



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 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. Councilmen Churchville and Murray 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.

Mrs. Gage moved to approve the minutes of 5/21/07, regular, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Nothdurft Sr. asked if the Democrats and Republican parties would be providing lunch and dinner for the Board workers at the primary election the next day. He was informed yes it would be paid for.

Elaine Edwards, 636 Auburn Ave. stated that HELP has applied for three grants and asked for a letter of support from the Borough. Council agreed and Clerk will prepare.

Lucille Stewart, 4 Richardson Ave. reported that the No Parking signs have not been installed as yet.

George Weeks, 111 Helms Ave. complained that the Police are not making people yield to people in the crosswalks and drivers are not paying attention to the crosswalks. Mayor stated that new Pedestrian Crossing signs have been ordered. Mayor stated that it is time to put signs at each end of town to make drivers aware of the crosswalks.

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

Committee Reports

Library – Mr. Flaherty reported that the estimate for the expansion for the library is \$850,000 and that \$200,000 has been committed by the County and has given the information to Woolwich to discuss with their Committee.



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Garbage & Trash – Mr. Dryden reported that we are at 20% on recycling and that it cost \$22 a ton to recycle paper and \$76 a ton for trash and no matter what program the Borough decides to go with if it increases our recycling it will help us.

Parks & Recreation – Mrs. Gage reminded everyone of Fun Day this Saturday.

Shade Tree – Mrs. Gage reported that the last meeting was cancelled and they will meet on 6/13/07 and that two members are needed.

Board of Health – Mr. Casella stated that the Board does not meet in the summer and that they have been talking to the County to participate in the Give Away a Fan program for senior citizens. Mayor asked if there is a list of seniors in town. Mr. Casella stated that he spoke to someone who said they have a list and now they are saying they don't have a list. Mayor suggested getting a group together and make up a list.

Police – Mr. Casella reported that he spoke to the Chief and the Durango is ordered and will be in by the end of June and then it will be outfitted. Once received the old one will go into the fleet and after a while the new one will go into the fleet.

Mr. Casella stated that the two new officers are riding with a regular officer and on 8 hour shifts. The third full time officer to be hired will be done by next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Gage asked about the survey for the increase in dog license fees. Clerk stated that only one town has raised their fees and not to the total amount allowed. Clerk stated that a dog census must be done and informed Council that there is over \$3000 in the Dog License Trust account which could be used for the census. Clerk to call for prices.

Mrs. Gage thanked all who participated in the Memorial Day Program and that Joanna Gahrs did an excellent job with over 150 people in attendance. Special thanks went to Carmen & Winnie Pino for preparing the program.

Mr. Flaherty stated that there were core samples on Redrow Ave. which hadn't been filled in and that has been taken care of.

Mr. Dryden stated that he is working on a proclamation for Dr. Gaither and has been asking around for information and if anyone has anything to add to get in touch with him.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance:
ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO TO ESTABLISH
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OPERATION OF A TATTOO PARLOR.



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No one spoke for or against the ordinance.

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Appt. Beckett and McKnight – Police)
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote- Churchville, Murray absent, all others yes.

Clerk informed Council that the information for the League of Municipalities conference in November has come in and to decide who will be attending and how many rooms will be needed so that the registration can be done early.

Clerk stated that a Thank You was received from the Casella Family.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Flaherty stated that the CFO was to leave him information regarding the payroll companies and that he hadn't received it. Mr. Flaherty reported that they have met with three companies, ADP, Payroll USA and CASA. Mr. Flaherty stated that his daughter works for Payroll USA and that another Swedesboro resident works for CASA and that both people live in town. he would not vote on the issue and that his daughter would not handle the account. Mr. Flaherty went on to explain the differences between the companies. CASA is the only one of the three that is not capable of doing the payroll electronically. Mr. Flaherty stated that the biggest concern of the CFO was getting the Police Dept. on board.

Mrs. Gage asked if it would be a conflict because his daughter works there. Mr. Flaherty stated that if you are looking for conflict that's fine but if you're looking for a product and a company that delivers that's a different story. Mr. Flaherty stated that everyone knows ADP because they are a giant, CASA does not have the ability to do reports etc. on the computer and there would be no time clock and we need to get past the paper cards.

Mr. Casella asked if we would need to update our computers. Mr. Flaherty stated no. Mr. Flaherty explained that we have a payroll program from Edmunds now but it has not been utilized and it is not cheap. Mr. Flaherty stated that we would not be spending more money to do this that one cost would be filtered out and the other filtered in and will just about break even. We have a contract for the software but not for the payroll piece and we have been charged for the program but that Edmunds does not give us the electronics

Mayor stated that we cannot get the employees to do a time sheet so how will a card track vacation, sick etc. Mr. Flaherty stated that if they do not go into the system and enter the



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information, they won't get paid. Mayor stated that last month a policy was adopted that if you don't submit a time card you do not get paid and if you can't get the employees to do that just getting a more expensive system is not going to do it.

