



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting  
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
March 19, 2007

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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 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.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the minutes of 3/5/07, regular and closed, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Vote all yes.

Mrs. Gage motioned to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Vote all yes.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Andy Lovell, Logan EMS submitted the activity report for 1/07 and 2/07 and also attached opinion surveys of people they have aided. He reported that the State is doing a study on Emergency Medical Services and he has been asked to participate in the study and once he has more information, he will submit it to Council.

Mr. Lovell reported that during the fire, they added two additional crews to maintain coverage in the service area and on Friday during the ice storm there were five crews covering the area. Mr. Casella asked if any of the surveys were from Swedesboro residents. Mr. Lovell responded that he pulled random ones. Mayor stated that he wants to get involved in the regional EMS meetings.

Brian Slusar, Chief, Woolwich Fire Co., submitted the fire run reports for 1/07 and 2/07. Chief Slusar thanked everyone for all their help during the fire and stated that he was very impressed with the water system in Swedesboro. He stated that it held up and kept it under control until additional sources became available. Mr. Flaherty stated that it was a nasty and cold night and all went well. Chief Slusar reported that Old Swedes Inn and Mama Francesca opened up so that the Red Cross and all involved could get warm and something to eat. Chief Slusar announced that there will be a meeting of all who were involved in the fire to critique the night. Mrs. Gage congratulated Chief Slusar for a job well done for his first big fire since becoming Chief. Chief Slusar commended Rev. Evans of the helped counsel the residents of the apartment house. Mr. Casella asked that he pass on our thanks. Mayor thanked the Public Works men and all involved and that they were appreciated and thanked them from the bottom of his heart.



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Helen Fromm, reporting on behalf of the S/W School Dist. stated that funds, primarily gift cards, have been coming in and they are up to approximately \$2000 in value for the fire victims.

Diane Hale, Economic Deve. reported that the Jazz Festival will be held on 9/29/07 after S/W Day and that they received their first check today for the Outdoor Living & Garden Show which will be held on 5/5/07. Mrs. Hale reported on the following events:

Awarded grant for advertising

EP Henry donated \$3500 to be spent on advertising in the Courier Post, Glouc. Cty. Time and the Del. Co. Daily Times.

Trash containers – waiting for Engineer

Will purchase American flags for the light poles, waiting to hear from engineer to see if arms will have to be shortened.

Mayor reported that an application was submitted to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Com. for a grant for downtown parking.

Mayor reported that the Borough Engineer is putting a package together for Phase III of the Streetscape Project and that Sweeney/Burzichelli are trying to get the Borough a discretionary grant in the amount of \$285,000

Diane Hale stated that she received from McAllister Oil Co. advising that there are grants for people to remove underground storage tanks and asked the Clerk to post on the bulletin board at the Borough Hall.

Ms. Hale reminded everyone of the Bankers & Brokers breakfast on 3/23/07 at Riverwinds.

Denise Kues, 543 Park Ave. asked if the house where the fire occurred will be torn down and can we be assured that it will not be replaced with a building that will have the back of the building facing Kings Hwy. Ms. Hale asked how long it will take to tear it down. Mayor stated that Woolwich Const. Office said that it will be down in 7-10 days. Mayor reported that the Historical Society has asked if they could get inside to get some historic artifacts and some of the former residents would like to get some of their items but that the owner is not cooperating.

Eric Voight reported that two of the families are looking for an apartment and if anyone knows of anything to let him know.

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

Committee Reports



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Finance – Mr. Flaherty reported that the 2007 Local Budget will increase by \$.026 and that cost was kept in line and that a new police vehicle and a new public works vehicle will be purchased this year, debt is being paid down and the cost for an average assessed home in town the increase will be \$23.40 for the year.

Mayor stated that the 2007 Budget includes new police and public works vehicles that will be purchased, \$55,000 - \$60,000 will be used for the master plan, and the recodification of the ordinance book. Mayor stated that this is an excellent budget and that we were not applying for discretionary aid this year because we would not qualify for it. Mayor reported that the local school tax will increase by approx. \$.034 and that the average assessed house in town would pay an additional \$2.85 per month.

Clerk read the following resolution: (2007 Budget and 2007 Garbage and Trash Budget)  
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolutions, seconded by Mr. Murray. Roll Call Vote-  
Dryden absent, all others yes.

Library – Mr. Flaherty reported that the artist did a rendering and it was paid for by the Friends of the Library and the cost analysis of the addition is less than \$1500.00.

