need to know and that you can have a fund raiser usually a beef and beer and most groups do not close down streets and that is why having Swedesboro Day is a town function and if giving approval to close the street then some people could ask every week to close streets.

Mayor stated that there would have to crowd control and they would have to be compensated. Mayor stated that this is in direct competition and a lot of SWBA members are involved in Swedesboro Day.

Mr. DiFranco stated that 9/30/06 was available at St. Joes but it would be a direct conflict and that streets are closed to hold a block party. Mayor stated that a block party involves neighbors not a fundraiser. Mr. DiFranco stated that the SWBA needs a fundraiser and make it safe for the residents. Mr. Flaherty asked how many police officers will be needed. Mrs. Gahrs stated that she will check with Chief Dupper. Mr. Flaherty stated that he felt it would be better the last week in August.

Mr. Dryden stated that they were asking to close the street and thanked the SWBA for changing the date and having it after Swedesboro Day and felt that any negativity would



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impact the SWBA and that the amount in their treasury is not our business and are asking to close the street for safety reasons and the questions should be limited to that issue.

Mr. Murray asked if the SWBA was not interested in joining in on Swedesboro Day. Mr. DiFranco stated that they need a fundraiser and that they could not have a raffle to raise funds. Mrs. Gahrs stated that the SWBA was looking into becoming classified as a non-profit organization.

Mayor stated that last year S/W Day was scaled down and made \$700 and the year before made \$3000 and Mr. DiFranco stated that the year before that it is over \$5000. Mr. DiFranco stated that this year the expenses will be a lot less due to the fact that there will not be the expense of the tent and stage, and no pageant. Mr. DiFranco stated that it will not be a perfect fundraiser but the revenue coming in will have fewer expenses taken out of it. Mr. Murray stated that he felt it was crazy to have the same thing two weeks in a row and from the community perspective it is confusing and that it makes more sense to work together and that maybe there is a way for the SWBA to make the money.

Mr. DiFranco stated that the SWBA just contributed \$1500 towards the Knox Box program for seniors and the money that the SWBA raises goes back to the town. Mr. DiFranco stated that Swedesboro Day was a SWBA event and we still need a fundraiser and the only issues are the safety of the residents and the request to close Broad St. down.

Ms. Churchville stated that the only issue is the closing of the street. Ms. Churchville moved to approve the festival and the request to close the street on 10/7/06, seconded by Mr. Dryden.

Mr. Flaherty stated that they must check with the neighbors to make sure they are okay with the closing. Mayor stated that there must be conditions which would include a written plan, crowd control and proof of insurance and that these things must be formalized before hand and bring it back to the next meeting. Mayor stated that he wished they would consider attending the meeting this Thursday to see if there are any other options and that they need to get in touch with Chris Powell the insurance broker for the Borough and see what coverage is needed and maybe have public works clean the street after the event.

Mayor asked if before the vote is taken would they consider sitting down with the Swedesboro Day representatives to see if any other options are available. Mr. DiFranco stated that they are comfortable with doing this. Mr. Flaherty asked if they would consider the Stratton School. Mr. DiFranco stated that they want to keep it in Swedesboro.

With the conditions mentioned the Vote was all yes.

Mr. Dryden thanked the SWBA for all that they have done for the town.



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Robert Kunkel, 515 Redrow Ave. asked when the paving of Redrow will be done. Mr. Flaherty stated that he had hoped for an answer tonight but the Borough Engineer did not get back to him. Mr. Flaherty stated that it is a lot more than just paving the curbs will be installed also. Discussion followed regarding the curbing, drainage, etc.

Lucille Stewart, Richardson Ave. stated that a year ago she mentioned placing a handicap cut at the corner of Richardson and Auburn and that it has not been done. Mayor stated that the Borough Engineer had prepared specs, went to bid and received bids that were too high so the job had to be cut back and we could not get anyone to enter a bid because the job is small. The project is still in the works and will get done. Mayor stated that the bids came in at about \$46000 and we only had \$23000 in the grant to do the job.