Mr. Dryden stated that the accounting would be done automatically. Mrs. Gage asked the estimate of the new program. Mr. Flaherty stated between \$2500 and \$3000 but that when you take out the \$3000 for Edmunds it breaks even. Mr. Casella asked if the two systems were compatible and if they offer a tutoring course to the employees. Mr. Flaherty stated yes. Mr. Flaherty stated that they want to get this system going and a decision has to be made and that once he gets the information he will give everyone a copy of it.

Mr. Flaherty reported that Mayor Fromm attended a meeting at Woolwich and he addressed issues that would directly affect Swedesboro in the future and did a great job on his presentation. Mr. Flaherty stated that he was standing up for Swedesboro with what is going to happen in Woolwich.

Mayor stated that they all need to know what is going on in Woolwich and that he was disappointed that other members of Council did not attend. Mrs. Gage asked what the meeting was in reference to and that she knows nothing about a meeting in Woolwich. Mr. Flaherty stated it was about the TDR plan, their master plan and sewer for the project on Rt. 322. Mayor stated he would like to know where people stand on this petition for their plan endorsement and asked Council if they have a position on this. Mayor stated that it is the final meeting of a public hearing for the petition for their plan endorsement for the TDR program and hopes that all are following this. Mayor stated that he found out about the meeting by accident and read the plan and there are 30 days to submit comments and urged Council to read the plan and express their comments.

Mayor explained that the main objection to the plan was that it was a State meeting from the Office of Smart Growth and the description of Woolwich mentioned all the towns they border but that Swedesboro was not included. Also one of the plans requirements is that the two towns talk and there should have been some discussions about the plan and it is almost too late. Mayor stated that he applauds Woolwich for the work they are trying to do on it but that Swedesboro should be in the loop and had a meeting and we haven't been included. Mayor reported that Woolwich was not happy that he brought up his concerns and that he is setting up a meeting with Mayor Chila to make amends.

Mr. Dryden reported that maintenance is needed at the Lake Park. Mrs. Gage to meet with Mr. Dryden and make a list of needed repairs.

Mayor reported that he received a letter from the County regarding the Regional EMS Program and to get in the first phase we need to send a letter of intent by June 8, 2007. Mayor stated that he is on the committee and things are moving forward with the regionalization of the EMS and that he was skeptic but was put to rest when he was



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informed that Andy Lovell of Logan EMS will head the program. Mayor stated that Woolwich and Logan will probably be going with the regionalization and that he spoke to Mr. Lovell and nothing will change in the service.

Mrs. Gage stated that the speaker who attended our meeting stated that it will be more expensive and we will lose control. Mayor stated that we have a great thing and want great service anywhere in the County. Mayor felt that 10 towns would be signing this week and that we will be used as the model to follow and it will not affect our service and that Andy Lovell being in charge is great. Mayor stated that if he thought the service would be less he would not recommend it.

Mr. Casella asked what regions are being developed. Mayor stated that there will be hubs all over the County and the first group will be up and running by Sept. 2007 and everyone else in 2008. Mayor stated that the County budgeted 3.8 million for 2008 for the program.

Mayor stated that we are in a situation where Lovell is going to head the program, probably Logan would be going and Mayor Chila was a great proponent of the program so Woolwich would go also and Mayor spoke to Mayor DeGeorge of E. Greenwich which leaves us probably by ourselves. Mayor recommends that we sign the letter of intent and the only thing that may change is to a redistribution of the north end of E. Greenwich which may be picked up by another station.

Mrs. Gage stated that her biggest concern is that it will cost more money and understands that we have no choice. Mayor stated that it won't cost us any money whatsoever, that it is in the County tax system and it will be a tax across the County and the Borough will not be spending \$26000.00.

Mr. Dryden felt that we have no choice if Logan and Woolwich go. Mr. Casella stated that we have an agreement with Logan & Woolwich. Mayor stated that it would be handled by our Solicitors.

Mrs. Gage stated that the EMS we have are superb and why let the County take control of another thing. Mr. Dryden stated that we have no options. Mrs. Gage stated that if we don't sign the letter of intent and if everyone else goes with it, then we are forced into it. Mr. Flaherty stated that we could go and purchase ambulances, but the expense would be astronomical. Mayor stated that he is on the committee to review this and the service will not change and will have money in the long run.

Mayor stated that 10 towns will be signing up this week. Mrs. Gage asked if all the municipalities in Gloucester County were being asked to sign up. Mayor stated yes and our program will be used as a model and it will not affect our service and if he thought that we would lose service then he would not recommend it.



