



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting  
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
May 7, 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. Councilmen Casella and Churchville were 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 4/16/07, regular and closed, seconded by Mr. Murray. Vote all yes.

Tom Butts, Dir. of Gloucester County Emergency Response, explained the possibility of regionalizing the EMS service throughout the County. He explained that there is an exploratory committee and that they are meeting with each town in the County and explained the proposed program with the intention of a 9/30/07 starting date in some municipalities. In response to questions asked by Council, Mr. Butts replied that Logan is the model that they are trying to emulate, County would have total control and the cost which would be included in their tax rate, there are no incentives for the Borough to become involved but if one of the four towns would drop out of the present inter-local agreement we would have to look at it and the proposals will be mailed within the next few weeks.

Mayor asked for everyone's help in taking back our neighborhoods and keeping them safe. He stated that our residents are the victims and he will aggressively fight crime and attack the issues. He asked that we become partners with the Police and that within the last month there has been an armed home invasion, a gang fight with over 40 people involved with 2-3 persons being stabbed, which made it necessary to utilize 17 officers from other towns. Mayor also reported that the model homes in the new development were broken into and the appliances were removed. Mayor stated that he is proposing the following:

- To authorize the hiring of two full time officers by Friday.
- Ask Councils permission to approve the hiring of an additional full time officer.
- To ask Councilman Casella to chair the Police Advisory Committee this would aid communication between the Police and the residents.
- To hire additional special officers.

Mayor stated that the negotiating committee for the Police Contract is close to being finalized and it will include many changes and will be the best contract in the County. Mayor stated that there will be no impact on the 2007 Budget and there will be no increase in taxes and if we need to raise additional revenues in the future he stated that he



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is confident that the residents would understand the reason. Mayor stated that there have questions asked as to why we don't merge with Woolwich Police Dept. Mayor stated that this is not the time and is not in favor of it, maybe down the road but not now. Now we need to bolster our Police Dept and is asking everyone to help keep Swedesboro the great place that it is.

Mr. Murray moved to approve the request to hire one full time police officer, seconded by Mrs. Gage.

Mr. Dryden asked how many officers would that give us. Mayor stated eight. Mrs. Gage asked are all special officers qualified to carry guns. Mr. Flaherty responded that only Class II officers can carry a weapon. Mr. Flaherty stated that the Chief will be the administrator. Mr. Murray reported that there will be two officers on a 7-7 shift and during the hot times they would bring in Class II officers and have the third man on. Mr. Dryden asked that under certain circumstances they would have the Chief take a shift. Mr. Murray stated that the Chief is not to be on the street. Mayor stated that this year they allowed a lot in the budget for overtime and also added money for additional Class I and Class II officers.

Roll Call – Casella, Churchville absent, all others yes.

Mayor announced that Public Works employee Bill Goodwin has passed the NJDEP test to be a licensed sewer operator and will be taking the licensed water treatment plant operator test shortly. Also Carl Bagby will be taking the licensed sewer operator test.

Mayor reported that three families from the apartment fire have found homes and that two families are in Swedesboro and one in Malaga. Mayor thanked Kings Things and the area churches that helped these people with deposits for the homes and also utilities. Mayor thanked Helen Fromm, Meg Westburg for all their help with the families.

Mayor reported that the Borough will be getting notice that they will receive a grant from the Delaware Valley Regional Commission in the amount of \$40,800 for planning and design for parking facilities in the business district.

Mayor stated that they met last week with Kingsway School Board where they proposed 1.6 million in reductions and the school board came up with \$550,000 in reductions and that they will meet again this week.

Mayor and Mr. Flaherty met with the Swedesboro-Woolwich School Board and came up with a reduction of \$20,000. Mayor explained that they are the second lowest cost per pupil in the State and that if they go below the T & E box then the State will review to see if the pupils are being properly educated. Mayor recommended that Council accept the resolution and that reduction. Mr. Dryden stated that S/W has been traditionally a



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tight budget.

Mayor stated that he has interviewed someone to do the town news letter and will send a memo to all department heads and hope to have the newsletter out by 6/07.

Mayor reminded everyone that the Third Legislative District will hold a senior tax seminar at the Margaret Clifford School on 5/17/07 from 6-8 PM. They will go over the property tax freeze and the fair tax rebate. It was discussed to make copies of the notice and distribute them to the residents.

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

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Elaine Edwards, 636 Auburn representing HELP Inc. stated that she is requesting a waiver of the application fees for a lot line adjustment application to the Planning Board. Ms. Edwards stated that letters were sent to the Borough Engineer and Solicitor for the Planning Board asking them to waive their fees also. Mayor recommended that we waive the fees.

George Weeks, Helms Ave. reported that the County Gang Task Force did a presentation in Glassboro of gang presence in Gloucester County.

Karen Murray, Weatherby Ave. stated that the staff at Kingsway also had a presentation by Officer Lewis and it was shocking and that we need to do something now.

Edie Rohrman, Kings Hwy. thanked the Economic Development Committee for a great job that they did on Saturday for the Garden Show. Ms. Rohrman stated that the Historical Society has a booth and a lot of people were very interested in the history of the auction and the Trinity Church was open for tours.

Ms.Rohrman announced that the Historical Preservation Committee is hosting a South Jersey Roundtable on Tuesday, May 15, 2007.

Bill Ross Jr. reported that the Fire Company is applying for a Federal Fire Grant in the amount of \$119,000 to be used for new communication equipment. Also a grant application was filed with the Firemen's Fund for imaging cameras, an Exxon Mobile Grant and also they are trying to get a grant through the Agriculture program.

Mr. Ross stated that the water rescue team has been busy in Cumberland County helping over 60 residents during the floods and also involved in the Kingsway bus accident and that there will be a hydraulic rescue demo at the fire house on 5/24 at 7 PM.



