



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2007

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 Murray was 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 2/5/07, regular, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lucille Stewart, 4 Richardson, asked if Council did anything for Hank Payne. Mayor stated that flowers were sent. Ms. Stewart stated that she meant was a proclamation done. Mayor said that yes there are a few proclamations that must be prepared.

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

Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Gage reported that the Bowling Party held on 2/10/07 was completely sold out and that everyone had a great time. Ms. Gage gave a list of the upcoming events:

Casino trip – 3/8/07, Phantoms game – 3/25/07, Bus Trip to American Music Theatre, - 5/12/07 and Locke Ave. Fun Day 6/9/07.

Mr. Flaherty reported that Verizon did commit to pay 10 years of rental fees up front for the lease of the water tower.

Mr. Flaherty announced that at Fun Day there will be a Battle of the Bands and that Mayor Fromm and Mayor Chila will be judges.

Library – Mr. Flaherty stated that they are getting numbers together to compare the number of patrons from Woolwich and Swedesboro who use the Library. Mr. Flaherty also stated that a price was needed on the expansion project and it would cost about \$1500 for the preparation of the report.



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Mayor stated that Fred Grant wants to be our recycling coordinator and wants to meet with the Mayor and Mr. Dryden to discuss the single stream trash removal.

Mrs. Gage read correspondence from Borough Solicitor regarding the proposed by-laws for the Parks & Recreation Commission who suggested that our ordinance be amended to be consistent with what our current situation is.

Mayor stated that Mike De has an idea for water storage by building a concrete vault 4' deep and can hold 325,000 gals in the area behind the public works. Mike De is also looking at repairs to the water tower and possibly doing away with the treatment plant at Park Ave. and treat all water at Chestnut St.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Flaherty stated that the Borough is finishing up the health insurance applications. Mayor asked the Clerk to remind everyone to have their applications completed and turned in and that he spoke to the Teamsters Agent and they will go on the new insurance as of 4/1/07.

Mr. Casella reported that the Board of Health will have a full membership for their next meeting.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Appt. J. Surenian, Esq.)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Sale of Boro Prop.)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Sale of Boro Vehicles)

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

Clerk read the following ordinance: ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AMENDING ORDINANCE O-2005-17 ENTITLED ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO TO FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE THIRD HOUSING CYCLE IN CONNECTION WITH RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the ordinance with a public hearing to be held on 3/5/07, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Roll Call Vote- Murray absent, all others yes.



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PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AMENDING ORDINANCE ENTITLED "RENTAL PROPERTY"**

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. asked what was the change. Mayor stated that the definition of Rental Facility was being more defined.

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

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO TO RELEASE, VACATE, AND EXTINGUISH ANY AND ALL PUBLIC RIGHTS IN AND TO A PORTION OF CHURCH STREET**

No one spoke for or against the ordinance.

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

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AMENDING CHAPTER 16 OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO CODE ENTITLED "BOARD OF HEALTH"**

George Week, 111 Helms, asked if the board was decreasing or increasing. Mr. Casella stated that they were adding one alternate and increasing the number of members.

Mr. Casella moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote – Murray absent, all others yes.

Public hearing was held on the following ordinances:

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROPER HANDLING OF YARD WASTE

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO TO PROHIBIT ILLICIT CONNECTIONS TO THE MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO TO PROHIBIT THE SPILLING, DUMPING, OR DISPOSAL OF MATERIALS OTHER THAN STORMWATER TO THE MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS TO CONTROL LITTERING IN THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO



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ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO TO ESTABLISH
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF PET SOLID WASTE

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO TO PROHIBIT THE
FEEDING OF THE UNCONFINDED WILDLIFE

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO TO ESTABLISH A YARD
WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL PROGRAM

Mayor stated that the dog waste at Lake Park is a problem and we need to find a solution. Diane Hale asked who enforces the ordinances if you see someone dumping paint down the sewer. Mayor stated that if you see anyone doing that to call the Borough.

Toni Beltz, Kings Hwy. felt that everyone needs to be educated and what alternatives are. Try reaching out to the schools so the children can tell their parents.

Mr. Dryden stated that he feels that his children are not as aware of environmental concerns as he was years ago. Mr. Dryden will attend a school board meeting and ask their help in getting the info out to the public.

Mayor stated that residents who have their sump pump going into the sewer instead of the storm drain must be addressed.

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

Mr. Dryden moved to approve sick pay benefits for Dominick Colavita, 2/17/07, and Ronald Borden, 2/15/07, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Clerk read the letter from Jennifer Beckett regarding the flag burning ceremony on 3/10/07. Mrs. Gage stated that she will attend.

Clerk read the letter regarding Trinity Church water and sewer billing. Mayor to check with Mrs. Rohrman.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Flaherty reported that he did the interview for EMT's and that there were two candidates who will be the new two full time employees.

