



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 5, 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. Councilman Daley, Churchville, Dryden were absent, all others present. In accordance with NJSA 40A:9-132 the Mayor will be voting on all issues because of the absence of three Councilmen.

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 5/15/06, regular and closed, 5/18/06, special, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jason Hiller, Logan EMS, submitted the Activity Report for May 2006. Mr. Hiller announced that the Swedesboro-Woolwich Business Assoc. purchased 10 Knox boxes to be distributed to seniors. Mr. Hiller thanked the SWBA.

Joanna Gahrs, Vice Pres. SWBA stated that at the last meeting they requested that Broad St. be closed to traffic from Second St. to Third St. for the Fall Festival to be held 10/7/06. Mrs. Gahrs stated that the insurance certificate has been ordered but not arrived as yet but had a copy of the policy.

Mayor stated that the Borough Risk Manager was to review the policy to see if the policy is sufficient.

Mrs. Gahrs stated that the insurance certificate has been ordered. The form for the residents to sign off regarding the closing of the street has been distributed. Mrs. Gahrs stated that there are 14 homes, 2 empty, 7 replied with no objections and 5 have not responded as yet.

Mrs. Gahrs stated that she spoke to Chief Dupper who stated that they would need 2 cars for the day and 3 officers from 7 AM – 5 PM.

Mayor asked about the clean up at the end of the day.

Dave Di Franco, Pres. SWBA stated that they would rather have the Borough men do the job but it would depend on the expense. Mayor asked if the Fire Co. had been notified to



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wash the street down. Mrs. Gahrs stated that the Fire Co. never washed down the street. Dennis Conley stated that the Fire Co. did not wash the street that the street sweeper would go over it at the end of the day.

Dorothy Garozza, SWBA member asked if the title of the day was Swedesboro-Woolwich Day or just Swedesboro Day and what is Woolwich doing for that day. Mayor stated that they are doing nothing on an official basis but they will be assisting with the Police. Mrs. Garozza asked if Woolwich was helping financially. Mayor stated no. Mrs. Garozza asked if Woolwich is paying for the stages. Mayor stated that it is being run by a committee and the towns are not involved financially. Mr. Murray stated that donations will cover the cost. Mrs. Garozza asked if the towns are making any money from this. Mr. Murray stated no. Mr. Murray stated that if any money is made it will be used for seed money for next year. Mayor stated that they have their own bank account.

Dave Montgomery, Chairman, S/W Day stated that all are invited to attend the meetings. Mr. Montgomery stated that it seems silly to have two similar events one week apart and asked if there is any way possible to put the two events together and join forces to make it more beneficial. Mr. Montgomery stated that he is willing to create anything within the day and the point is that he does not care who has the day. Mr. Montgomery stated that if the SWBA wants to have their day then they will do it next year and that he does not want to compete. Mr. Montgomery strongly suggested that members of the SWBA come to the meetings.

Diane Hale, Chairman, Econ. Dev. Com. stated that if they knew how much the SWBA needs to make that day, possibly part of the entry fee could go to the SWBA. They want good crafters. Mrs. Hale suggested a Lawn & Garden Show in the spring. She stated that it is hard to run two shows back to back.

Mr. Montgomery asked that the SWBA join the group and they could do the vendors and collect the vendor fees.

Mrs. Garozza stated that she takes offense to the remark that Mr. Montgomery made that after 20 years that our event was not first class. Mr. Montgomery apologized for saying that. Mrs. Garozza that the people who worked on committees for 20 years were shocked when it was taken away. Mrs. Garozza stated that with her type of business children are a draw and it is not an issue for her to cover the 2 shows.

Mr. Montgomery stated that he did not know that politics were involved when he was asked to serve. He only knew that it was no longer going to be a SWBA Day. Mr. Montgomery stated that he would like to see a creative effort not a competitive effort and to let's do it together. Mr. Montgomery stated that he now understands the history of the decision and the disappointment but to now let's turn it into a positive.