George Weeks, 111 Helms Ave. reported that the school district is replacing the sidewalk in front of the school and that maybe the handicap cuts could be piggybacked off of that bid. Mayor stated that the school is holding off on that job because they are trying to get the developer to help out so that there will be no cost to the school.

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

Committee Reports

Economic Dev. – Mr. Murray showed Mayor and Council the ad for Swedesboro in the South Jersey magazine.

Streetscape – Ms. Churchville reported that the scope is at the State and are awaiting their approval and then they will go to bid for the project.

Mayor Fromm and Mr. Murray met with Swedesboro/Woolwich school officials regarding the budget and cuts of \$117,000 were made which will be a substantial savings. Mayor stated that there was suppose to be a .075 to .08 increase and now the increase will be .025 - .03 decrease. Mayor stated that the Kingsway Regional School budget was reduced by \$1.25 million.

Garbage & Recycling – Mr. Dryden went over the recycling report which shows recycling up from last year.

Streets & Roads – Mr. Flaherty reported that the road construction is moving along and should be completed within the month which then the road will be overlaid and then the streetscape will begin. Mr. Flaherty stated that they are running new gas lines also while the road is open.



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Library – Mr. Flaherty reported that the Library has received a reading program grant in the amount of \$500 and that there is a trip to the aquarium scheduled and there will be a babysitter program offered through the Red Cross.

Mayor reported that Royce Haynes has retired and would like to have him attend a meeting to be recognized for his years of service.

Mayor stated that we need a Licensed Sewer Operator and also a Certified Public Works Manager and that Mr. Simmerman will be attending classes to become the CPW and are looking into a scholarship to fund the schooling.

Mr. Dryden motioned to appoint Mike DeMarcantonio effective 5/1/06 and the Licensed Sewer Operator and Certified Public Works Manager, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

Mayor stated that Mr. Demarcantonio is making low cost changes at the sewer plant and wants to eventually get all the maintenance men schooled to be licensed operators.

Vote - all yes.

Shade Tree - Mr. Dryden reported for Mrs. Gage that if Mayor and Council approve the Homan Family would like to plant 4 bushes around the tree in memory of Mayor Azzari. Mayor stated that if Mrs. Gage is fine with the plan that they can go ahead.

Mayor reported that the Rulon Horse Trough has been designated as one of the 10 endangered historic treasures by the State.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Flaherty reported that the contracts between the County and the Borough to move the Swedesboro Library to the County have been received and the Library Board is reviewing them.

Mr. Dryden stated that at the last meeting the street light for Mayhew Ave. was approved and a letter has been received from Mr. Johnson saying that the light has been installed and thanking Mayor and Council for the approval.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Certify S/W School Dist. 2006-07 Budget)
Mr. Murray moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Roll Call Vote – Daley, Gage absent, all others yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Temp. budget)
Ms. Churchville moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote- Daley, Gage absent, all others yes.



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Mayor explained that he, Mr. Flaherty and Ms. Mitcho went to Trenton regarding the application for discretionary aid and had a good meeting. Borough asking for \$80,000 to cover unanticipated legal cost for the COAH lawsuit and that would take \$.10 off the tax rate.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Temp. Budget W & S)

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

Clerk read the following ordinance: (2006 SALARY ORDINANCE, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "SALARY ORDINACNE 1976 BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO" WHICH WAS ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL ON MARCH 15, 1976.

Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the ordinance, with a public hearing to be held on June 6, 2006, seconded by Ms. Churchville.

Mr. Murray asked if anything had changed since what had been discussed previously.

Mayor stated it is the same.

Roll Call Vote – Daley, Gage absent, all others yes.

Mr. Dryden moved to approve sick pay benefits for Angeline Michener for 4/27/06, seconded by Mr. Murray. Vote all yes.

Clerk reminded Mayor and Council of the Kingsway Regional High School Memorial Day Program on 5/26/06.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the application for NJ State Firemen's Assoc. for Clark, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one spoke.

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

Mr. Dryden moved to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Vote all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Closed Session)



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

Mayor adjourned the meeting to closed session at 8:30 PM.

After returning from closed session, Mr. Flaherty moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Murray. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:08 PM.

Dolores M. Connors
Borough Clerk