Mayor stated that he will be attending the first meeting for the County EMT and that he does not want to change what we have right now and join the County.



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Mr. Murray arrived at 7:58 PM.

Mrs. Gage stated that when you are coming from Woodstown Rd. onto Kings Hwy. the speed limit is 50 and then goes down to 40 around the bend and then down to 30 at Lore Dr. and that if you are trying to come out of the Post Office it is a real hazard and asked if a request could be made to the County to reduce the speed limit.

Mayor stated that they will not change the speed limit unless you are currently enforcing the current speed limit.

Mayor stated that he and Mr. Flaherty were made aware of an out of town landlord who was going to raise the rent of a property that they own in town, over 50% and was working with Consumer Protection and that they met with the landlord and they agreed to a 10% increase until the resident is accepted into the housing program. Mayor asked that if they know of anyone in a similar situation that Consumer Protection is there to help.

Mayor stated that he was hoping to approve the Police Rules and Regulations tonight. Mr. Murray stated that they could be approved tonight, that Chief Dupper submitted them to the Police Chiefs Assoc. solicitor for review. Mayor stated that we need them in effect and it is his opinion to do the resolution to approve them at the 3/5/07 meeting since we have not had these rules since 1997 and that the Chief has had them for 2 months.

Mayor asked Mrs. Gage what her comments were on the Personnel Policy and Mr. Dryden stated that he also has comments. Mrs. Gage stated that they need to have a group discussion and Mr. Dryden questioned the strong Mayor position in the policy and that the Mayor handles everything but that there are some things that were previously not handled just by the Mayor. Mayor stated that previously the Borough Clerk handled discipline. Mr. Dryden replied that Council had some say also. Mayor stated that we have to have a person who is responsible and they would be the person contacted. Mr. Dryden stated that his concern was not doing what has been done in the past and asked that it be written as Mayor with the advice of Council. Mr. Casella stated that it is not about us about positions but about the person in the position at the time. Mr. Murray stated that this is typical in any municipality. Mrs. Gage stated that sometimes it is how you read it and gave an example. Mr. Flaherty felt that it leaves the town in a position to have to establish the hierarchy and have someone in charge. Mrs. Gage stated that she felt that there needs to be other input. Mr. Dryden pointed out that there are several instances where it is just the Mayor and feels it should be the Mayor or Mayor with Council approval. Mayor stated that there needs to be someone responsible and to look at the previous track record, there are no Police Rules and Regs. and no Personnel Policy. Mr. Murray stated that he feels the Mayors position should be the one in charge. Mayor proposed that they review the policy and if they find spaces where a decision would be made and not include Council to put the qualifier in that any final action would be with approval of Council. Mr. Casella suggests that they name the Mayor and Council President. Mayor stated that he is comfortable with adding a back up person to be



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responsible. Mayor asked Mrs. Gage to take charge with the language changes.

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

Lucille Stewart, Richardson Ave. urged Council to stop thinking about what has passed and think about now.

George Weeks, Helms Ave. stated that he has listened to their conversation and has been on the Board of Education etc. and that they are arguing that they want to change the old to new and that they need to make decisions and if the Mayor would make a mistake, you can appeal and overrule.

Toni Beltz, Kings Hwy. suggested that regarding the speeding, ask people to write letters to Council and then go to the police with the complaints. Mrs. Beltz stated that documenting is the first step.

Mrs. Beltz stated that regarding the issue of the rules and policy, as a taxpayer with no rules, unlimited sick time, unlimited vacations, unlimited everything is embarrassing. Mrs. Beltz stated that she wants what is fair for the town and no politics.

Diane Hale, Economic Dev. reported that the public meeting for Streetscape II will be on 2/22/07 at 7PM. 5/5/07 will be the Garden Show at the Swedesboro Auction, Gloucester County meeting with Bankers/Brokers banquet will be on 3/23/07 and will be a free exhibit. Jazz Festival will be in the fall. Delaware Valley Regional grant will be filled out and will submit by Friday. Asking to look into a parking lot for the downtown area.

Mrs. Hale asked Council to consider hiring someone to write grants, their salary would be paid for by the grant and that there is a lot of money out there. George Weeks stated that it would be a good thing to possibly share a grant writer with the school district. Mrs. Hale reported that the County cannot do enough for us and we just need to fill out the paperwork and apply. Mayor stated that we need to go after these grants.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. asked if the Borough had a set rate for rents. Mayor stated that only if that person gets help from the government, like Lore Dr. is subsidized housing. Mayor suggested that if a person gets a rate increase and feels it is too high to take the landlord to Court, there is no rent control unless house is in the affordable housing system.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Closed Session)

Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Murray. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

Mayor adjourned to closed session at 9:10 PM.



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After returning from closed session, Mrs. Gage moved to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Vote all yes.

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:18 PM.

Dolores M. Connors
Borough Clerk