Parks & Recreation – Mrs. Gage reported that a dinner show will be held on 5/12/07 called Broadways Best, and 6/9/07 is Fun Day. Mrs. Gage also told Council that Woolwich has obtained ownership of the PNB Bldg.

Mrs. Gage reported that she received the by-laws for parks & Recreation Committee which was approved by Woolwich Twp. and she will have Tim Chell Esq. review them and make changes if necessary.

Mrs. Gage announced the following upcoming events:

- 3/8 Casino Night
- 3/25 Phantoms game
- 4/8 Easter Egg Hunt

Shade Tree – Mrs. Gage reported that Mrs. Homan had a tree specialist look at the tree at the quilt shop and that they removed four large limbs. The specialist recommended not removing the tree because it is a healthy tree.

Mayor asked about the tree on Mayhew that the neighbor stated was hazardous. Ms. Churchville stated that the limbs were removed to clear the view so that she could back out of her driveway. Clerk also stated that she spoke to Mrs. Homan and she reported the same regarding the trimming of limbs so that the resident could see coming out of her driveway. Mrs. Homan did say that she would go back to the owner of the tree and ask if a few more branches could be trimmed. Mrs. Gage to check with Mrs. Homan.

Mr. Casella stated that he spoke to Supt. Simmerman about the sign at Lake Park



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regarding dogs and the Board of Health will meet and have a sign erected.

Mayor asked for copies of the Board of Health and Environmental Com. ordinances to give to the members.

Police – Mr. Murray reported that he met with Chief Dupper regarding the new rules and regulations and copies of such will be given to each officer who in turn will sign that they received them. Mr. Murray stated that the applications for a full time officer have come in and that he has a copy of all applications.

Mr. Murray stated that the Durango should be back this week after getting outfitted. Mayor stated that he feels that the Durango should be a pool vehicle and the town is the one who defines how the vehicles are used. New vehicles should be pool vehicle and asked that it is his recommendation and to make it clear that the Durango is a pool vehicle.

Mayor and Council discussed Webers status regarding the workman's compensation claim and that there is to be no decision on the case unless the Borough Solicitor approves.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Gage asked if anything has been done regarding a proclamation for Hank Payne and others. Mayor stated that they are working on it.

Mrs. Gage asked if anything has been done regarding the speed limit on Kings Hwy. Mr. Murray to bring it up at the next meeting with Chief Dupper. Mayor reported that the County has a design for traffic calming "roundabouts" at the intersection of Center Sq., Woodstown Rd. and Old Kings Hwy.

Mrs. Gage asked the status of the traffic light at the intersection of Kings Hwy., Lake and Auburn. Mayor reported that it is scheduled for this year.

Clerk read the following resolution: (CDBG Grant Program 2007-2010)

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

Clerk Read the following ordinance: CALENDAR YEAR 2007, ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

Mrs. Gage moved to adopt the ordinance with a public hearing to be held on April 2, 2007, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote- Dryden absent, all others yes.

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Mr. Flaherty moved to approve sick pay benefits for Gregory Weber, 2/27, 3/2,3/3,3/4,3/7,3/8,3/12,3/13,3/16, William Dupper Jr. 3/6/07, Bill Goodwin, 3/14, 3/15/3/16, seconded by Mr. Murray. Vote all yes.

Discussion followed regarding the procedure to keep track of sick, vacation, and personal time for employees.

Mayor reported that monthly reports will be done for each department of their budget so that they can keep track of their expenditures.

### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Casella explained the sample ordinance that everyone had a copy of and stated that residents that he spoke to were concerned about our redevelopment ordinance regarding their properties. Mr. Casella stated that he would like the Borough Solicitor to review and asked Council to consider it.

Mrs. Gage reported that she attended the Retirement Flag Ceremony which was very nice and that Jennifer Beckett did an excellent job and congratulated her on behalf of Mayor and Council.

Mrs. Gage stated that she heard that a double billboard was to be erected on the Woolwich side of the creek by the sewer plant going into town and was concerned about it. Mayor stated that anyone can attend the Woolwich Planning Boards meetings. Clerk to call Woolwich to see status of this.

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

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

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Hale asked that Mrs. Homan be asked if it would be okay that in the next phase of the Streetscape Project if the tree in front of the Quilt Shop be removed and planted somewhere else and be replaced by two other trees. Mr. Flaherty asked that the one in front of the Library also be replaced.

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

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Ms. Churchville moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:58 PM.

Dolores M. Connors,  
Borough Clerk