



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
April 16, 2007

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**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held on the above date in Council Chambers with the Honorable Thomas W. Fromm presiding. Councilwoman Gage 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.

Ms. Churchville moved to approve the minutes of 4/2/07, regular, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Mayor reported that he is sending a letter to all residents in the Borough asking for their input on his proposal to obtain off street municipal parking and a permanent home for the Historical Society and input into the type of commercial and residential development in the center of town. Mayor read his letter outlining his proposal.

Mr. Dryden arrived at 7:10 PM.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Lois Stanley, 1214 Kings Hwy. Chairperson of the Historic Preservation Commission stated that she had written a letter expressing the Commissions concerns and felt that the Mayors proposal is wonderful.

Mark Beltz, 1301 Kings Hwy. stated that this is a classic case of a redevelopment situation and need situations to have people come into town.

A representative of the Historical Society presented a letter written by Edie Rohrman who expressed her comments on the site of the Hannold property on Kings Hwy. Mayor read the letter.

Mike Homan, Chairperson, Planning/Zoning Board stated that he thought it was a great situation and that he has been on the Planning Board for 25 years and this is the first time that anyone is doing some planning for the town. Mayor commended Mr. Homan for his expertise and everything that he does for the town.

Toni Beltz, 1301 Kings Hwy. said that she has seen the results of a planned community in Cape May and that this could happen in Swedesboro. She stated that it is important to have more businesses so that we can remain a viable, productive and successful town.

John Adams, 26 Franklin St. asked if there were any regulations against houses being divided into apartments. Mayor stated that the Borough passed a rental property ordinance that the owners must register, have their property inspected and it limits the number of tenants.

Mr. Dryden stated that the key feature is the housing inspection must be done each year.

Lucile Stewart, 4 Richardson Ave. stated that sidewalks are needed from Railroad to the Margaret Clifford School. Mayor reported that grant money has been applied for and he will find a way to fix it.



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Anthony Granato, 1316 Kings Hwy. stated that it is a bold and unique plan but worries about litigation and would feel better if there was an appropriate opinion from the Borough Solicitor. Mayor stated that he is talking about properties that are for sale and that everything is up front. It is in the redevelopment zone which helps us and gives us more say than if that wasn't in place. Mr. Dryden stated that this is a win-win situation because the town needs parking and not have gaps on Kings Hwy.

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Read Budget by Title Only)

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

### PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the 2007 budget. Mayor explained that the bottom line was that the local tax would go up by \$.026 and that the Borough did not apply for Discretionary Aid because we are in great shape. Mayor stated that he is extremely proud of the budget and there is also no increase in the water and sewer rates and there hasn't been an increase in the last four years. Mayor thanked Mr. Dryden for the Garbage and Trash budget whose tax is not going up and hopes to reduce the cost by recycling more.

Diane Hale, 506 Park Ave. thanked all who worked on the budget and stated that there have been a lot of improvements over the years.

Jack Adams, Franklin St. stated that no one has lived in his sisters' home since she went into the nursing home and wanted to know why he has to pay for water and sewer when no one lives there and he turned off the water himself. Mayor advised him to send a letter to Council and explain the situation and we can cancel the billing.

Mr. Murray moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Vote all yes.

Clerk read the following ordinance: ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AMENDING CHAPTER 48 OF THE SWEDESBORO CODE ENTITLED "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES"

Mayor explained that the Old Swedes came and asked permission to have an outdoor dining area and received unanimous support. Neither a site plan nor a zoning variance are required because this is a seasonal and temporary situation.

Mr. Dryden moved to adopt the ordinance with a public hearing to be held on 5/7/07, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Roll Call Vote- Gage absent, all others yes.

### Committee Reports

Garbage & Recycling – Mr. Dryden reported that he is looking to purchase a larger can just for paper in an effort to increase the paper waste.

Fire – Mr. Flaherty reported that a bid for the Fire house roof was received and it was \$58000 and that other options will be looked at and the cost will be split 50/50 with Woolwich. Also looking to have Woolwich Twp. contribute \$200,000 for the Library addition.

Board of Health – Mr. Casella stated that the Disclosure Forms have been distributed to the members.



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Police – Mr. Murray reported that they have met with the Chief and there are two issues to report. Another officer has resigned and they will now be hiring two officers. Mr. Murray stated that he felt they needed more officers on the street and they are putting a plan together to add a Class II and a Class I to work during the week. Mayor thanked Mr. Murray and Mr. Casella for keeping up on the meetings. Mr. Casella stated that he felt that more Class I and Class II officers should be walking the streets so that the residents can see them.

Mr. Murray moved to accept the resignation of Ptl. Dominick Colavita effective 4/29/07,

Mr. Dryden stated that Ptl. Colavita had occasions to come to his parent's home during emergencies and always was very professional and went beyond the typical duties. Mayor wished him good luck

Seconded by Mr. Dryden. Vote all yes.

