



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 19, 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, Churchville and Dryden 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 moved to approve the minutes of 6/5/06 with a change of the wording regarding Steve Nieves, seconded by Mr. Murray. Vote all yes.

Mrs. Gage motioned to appoint Steve Nieves to the Shade Tree Commission, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

George Weeks, Helms Ave., former Pres. S/W School Board, reported that the Board was looking into sidewalk repairs at the Walter Hill School and asked the status of having the developer replace the sidewalk. Mayor stated that he sent an email making an unofficial request to Westrum to do the sidewalk and as yet has not received an answer.

Mr. Weeks asked if the streetscape will be completed before school starts in September. Mayor stated that the area to be done was between Franklin and Ashton and will be done by end of August or beginning of September.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. reported that Turner and Mayhew Avenues are in very bad condition and that she is representing the residents of that area.

Mayor stated that they will be putting a list of streets to be overlayed together for State Aid or we may have to do a bond to have the streets repaired. Mayor stated that there are a lot of streets not in good shape and we will have to prioritize.

Lucille Stewart 4 Richardson, that the same two cars are still parked on Richardson and mothers still have to walk in the street since there are no handicap ramps at the corners.

Mayor stated that he and Mr. Flaherty met with the Carpenter Union and they also do concrete work and they will be able to do the ramps.



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Sherry & Don Vallandingham, 309 Broad St. complained about an abandoned vehicle at 249 Broad and first called in 10/05 and still nothing has been done and is looking for help. Mayor stated that it has been clarified who is the enforcing body and that is the Police. Mayor thought that the problem had been resolved and got an email from the Chief that the car had been removed. Mrs. Vallandingham stated that the vehicle will be there for one year as of 7/06. Mr. Murray stated that the Police Dept. was reissuing notices and there will be no leniency.

Mrs. Vallandingham stated that there is debris of cedar trees that were cut down in the back yard and they are now brown and could be a fire hazard.

Mrs. Gage asked if he had been bundling them and putting them out in the trash. Mr. Vallandingham stated that he started to but has stopped. Mr. Vallandingham stated that he came to the Clerks office and left a message for Dan Orbanus. Mrs. Vallandingham submitted pictures that she took today. Mayor asked Clerk to get in touch with the Fire Safety Official regarding the possible hazard of dried brush. Mayor told Mr. Murray that Mr. Vallandingham spoke to a police officer and they stated that it is not their area. Mayor emphasized that it is the Police that handles it and asked Mr. Murray to confirm it with the Police. Mr. Vallandingham feels that the owner is just making the property worse.

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

Committee Reports

Mr. Murray reported that the Swedesboro Day Committee will meet on Wednesday at the Woolwich Fire Hall.

Police – Mr. Murray reported that he met with Chief Dupper and discussed National Nite Out and that Woolwich is looking to do the program jointly. Mayor stated that last year Woolwich wanted Swedesboro to join them and Mr. Flaherty stated that it was decided last year that this year they would be combined. Mayor stated that the Borough Hall will be under repairs at that time and it would be better to hold it somewhere else.

Mr. Murray reported that Chief is working with Supt. Simmerman regarding the construction in the police dept.

Mr. Murray stated that there were no Swedesboro Police at the Kingsway Memorial Program nor at the Community Day at the Stratton School and asked the Chief to try to have them in attendance.

Mr. Murray stated that he visited Ptl. Weber who is still hurting. Mr. Murray explained that Ptl. Weber was hit by a vehicle on Rt. 322 and the left side of his body is in bad



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shape. Mayor asked for a copy of all investigation reports and that he spoke to Ptl. Weber today.

Mr. Dryden arrived at 7:33 PM.

Economic Dev. – Diane Hale, Ch. reported that the bid for the streetscape project would be advertised with an opening on 6/30/06. Mr. Dryden asked what area would be done first. Mrs. Hale stated Franklin to Ashton Sts. both sides of Kings Hwy.

Shade Tree – Mrs. Gage reported that there will be no meetings until Sept.

Parks & Recreation – Mrs. Gage reported that Fun Day was a huge success and thanked Mayor Fromm and Councilman Flaherty for attending. Mrs. Gage stated that they estimate that there were 3000 in attendance.

Mayor stated that the fireworks were great but suggested that next year they go door to door to inform the residents what is going on that there are a lot of elderly residents and the noise was very loud.

Mrs. Gage stated that there were 8 fire trucks at the scene and due to the windy conditions the Fire Marshall had to give the okay to hold the firework display.

Mrs. Gage reported that the Parks & Rec. meeting to be held on 7/5 has been changed to 7/12 due to the holiday.

