



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 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. Councilmen Murray and Churchville were absent.

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.

The mayor asked for a motion for Tanya Goodwin to take the minutes of this meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Gage, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2007 meeting, however, Mr. Dryden stated that his comments regarding Merkling Street were not included in the minutes. He stated that he would e-mail his comments that he wants included in the minutes and that they will be approved at the next meeting.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lucille Stewart-Richardson Avenue-Commented about the trees on Richardson that need trimming and about yard trimmings being put out for trash. Mr. Dryden commented that the trash company will not pick up yard waste unless it is bundled and cut. She also commented that the house on the corner of Auburn Avenue and Richardson are putting their trash out to early. She was advised to notify the police.

The mayor stated that the repairs to Borough Hall should be underway by the end of this week.

Mayor commented that the codification of the ordinances is in the process of being completed.

A motion by Mr. Dryden was made to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Mayor stated that the traffic light on Auburn is in the process and hopefully will be done in time for the start of school.



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Mayor stated that it is with regret that John Leech will be resigning as our housing inspector. He stated that for personal reasons John was no longer able to be our inspector, but that he would stay on until a replacement was found. The Mayor stated that he talked with Jim Sabetta and they are moving forward in looking for a replacement.

Mrs. Gage motioned to accept with regret the resignation of John Leech, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Mayor commented that the water/sewer issues with Rode's billing has been resolved and they are going to pay the agreed on fees.

Mayor stated that Westrum is paying decreased connection fees for their water and sewer due to the fact that they covered emergency repair costs. Dolores prepared a list of the properties that are to be credited and a check will be issued.

Mayor also commented that he spoke to Dolores about the fact that Westrum has not paid the recreation fees (\$1200.00 per unit) and the developer fees, which he believes to be between .5% and 1%. Mayor stated that Dolores could use the list established from the Water/Sewer reimbursement to bill them their fees. He also stated that a separate account has to be established for each fee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Garbage and Trash

Mr. Dryden reported that that he spoke with Fred Grant from East Greenwich. He talked about some of the benefits of a single stream recycling program. This is combining all recycling into one container. Mr. Dryden stated that this could encourage residents to recycle more because they would only have one container instead of three. He is looking into a recycling bank program. Mr. Dryden also stated that he is looking into having the clean communities funds help towards the costs of the recycling containers.

Mr. Casella questioned whether the recycling company offered the containers at a lower cost. Mr. Dryden stated that he was not aware of this.

Mr. Dryden motioned pending funding from clean communities that the recycling containers be purchased.

Mr. Dryden stated that our overall recycling rate is about 20.04%.



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Library

Mrs. Gage asked about the status of the library and Mr. Flaherty stated that he has met with Marge and they are discussing other options, but stated that they will somehow proceed with the expansion. They have not ruled out Woolwich, but they are looking into other avenues.

Mr. Flaherty commented on the status of the fire house roof. He stated that Woolwich is going out for formal bids and that all bids are due by 7/13/07. Mr. Flaherty stated that they already received bids, but due to issues regarding the specs that those bids were not accepted. They initially received two quotes, approximately 50,000 and 30,000 respectively, but they do not expect the project including engineer fees to exceed \$80,000.00

Mayor asked that the CFO be informed of the letter regarding Swedesboro's portion of the cost and that the paperwork is in order and the money is secure for this project.

Parks and Recreation

Mrs. Gage stated that the next meeting will be held on 7/18/07 at Jackie Williams' house.

Mrs. Gage commented on some of the upcoming events sponsored by Parks and Recreation. Discounted tickets are being sold at Borough Hall and Woolwich Twp municipal building for Hershey Park. The discount tickets can be used at any time, but the special day is 7/25/07 as this day includes lunch with your tickets.

7/26/07 is the next scheduled movie night.

She also stated that Hit Doctor will be doing a program, there will be a tennis clinic, and other activities will be held at Locke Avenue Park.

Shade Tree

Mrs. Gage stated there will be no meeting until September.