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Mrs. Gahrs stated that the SWBA event is after the S/W Day event and it will be different and should not interfere with theirs.

Mayor asked if the SWBA event will have crafters. Mrs. Gahrs stated yes. Mayor stated then it is conflicting. Mr. Murray asked if it wouldn't be better if we both do it together. Mr. Murray stated that 4 times it was asked to have the SWBA sit down and talk but they said no.

Mayor stated that the SWBA was asked to partner with them from day one and it was never said that the SWBA would not be included. Mayor stated that they are taking another step and they will work with the SWBA and that it sounds like the SWBA is doing it for spite that they won't join them. Mayor stated that there are over 25 people who are new blood and want to do new things and it is a win-win for everyone. Mayor stated that it sounds like no matter what they do the SWBA won't join them.

Mr. DiFranco stated that this is the first time that he had heard that the vendor fees would go to the SWBA. Mayor stated that he is not involved in the meetings and said that he believes what Mr. Montgomery and Mrs. Hale have said and now is the time to put the bitterness aside and it can work for everyone. Mayor apologized and said that he wants to get the town and people involved and have the SWBA sit down and meet with the S/W Day Committee.

Mrs. Gage stated that this is the third meeting that they have come to and have done everything that was asked of them. Mr. Flaherty stated that not all has been done. Mrs. Gage asked Mr. Montgomery if the S/W Committee has gotten permission from the residents on Kings Hwy. Mr. Montgomery replied no. Mrs. Gage asked who paid the police. Mr. Flaherty stated that the town always paid the police overtime. Mayor stated that the SWBA is a private organization asking to close a Borough street and if another group wants to close a street it would go on and on. Mrs. Gage suggested that each group pay 1/3 of the costs. Mayor stated that they are not asking the SWBA for money, they will make money. Mayor stated it is a joint town event versus a private event. Mayor stated that the SWBA can make money, do a great day and it can work out. Just want to have a good day and have the SWBA talk to the S/W Day Committee.

Clerk asked if there could be a short recess so that the SWBA officers who are present could meet. Mayor stated yes.

Mr. Murray motioned to have a five minute recess, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes. Vote all yes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

After the adjournment, Mrs. Gage motioned to continue the meeting, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.



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Mr. DiFranco stated that the officers discussed the concerns and would like to meet with the S/W Day Committee. Mr. DiFranco asked when the next meeting would be. Mr. Murray stated that the meetings are held on the 1st Thursday and the 3rd Wednesday. Mayor asked if there was any chance that there could be a special meeting. Mr. Montgomery stated yes. Mayor stated that he hopes to hear good news at the next meeting. Mayor thanked the SWBA for reconsidering to meet.

Dennis Conley, Woolwich Fire Co. stated that there is a problem with traffic using the driveway at the Woolwich Fire Co. as a thru way and that the police cannot do anything because it is private property. Mayor stated that it is Borough property and that the police should be able to enforce whatever laws and that if we go before a judge we would have a good case. Mayor stated that he doesn't buy it that the police can't do something and that he will speak to the Borough Solicitor tomorrow and find out what we need to do to enforce the laws. Mayor asked Mr. Murray to get with Chief Dupper to discuss the problem and to tell him to enforce the "no throughway" signs. Mayor asked Mr. Conley the name of the officer that he spoke to. Mr. Conley said that it is a citizen's complaint since the officer on duty did not see the person in the act. Mr. Conley said his concern is for children and the firemen's safety. Mayor told Mr. Conley to put "Private Property, No Trespassing" signs up.

Diane Hale asked who is responsible to clean up the dam area. Ms. Hale stated that there are tree branches and trash in the spillway. Mayor to check with Chuck.

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

Committee Reports

Shade Tree – Mrs. Gage reported that the Borough has been named Tree City for the fifth year in a row and were given an award. Mrs. Gage stated that Steve Nieves is a part time member and asked if he could be a full time member. Mayor stated yes the Shade Tree can have up to five full time members.