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Mayor stated that he has gotten rave reviews for the Woolwich Fire Co. response.

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

Committee Reports

Garbage & Trash – Mr. Dryden stated that the recycling trend is moving slowly and we need to get moving on the recycling containers.

Fire – Mr. Flaherty stated that two bids were received for the Fire house roof replacement ranging from \$38,000 to \$57,000 and are trying to go to bid without the aid of the engineer to avoid the fees. Mr. Flaherty to speak to Woolwich.

Library – Mr. Flaherty reported that the library plans for the addition are being finalized.

Shade Tree – Mrs. Gage announced that the Borough was named Tree City for the 6<sup>th</sup> year. Mrs. Gage stated that she and Mrs. Homan planted 3 trees at the 3 schools on 5/4/07 for Arbor Day.

Mrs. Gage reported that the problem with the tree on Mayhew Ave. has been resolved that it wasn't that the tree was hazardous but that it obstructed the view from the driveway.

Parks & Recreation – Mrs. Gage announced that Fun Day will be held on 6/9/07 and volunteers are needed. Parks & Rec. is considering doing a Disc Golf with 9 holes. The construction cost would be about \$3000 for just the material and the labor is volunteered. Mayor stated that they need to come to Council for approval. Mrs. Gage stated that no trees will be removed. Mr. Dryden asked about the steps and bridge. Mrs. Gage to look into that.

Mrs. Gage reported the following activities coming up:

Movie Night is 5/11/07 with the showing of Happy Feet.

Hershey Park on 7/25/07 \$38.75 adults and \$34.75 kids and includes lunch.

Walk-A-Thon sponsored by Michelle Blair.

County sponsoring Family Fun at Locke Ave. Park and a schedule of activities will be announced at a later date.

Police – Mr. Murray stated that they received Ptl. Colavita's resignation letter and that a meeting was held with Department Heads and the Police Dept.

Mr. Murray announced that the first Swedesboro-Woolwich Day meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2007.



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Mr. Murray moved to approve the request to waive the \$100 application fee for HELP Inc., seconded by Mr. Dryden. Vote all yes.

Mr. Murray stated that the Garden Show was a positive event for the community and vendors started setting up on Friday afternoon and it was great to see the auction block used.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Gage reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Program on 5/28/07 at 10:30 AM at the Woolwich Fire house reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Program on 5/28?07 at 10:30 AM at the Woolwich Fire house and stated that everyone will be able to be seated in the fire house.

Mrs. Gage reported that she attended the ground breaking ceremony for the Oldmans Creek school.

Mr. Dryden stated that he is working on the proclamation for Dr. Gaither and if anyone has any information to get it to him.

Mrs. Gage stated that Dr. Gaither will be at the Memorial Day program and there will also be a tribute to Hank Payne.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: ORDINANE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AMENDING CHAPTER 48 OF THE SWEDESBORO CODE INTITLED "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES"

George Weeks, Helms Ave. stated that he felt it was a great idea and that it will attract people to the downtown.

Mr. Dryden moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote- Churchville, Casella absent, all others yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Alcoholic Bev. In Rt.of Way, Old Swedes)

Mr. Dryden moved to adopt the resolution as amended, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Roll Call Vote- Murray, abstain, all others yes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: 2007 SALARY ORDINANCE, AN

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ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "SALARY ORDINANCE 1976 BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO" WHICH WAS ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL ON MARCH 15, 1976

No one from the public spoke for or against the ordinance.

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Cap Waiver)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Cert. S/W 2007-08 Budget)

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

Clerk announced that the Kingsway Regional School Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 25, 2007 at 8:30 AM and asked that they let her know who is attending. Mr. Murray stated that he will attend.

Clerk read the letter from Jack Adams regarding his sisters W & S account. Mrs. Gage stated that other residents had requested that their water be shut off and billing cancelled and it was discussed that they were not to cancel billing anymore. Mr. Flaherty stated that it referred to renters not homeowners. Mayor stated that the key is if it's a revenue generating property. Mrs. Gage stated that if they only pinpointed renters that was okay. Mr. Dryden stated that we need to maintain the right to make a discretionary call.

Mr. Dryden moved to cancel the billing of water & sewer on account 358-0, effective as of the last payment, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Clerk asked Council to review the sample Tattoo Parlor ordinance and advise.

Mrs. Gage motioned to have the Borough Solicitor, prepare the Tattoo parlor ordinance, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Dan Orbanus stated that the landlord of a location where a possible Tattoo Parlor may be located was issued a violation today.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Murray announced that there will be a softball game on Sunday evening sponsored by Mugs Coffee House which will benefit St. Jude Hosp. with a \$75.00 donation.



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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. asked where the fireworks were being held on Fun Day. Mrs. Gage stated that they will be held on the PNC property. Mayor asked that a notice be sent out to the residents to make them aware of the fireworks.

Mrs. Edwards stated that a neighbor on Mayhew Ave. has a pothole in front of their property. Mayor to get in touch with Chuck.

Helen Fromm, Weatherby Ave. commended Diane Hale, Chairperson of the Economic Deve. Com. for all of the hard work she did for the Garden Show. Mrs. Fromm reported that over 1200 people attended.

Mr. Flaherty complimented Helen Fromm, Diane Hall, Judy Daley and Karen Murray for doing a great job.

Toni Beltz thanked all for passing the ordinance and resolution and being supportive of their outdoor dining.

Mayor stated that four businesses in town were awarded Gloucester County's Finest Amber Ins. One More Time, Yi's Karate, Sweetsboro Bakery, and True Value.

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

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

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:14 PM.

Dolores M. Connors,  
Borough Clerk