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Mrs. Gage stated that the date on the letter was 5/18/07 but that she did not receive it until today. Mayor stated that we are not signing the inter-local agreement tonight. Mrs. Gage felt that if the letter had been given ahead of time it could have been read and gone over. Mayor stated that it came and he found it on his desk and he should have been at the Mayors dinner but instead he attended the meeting in Woolwich by himself representing Swedesboro because no one else knows anything about it. Mrs. Gage said no one else was notified about the meeting in Woolwich. Mayor felt that he didn't feel he had to notify everyone. Mayor said that he found out about the meeting and attended and felt that Mrs. Gage should have known about the meeting because it is her town. Mrs. Gage asked why no one else knew. Mayor stated he found out about the meeting and went and his complaint is that no one else knows what is going on. Mrs. Gage felt that he could have had the Borough Clerk be told about the meeting and she could have notified Council. Mayor stated he was busy reading the plan. Mrs. Gage stated that she felt he should have told all and they could have attended and supported him. Mayor stated it's been in the papers for three years and everyone should have known about this. Mr. Dryden asked that it not become personal and Mayor stated that he is not getting personal but he is not in charge of Council and he is not in charge of Council paying attention of what is going on in town. Mrs. Gage stated that he is the Mayor. Mr. Casella stated that they should have gotten the letter sooner about a week ago. Mrs. Gage stated that even if they had it just over the weekend. Mayor stated it was on his desk and he thought that it was addressed to Mayor and Council and they had copies. Mr. Dryden stated that it was not addressed to Council but it would have been nice to have gotten it sooner but does accept the Mayors analysis of the program. Mayor stated that we need to move on and that he had an advantage because he is on the committee and did not know that it was on his desk and we need to decide to do the letter of intent to join the system and recommends signing the letter. Mr. Dryden stated that based on Logan and Woolwich going with the County, we would have no other choice.

Mr. Dryden motioned to sign the letter of intent, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote- Gage, no, Casella, no, Flaherty, Dryden yes. Mayor broke the tie by voting yes.

Mr. Casella stated that he voted no because he did not attend the Council meeting where the County gave their presentation.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

George Weeks, Helms Ave. stated that he has great concerns of the County having the ability to extend from purely a dispatch system to calling someone else to do the work and keep it at a level of service that we have now. Mr. Weeks stated that if Woolwich and Logan go with the County, we could not afford it ourselves but has concerns if the County can continue the level of service that we are accustomed to and no longer have a



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say. Mayor stated that is why we will have an inter-local agreement with conditions and it will hopefully be the same people hired on for the program.

Helen Fromm, Weatherby Ave. stated that in regards to the program costing more was if we stayed the way we were rather than going with the County.

Eric Voight, Helms Ave. informed Council that he needed dates from Council for them to take the NIMS training which is conditional for grants and that it is not an option, it's a state law that this class must be taken. Also the Borough needs to name a NIMS coordinator and will check with the fire department to see if they have one.

Mr. Voight stated that he is personally good friends with EMS chiefs and have heard nothing but positives about this EMS program. Mr. Voight stated that he has been coming to Council meetings for a while and is ashamed at Mrs. Gage for always being against anything that is new for the better of the town.

Mr. Dryden responded that the information was wanted in advance and the question was whether to be rushed into a decision or get it in advance to read.

Mr. Voight felt that it was a shame that everything is a no. Mrs. Gage stated that she is sorry if he is disappointed in her but that she gave her opinion of what is for the best of the town. Mrs. Gage stated that she had voted against the Logan EMS because she thought that our people who had dedicated their time needed to have a chance to be able to prove themselves with the EMS service and be paid and have full time people available and the reason for the "do not responds" was because no one was full time for the position. Swedesboro submitted a budget and so did Logan and the people who had given 60 years of their free time should have been given the opportunity. This issue was brought up and saw one presentation and have not met nor discussed the issue and are going by what the Mayor says and know what he says is the truth but when given a booklet today and then vote on something that's not right. Mrs. Gage stated that she wants to read and know what she is voting on and sorry he is disappointed but that is her job.

Mayor stated that when voted on the first time there were two choices, join with the others and pay \$26000 for ambulance service or take emotions out of it and the estimate from Woolwich Fire Co. was over \$400,000 to do it ourselves.

Mr. Flaherty stated that it was slightly cheaper and the two towns together were \$360,000 but once Woolwich voted to go with Logan, we had to make a decision and we would have had to pay \$360,000 for Swedesboro alone for ambulance service. Mayor stated to say we need to give our people a chance is not the best for the town. In our hearts we would have like to have the Fire Co. do it but in our minds we knew a professional service would be less costly. Mayor stated that it would be nice to have months to review but it is what it is.



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Dan Orbanus, 1529 Kings Hwy. thanked Officer Hargraves for his help with a problem at a residence with trash and a mattress blocking view of drivers.

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Closed Session)

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

Mayor adjourned to closed session at 8:45 PM.

After returning from closed session, Clerk read the following resolution: (Renew Liquor Licenses)

Mrs. Gage motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote-
Churchville, Murray absent, Casella, abstained from voting on the Kings Liquors
application, Gage, Dryden, Flaherty and Mayor yes.

Mrs. Gage motioned to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all
yes.

Mr. Casella motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:52 PM.

Dolores M. Connors
Borough Clerk