Mrs. Gage reported that the Memorial Day program had over 170 people in attendance and thanked Mayor, Mr. Flaherty for attending and also thanked Joanna Gahrs for a job well done.

Mrs. Gage reported that June 10, was Fun Day. Mayor asked if this was a Parks & Recreation Day or a Woolwich day. Mrs. Gage stated that Parks & Recreation Committee is very involved but Woolwich pays for at least 85% of the expenses.

Mr. Murray reported that a part of the ceiling in the Police Station fell down. Mayor stated that he and Chuck are coordinating with the carpenters and it will be repaired and that Chuck will be the general contractor. Mayor stated that the remaining ceiling plaster



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will be replaced with drywall. Mr. Murray stated that the work will begin in the Squad room.

Mr. Murray reported that S/W Day is moving fantastically and all groups in town are represented.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Gage asked if there will be curbing in areas that now do not have curbing when Kings Hwy. is overlaid. Mayor to check it out.

Mr. Flaherty reported that within three weeks the construction on Kings Hwy. will be done. Mayor reported that they have hit some pipes but our men found some old drawings of the underground pipes that really helped them out.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: 2006 SALARY ORDINANCE, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "SALARY ORDINANCE 1976 BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO" WHICH WAS ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL ON MARCH 15, 1976.

Mr. Flaherty moved to open the public hearing, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Mayor reported that it does reflect the positions which were eliminated, combining positions and saving the Borough over \$95,000.

No one from the public spoke for or against the ordinance.

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

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Renew Liquor Licenses)

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

Mr. Flaherty asked how many liquor licenses we can have. Clerk stated that it is based on population, one for every 3000 residents. The ones that we have are grandfathered.

Clerk read the following ordinance: STORMWATER CONTROL ORDINANE FOR THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO



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Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the ordinance with a public hearing to be held on June 19, 2006, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Roll Call Vote- Daley, Churchville, Dryden absent, all others yes.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the NJ State Fireman Assoc. application for Richard DiPalma, seconded by Mr. Murray. Vote all yes.

Clerk read the Thank You card from the Azzari family.

Mr. Murray moved to approve sick pay benefits for Carl Bagby, 5/22, 5/23, 5/31 each ½ day sick, Stanley Kemp, 5/24, Mike Sparks, 5/8, 5/9, Ken Hunt, 5/11, Ron Borden, 5/20, seconded Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Clerk read memo from Tax Collector regarding Blk. 46, Lot 5, Owners attorney asked to make payment arrangement. Mrs. Coleman stated that the history of the account shows that there has been no attempt to make a payment since 11/04 and suggests not allowed a payment agreement. Mr. Flaherty moved to follow the Tax Collectors advice and not agree to a payment plan, seconded by Mr. Murray. Vote all yes.

Clerk went over correspondence from the Tax Assessor regarding the hiring of special tax counsel. Mayor to get in touch with Borough Solicitor to see if needed.

Mayor asked Clerk to get in touch with the Tax Assessor to prepare a list of properties in the Borough that can be foreclosed on and send the list to the Borough Solicitor.

Clerk went over the ordinance adopted by Woolwich Twp. which restricts sex offender residency. Clerk stated that she spoke to the Borough Solicitor and Woolwich can not enforce their ordinance in the Borough and that he was thought it is questionable if it is constitutional to adopt such an ordinance. Mayor stated that maybe the Borough should piggyback with Woolwich and come up with one for the Borough. Mayor stated that he will get in touch with the Borough Solicitor.

Mrs. Gage suggested showing it to Chief Dupper to see if he has any suggestions to make it more relevant to Swedesboro.

Mayor stated that there is no reason to jump on this right away.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Closed Session)

Mr. Murray moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned to closed session at 8:43 PM.

After returning from closed session Mrs. Gage motioned to have the Borough continue to pay the Borough Clerks pensions amounts, No one seconded the motion.



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Mr. Murray motioned to discontinue having the Borough pay the Borough Clerks pensions amounts and look into an opt out program, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Gage no, all others yes.

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

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Dolores M. Connors,
Borough Clerk