



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting  
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
August 21, 2006

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**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 Dryden and Councilwoman Churchville were absent, all others present with Councilman Murray available on the telephone.

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 8/7/06, regular, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

The mayor opened the meeting to the public.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Kenneth Brower-17 Ashton Avenue Continuing his complaints about Interpac located on Ashton Avenue . His complaints consist of excessive noise, the trucks blocking the sidewalk, etc. The mayor stated that his complaints have been addressed numerous times and that guidelines have to be followed. Mr. Brower has a hearing about this matter scheduled for October.

Mr. Brower also complained about the speed limit not being enforced on Kings Highway and the need for pedestrian crossing signs. The Mayor advised Mr. Brower that we do have the signs, but due to the construction the signs have been down. Once construction is complete the signs will be put back up. The mayor also stated that the crosswalks have been painted.

Joanna Gahrs -550 Park Avenue Mrs. Gahrs wanted to express her concerns about some of the comments Mr. Murray made in regards to the Memorial Day Service being taken over by the Borough. Joanna gave a speech regarding the history of the Memorial Day service. She also commented that the Business Association covers the expenses. Mr. Murray was concerned about who spoke at the services and Joanna noted that all mayor and council were invited to participate.

Lucille Stewart- 4 Richardson Avenue Commented that the focus should be on the military people not who gets to speak.

Dave Di Franco-DCD Security in Swedesboro Commented that this year was the first year he attended and was very proud of the services and how they were run.



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Dave Di Franco also spoke about the business association and their commitment to the Swedesboro/Woolwich areas. He addressed the comment made by Councilman Murray about allowing Logan Twp. businesses to join the association. Mr. Di Franco stated that he is proud of the organization and the fact that people are interested in joining this association, but reiterated that the main focus will be on the business' in Swedesboro and Woolwich. He commented that the lock box donation was specifically for the Swedesboro/Woolwich residents not Logan.

He also commented about a \$2,000.00 donation to Mr. Murray's video to promote Swedesboro that the association to date still has not seen.

The mayor stated that he will not get into a discussion about this.

Mrs. Gage spoke and did agree that the focus should be on the veterans and felt that mayor and council were not excluded. She stated that Joanna does do a lot for this event.

Joanna Gahrs asked if the Christmas parade can still be done and can they get started on the arrangements. Joanna is asking permission and would like an answer before the next meeting.

James Erdbrink-Broad Street . Stated he received a summons for his truck. He states that he wants an explanation because he states his truck is in a garage. The mayor stated that it was out of his hands. The complaint was turned over to the police and a summons was issued. The resident is upset and feels that he is being harassed. The mayor and Mr. Flaherty stated that it was turned over to the courts and he should follow up with the summons.

Lucille Stewart-4 Richardson Avenue Complained about the lot across the street being terrible. The Mayor states that the cars are almost gone. The entire back property is in the process of getting permits for demolition. The mayor stated that he has been in contact with Mrs. Thomas' daughter and she is going to try and take care of it. Mrs. Thomas is going to sell the house and there are people interested in buying it. The mayor stated Ron Baus cleared the property behind heritage and is willing to clear the Thomas' property with their permission.

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

The public portion was closed at 7:35 p.m.

The following resolution was read: (Grant agreement between the Borough and State for Cool Cities CSIP Tree Planting Grant. Mrs. Gage moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Daley. Roll Call Vote-Dryden and Churchville absent, all others yes.



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The following resolution was read: (Extend tax due date to 25 days after bills are mailed) Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Roll Call Vote- Dryden and Churchville absent, all others yes.

The following resolution was read: (Authorizing Mayor to sign TWA forms for Swedesboro Square West Development). Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Daley. Roll Call Vote- Dryden and Churchville absent, all others yes.

The following ordinance was introduced: (Ordinance of the Borough of Swedesboro amending the planning/zoning fees and escrows). Mrs. Gage motioned to adopt with a public hearing on September 5, 2006, seconded by Mr. Daley. Roll Call Vote- Dryden and Churchville absent, all others yes.

Mrs. Gage motioned to approve sick time for John Gangemi, seconded by Mr. Daley.

Mr. Daley left the meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **PARKS AND RECREATION:**

Mrs. Gage stated there will be an upcoming meeting at the Stratton School to discuss the 2007 parks and recreation season.

#### **FIRE:**

Mr. Flaherty stated at the next meeting the 8 year truck responsibility will be discussed.

#### **LIBRARY:**

Mr. Flaherty stated the library expansion project is moving along.

#### **STREETS AND ROADS:**

Mr. Flaherty stated that Kings Highway in both directions will be opened tomorrow. The cones on Kings Highway and Auburn were placed to outline the new traffic pattern.

Mayor stated that the streetscape project is progressing well. He stated that Diane Hale (economic development) is the key person on the streetscape project. He stated that Think pavers is working hard to complete the project and that the brick should start being placed at the end of next week.

Lucille Stewart-4 Richardson Avenue on behalf of H.E.L.P. thanked all who attended the BBQ on Saturday.



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**OLD BUSINESS:**

Nothing was discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Mayor wanted to thank Bobby Gahrs for cleaning up the abandoned property on Thompson and Park.

Mrs. Gage moved to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Lucille Stewart-4 Richardson Avenue asked if there was an ordinance about specific guidelines for new houses being built specifically about how many stories, setbacks, etc. She specifically inquired about the houses being built on Mechanic Street . The mayor states that there is an ordinance and that they are within the guidelines. It was stated that these houses have off street parking for each unit and that they are being sold for approximately \$300,000.00.

Mrs. Stewart also asked about the house being built on Kings Highway . Again it was noted that this house is in compliance, however, there is a problem with drainage at this location.

The mayor stated that site plans are reviewed prior to approval on the houses being built.

Mrs. Richardson also asked about handicap ramps at Richardson and Auburn Avenues. The mayor stated that if there is any grant money left it could be looked into.

George Weeks-111 Helms Avenue- Asked will the walkways be completed before the start of school as this area is a walking route for the children. Mr. Flaherty stated that the primary work should be completed.

The mayor stated that if the work is not completed he will speak to the chief about alternate routes being placed for the children.

Mrs. Gage asked as parents do they receive a letter from the schools as to a specific walking route for the children who walk to school. Mr. Weeks stated there was nothing from the school outlining a specific walking route. The mayor stated that there are routes in place.

Mr. Weeks will coordinate with the schools and police.



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Helen Fromm-Weatherby Avenue . Mrs. Fromm works for the school district and states that the parent handbook does address certain routes, but states that a more detailed outline should be done. She will contact Mr. Fisher about specific dangers.

Lucille Stewart-4 Richardson Avenue wants to have kids and cars stop cutting across the fire stations lot.

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

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

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Tanya L. Goodwin