



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 2, 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. All Councilmen were 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 3/19/07, regular, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Richard Fisher, Supt. of the S/W School Dist. went over the proposed 2007-08 budget. The tax increase for the Borough would be \$18.32 for the year on the average assessed home of \$87,825.

Mr. Murray asked if the impact was known for when the new school opens in 2008. Mike Griggel, Bus. Adm. stated that contingency money has been used to offset increases and does not know what impact there will be at this time. Mr. Murray stated that the taxpayers are thankful that the Board put money back into the budget.

Mayor stated that he spoke to Sen. Sweeney and they are looking into changing the formulas for school funding.

Ava Altersitz, Supt. Kingsway School Dist. went over the proposed 2007-08 budget and Andy Eubanks, Bus. Adm. went over the tax impact and explained that it could be a possible \$122.96 increase for the year for the average household. Mayor stated that he asked to sit down with Sen. Sweeney to discuss the unfair formula for school funding.

Lucille Stewart asked what is being done regarding senior citizens and taxes. Mayor reported that there will be a seminar for seniors to explain the senior freeze on their taxes. A lot of seniors are unaware of this program.

Mark Beltz, 1301 Kings Hwy. stated that due to the new sidewalks, lighting etc. he is seeing a transformation in the downtown area and would like to put outside dining on the new sidewalk at the Old Swedes. Mr. Beltz stated that he has spoken to other restaurants that have done this and it has been very successful. It would be a bistro type setting and it would benefit all. Mr. Beltz stated that his ABC liquor license has a Broad C which



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means that alcohol can be served anywhere on the premises. Mr. Beltz spoke to Chief Dupper and he brought up some good point like a divider around the eating area from the public. Mr. Beltz stated that the change to the Borough ordinance should be very specific and it would be one more thing to add excitement to the town. Mayor suggested temporary approval. Mrs. Gage stated that she felt that they should not open until the ordinance has been amended. Mr. Murray asked when he planned to have this up and running. Mr. Beltz stated that it would be this spring by the end of April. Mayor asked that the Borough Solicitor be contacted to check out the legal aspects of giving temporary approval and have him prepare a resolution giving temporary approval.

Rev. Wayne Young, Pastor, St. Pauls Church stated that they are bringing the church back to life and the congregation is growing rapidly and they are very supportive of the community and that they were there to ask the support of the Mayor and Council. The church is sponsoring a Gospel Explosion to be held at the Kingsway High School on April 21, 2007 at 4 PM. The cost of the tickets are \$25.00 and asked Council to spread the word about the concert. Rev. Young stated that any money made from the concert will be used to purchase a van or school bus for the church.

Lucille Stewart, 4 Richardson Ave. stated that she had a Hat Show at the Old Swedes Inn and that Mark and Toni Beltz were very helpful and Ava Altersize and Council are also. Ms. Stewart stated that Swedesboro helps others.

Sharon Young, Church St. asked about the old store on Church St. and felt that the town should have the owners do something about that property. Mayor reported that we are going after the owner with foreclosure due to liens and they are looking to demolish other buildings in that area with grant money that has been applied for.

Lucille Stewart, 4 Richardson Ave. asked if the grant application included Richardson Ave. for the handicap cut outs. Mayor stated that project will be done in the spring.

Mayor went over the requests for the Community Development Block Grant application:

Resurfacing and utility improvements on Second St. - \$559,430
Sidewalk extension between Borough School and Locke Ave. Park - \$230,000
Demolition of 6-8 unsafe bldgs. - \$162,000

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. stated that when the sewer work was done on Mechanic St. where it was dug up is now a gully and needs to be addressed.

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

Mr. Casella motioned to move forward to get a temporary approval for the Old Swedes to have outdoor dining, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.



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Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation – Mrs. Gage reminded everyone that the Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday at 11 AM.

Shade Tree - Mrs. Gage reported that Mrs. Homan is on top of the problem with the tree on Mayhew Ave. and that Mr. Price spoke to Mrs. Hale regarding the tree at the Quilt Shop.

Police – Mr. Murray reported that he met with Chief Dupper and are working out a lot of issues. Mr. Murray stated that the new Durango has been outfitted and it good to go. Mayor asked if it will be a fleet vehicle. Mr. Murray stated yes.

Mayor stated that he saw a special officer walking around and is glad to see them being used. Mayor also asked the status of the police applications. Mr. Murray stated that the committee will review them.

Mr. Murray reported that he got the paperwork to the Borough Solicitor and our Insurance Broker last week for them to review to see if Ptl. Weber can come in and do light duty in the office.

Mr. Murray reported that Chief Dupper will look into the speeding on Kings Hwy. at the south end of town. Mr. Murray also stated that he and the Chief walked downtown Kings Hwy. and the Chief had suggested marking out the proper spacing of crosswalks and stop signs so that we would be in compliance with the State to enforce it. Mr. Dryden stated that it is only an issue if it goes to Court that we could not enforce the crosswalks. Mr. Murray asked Council their feeling to lose only 5 spaces. Mr. Dryden stated that he would hate to see us lose any spaces because finding parking now is hard enough. Mayor asked that it just be enforced. Mr. Dryden stated that they need to write the tickets and if challenged it will go to court.

Helen Fromm reported that the Outdoor Living and Garden Show is proceeding and that they would like to get in touch with the Clean Community Coor. to see if there are any groups that would like to clean up the Auction property.

Mayor reported that someone from the County heard about the Jazz Festival and they are really excited about it.

Mrs. Hale reported that Phase III of the Streetscape Project was submitted and will go from Ashton to Church and that Phase II will begin in 6-8 weeks and will go from Franklin to the Library on both sides of Kings Hwy. That project will be completed by September.



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OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Casella asked that the sample legislation he distributed at the last meeting be tabled until the next meeting so that he can get in touch with the Borough Solicitor.

Mrs. Gage reported that the Parks & Rec by-laws be tabled because she needs to speak to the Borough Solicitor.

Mr. Flaherty reported that the Library is close to getting the figures for the expansion.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: CALENDAR YEAR 2007, ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (NJSA 40A:4-45.14)

No one from the public spoke.

Mrs. Gage moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote – all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Phase III TEA-21 Application)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (CDBG 2007 Application)

Mr. Dryden moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

AWARD BID

Mr. Casella motioned to award the bid for water meters to Water Works Supply Company pending Solicitor approval, seconded by Mr. Murray. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Flaherty stated that since there were two police cars that were not sold at the auction, one could be used as a code enforcement vehicle and shared the different code officers.

Mrs. Gage reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Service and to let her or Mrs. Gahrs know if they will attend. It will be held on 5/28 at 10 AM at the Firehouse.

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



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Helen Fromm, 402 Weatherby Ave. stated that the schools have not received the flyers of the Easter Egg Hunt.

Dan Orbanus, Kings Hwy. asked the date of the demolition. Mayor stated that the contract was awarded and they are in the process of getting permits.

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

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

Mr. Dryden moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:19 PM.

Dolores M. Connors,
Borough Clerk