OLD BUSINESS

Clerk read the following resolution: (County Bus. Recruitment Strategy Initiative)  
Mayor reported that we have had the offer to participate in a survey of the Borough and Woolwich to report what type of business would fit here and then recruit them. This is at no cost to the Borough.

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Award Bid – Water Meters)  
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Roll Call Vote – Gage absent, all others yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Tonnage Grant)  
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote- Gage absent, all others yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Confirming sale of Blk. 21, Lots 2&3, Blk.44, Lot 6.01 Russo)  
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote- Gage absent, Casella abstain, all others yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (April, 2007, Child Abuse Prev. Month)  
Mr. Murray moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote- Gage absent, all others yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (BAN \$730,000)  
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote – Gage absent, all others yes.

Mayor stated that the BAN includes \$200,000 for streetscape and other projects.

Mr. Casella asked where the Verizon money goes. Mayor stated that it goes into a separate account for repairs to water tank etc.

Clerk read the following ordinance: 2007 SALARY ORDINANCE, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “SALARY ORDINACE 1976 BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO” WHICH WA ADOPATED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL ON MARCH 15, 1976

Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the ordinance with a public hearing to be held on May 7, 2007, seconded by Mr. Murray. Roll Call Vote- Gage absent, all others yes.



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Mr. Dryden moved to approve the request to hold the annual St. Alfio procession on May 6, 2007, seconded by Mr. Murray. Roll Call Vote – Gage absent, all others yes.

Clerk read the notice from the County of an EMS presentation they would like to make at our meeting on May 7, 2007. Mayor stated that he spoke to Mayor Chila and wants to set up a meeting with the all four towns to discuss this.

Clerk read request of Mary Ann Homan for support from Mayor and Council to plant two trees by St. Joseph Parish Hall in honor of Dave Azzari. These trees are being donated by friends of his. Diane Hale asked that the engineer be contacted to make sure the trees will not interfere with the streetscape project. Clerk to prepare letter for Shade Tree.

Andy Lovell, Logan EMS submitted the March report and stated that a Safe Sitter Class was held and there were 9 students and that they will schedule another class the beginning of summer. CPR and first aid training was given to the MOMS Club and also the S/W Little League.

Mr. Dryden asked where the Safe Sitter Class was advertised. Mr. Lovell stated it is on their web site and notice at schools.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Casella stated that at the last Board of Health meeting, Jean Meddick, Sec. suggested having Council honor Dr. Gaither for all of his years of serving on the board. Mayor stated that there are several people who should have proclamations in their honor and he is working on them.

Mr. Flaherty reported that there are two companies who have submitted proposals to process the Boroughs payroll. The one company has a swipe card that enters the info right into the program. They will keep track of vacation, sick and personal days. The cost is approximately \$3600 and would replace the old program that is not user friendly. Mr. Flaherty stated that it will eliminate the massive paper work which was done previously.

Mr. Flaherty motioned to pursue the Economic Development area regarding the acquisition of property, seconded by Mr. Murray. Roll Call Vote – Gage absent, all others yes.

Mr. Casella stated that an unfortunate tragedy sometimes turns a bad thing into a good thing and was thankful that no lives were lost.

Mayor reported that the TEA-21 grant application was submitted and thanked Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Beltz for all their help. The final phase of the streetscape will be from Ashton to Church and to Glen Echo. Mayor stated that the County has contacted him to discuss tourism and asked Mayor Fromm to be the chairman of their committee to promote tourism in Gloucester County.

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

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

George Weeks, 111 Helms Ave. congratulated all those working together to turn a tragedy into something good for the community. Mr. Weeks asked if the Borough has inquired to their current vendor of municipal programs if they have a payroll program. Mr. Flaherty stated that we do have that program now and that no one can do it.



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Diane Hale, Economic Dev. Chairperson stated that she will meet with the County and retail groups on Thursday and has invited Sal Barbagallo, Nate Russo and Dave Fish to help promote the area.

Mrs. Hale reported that the Outdoor Living project is going well and the Jazz Festival will be held on 9/29/07 and they have 3 logos that were submitted and are in the process of choosing one. Economic Development has their own website and the address is swedesboro-nj.us.

May Rogers, 1320 Kings Hwy. stated that it is great to see everyone getting along.

Mr. Murray informed everyone that Craig Borrie has a son attending Virginia Tech and that his parents were trying to get in touch with him and to keep him in our prayers.

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

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Closed Session)

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

Mayor adjourned to closed session at 8:45 PM.

After returning from closed session, Mr. Murray motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:24 PM.

Dolores M. Connors  
Borough Clerk