Mrs. Gage reminded everyone of Movie Night on 7/28 and the Pink Panther will be shown.

Garbage & Recycling – Mr. Dryden asked Mr. Teter to go over the recycling report.

Mr. Flaherty reported that the Carpenter Union will start with the repairs to the Police Station and that they also will make new spindles for around the clock tower and replace the front door to the Borough Hall. Mr. Flaherty said that they have a good relationship with the union that they will also be doing the handicap curb cuts.

Mr. Flaherty stated that he is having the Tax Assessor look at the right of ways at the Library and the architect and engineer are doing the final plans.

Mayor stated that at the last Planning Board meeting the Board accepted the resignation of Harry Zappala.

Mr. Flaherty appointed Russell Zappala from alternate to regular member of the Planning/ Zoning Board, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Vote all yes.



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Mayor stated that he received a letter from the Historic Preservation office receiving the Historical Preservation Committee into a program which will enable them to apply for grants and receive priority assistance. Mayor congratulated the committee and especially Lois Stanley for all their hard work.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Gage read letter from Clerk regarding appointing someone to cover the Council meeting in her absence. Clerk stated that the motion would be made at the beginning of the next meeting. Mayor asked if Tanya can cover. Clerk stated yes but a motion must be made.

Mr. Murray read the letter regarding the promotion of two police officers. Mayor asked that it be held so it can be discussed and they would get the raise retroactively. Mr. Flaherty explained that this is a normal process that each year they progress to the next level.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Flaherty reported that once the tie ins are completed that overlay will begin on Kings Hwy. Mayor stated that the water tie ins have been more complicated than the sewer tie ins.

Mr. Dryden asked the status of the sale of Borough property. Mayor stated that he is waiting for the suggested assessment values from the Tax Assessor and asked the Clerk to call him. Clerk explained that the Tax Collector does the foreclosures and went over the procedure. Mayor stated that the sale of the properties was not going fast enough.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: **STORMWATER CONTROL ORDINANCE FOR THE BOROUGH OF SWEDEBORO**

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

Mr. Vallandingham asked what exactly a storm water ordinance is.

Mayor explained that it is a law controlling storm water so that contaminated water does not get into the waterways. Mayor stated that there are very strict guidelines and the ordinance that the Borough is passing was prepared by the County at no cost to the Borough.



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

Mr. Dryden moved to pay sick pay benefits to D. Colavita, 6/1/06 and W Dupper, 6/8/06, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Mayor asked if Ptl. Weber was on disability. Clerk stated no that he is received full pay and the Borough is reimbursed a percentage of his salary. Mayor asked Clerk to check with Chris Powell regarding State Disability.

Mr. Dryden motion to open the public portion, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Don Vallandingham, 309 Broad St. asked if there were any plans for a sidewalk to be installed on Auburn Ave. up to the CVS. Mr. Flaherty stated that that is Woolwich Twp. Mayor stated that the area across from CVS that is in the Borough any development in that area will have to have sidewalks.

George Weeks, 111 Helms Ave. asked if there is a sidewalk ordinance that residents must provide a sidewalk on their property. Mayor stated not if they did not have a sidewalk before.

Mr. Weeks stated that he would suggest notifying the neighbors ahead of time if there will be fireworks.

Mr. Weeks asked Mr. Dryden if recycling can be commingled rather than individual containers. Mr. Dryden stated that it depends on the market and how it is accepted. Mr. Teter stated that there is no market in South Jersey at this time.

Mr. Flaherty asked Mr. Teter if the Woolwich residents on Lakeview Dr. are being collected by the Swedesboro collector and how do we know if the tonnage is correct. Mayor stated that this was an issue about a year ago and to ask Casworth not to take theirs.

Jim Lovegrove, Franklin St. stated that he has seen them take Woolwich with Swedesboro's. Mr. Teter to call Casworth tomorrow. Mayor stated that maybe they worked something out but they have to satisfy Mr. Dryden and we can't pay tonnage for another town.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. asked if they have a route that they take.

Lucille Stewart, Richardson Ave. asked if there was a water restriction. Mayor stated yes and it is the odd and even restriction. Mayor stated that less information was given to



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Swedesboro residents than the residents in the Lake Narraticon residents who use a lot of water.

Ms. Stewart asked what happens to abandoned properties with high grass. Mayor stated that the owner is notified and if not taken care of Public Works cuts the grass and then the owner is billed.

Frank Lusch, 8 Maybrook Ave. reported that as the Clean Community Coordinator, he attended Fun Day and has also gotten supplies for clean ups.

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

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

Mr. Murray motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:24 PM.

Dolores M. Connors,
Borough Clerk