Board of Health

Mr. Casella talked with the office of Senior Services and stated that we were too late in filing our application to be a drop off place for fans for seniors, but that a letter was placed on the door and the bulletin board of borough hall listing a number for seniors to call if they are in need of a fan.



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The board was pleased to hear about the upcoming dog/cat census.

Police Committee

Mr. Casella spoke with the chief and he stated that the new police SUV should be ready within the next 1-2 weeks.

Mr. Casella informed Mayor and Council that Gregory Weber is to be moved up to First Class Patrolman based on his PBA Contract. He spoke with the solicitor who stated that even though Mr. Weber has been out on disability his class is still to be moved up. Mr. Casella motioned to move Gregory Weber up to First Class Patrolman, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Mr. Casella and Mr. Flaherty interviewed the final applicants for the position of full time patrolman. After the interview process it was determined that Christian Gregory our current class II officer was the best candidate for the position. He was offered and accepted the position. He will be sworn in at the next meeting. Mr. Flaherty motioned for Christian Gregory to be hired as a full time patrolman, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote, all present yes.

The mayor stated that with the hiring of the new officers that the police department is where it needs to be.

Mr. Casella thanked the police force for all their hard work.

The mayor thanked Mr. Casella and Mr. Flaherty for their hard work in the hiring process and stated that they are in great shape. The mayor also stated that the department is still looking for class 1&2 officers.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Flaherty brought up the conditions of the water tower agreement with Verizon and that the amendment needed to be taken care of tonight. He gave a brief explanation as to the fees that Verizon was paying and the terms.

A public hearing was held on the following ordinance: 2007 Salary Ordinance. Nobody from the public spoke for or against the ordinance. A motion was made from Mr. Dryden to adopt the amendment to the Salary Ordinance regarding summer help, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote, all present yes.



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Tanya Goodwin read the following ordinance: **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AMENDING CHAPTER 35 THE SWEDESBORO CODE ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT"**.

Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the ordinance with a public hearing on 7/16/07, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote, all present yes.

Tanya Goodwin read the following ordinance: **Ordinance Amending Chapter 69 of the Swedesboro Code Entitled "Garage Sales"**

Mr. Dryden moved to adopt the ordinance with a public hearing to be held on 7/16/07, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Roll Call Vote-all present yes.

Tanya Goodwin read the following ordinance: **2007 SALARY ORDINANCE " AN ORDINANCE TO AMMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "SALARY ORDINANCE 1976 BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO" WHICH WAS ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL ON MARCH 15, 1976**

Mr. Dryden moved to adopt the ordinance with a public hearing on 7/16/07, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote-All present yes.

Tanya Goodwin read the following resolution: **RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF SWEDESBORO TO SIGN THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO WATER TOWER LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AND CELLCO PARTNERSHIP, D/B/A/ VERIZON WIRELESS.**

Mr. Casella asked whether this agreement was only available to Verizon and how the costs were projected. Mr. Flaherty answered that this agreement was not only for Verizon and that the cost Verizon is to pay is projected over the next 10 years.

Mr. Dryden moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Roll Call Vote-all present yes.

Tanya Goodwin read the following resolution: **RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF SWEDESBORO TO SIGN THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AND THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.**

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

NEW BUSINESS



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Mr. Flaherty stated that Mr. Vasta approached him regarding the water damage issues on Thompson. Mr. Simmerman is looking into the situation and is determining whose responsibility it is to take care of this situation. Apparently, in the past Public Works took care of this. The Mayor stated that he was looking into this being a possible easement.

Mrs. Gage stated that Matt Riger was coming to the next meeting to propose the Golf Disc program.

Mayor read a letter from Jack Lipsett regarding a presentation set up for the TDR program at the Governor Stratton School on 7/18/07 at 7:00 pm. Mayor stated that he was disappointed in the fact that he and Dave spoke with Mayor Chila and Deputy Mayor requesting a personalized meeting to include our planning board and council. Mayor stated that he wanted a more private meeting to discuss the issues pertaining to Swedesboro, not at an open meeting. Mayor stated that he may possibly prepare a letter to the residents regarding the TDR program.

Mayor thanked George Weeks for the link to Woolwich's TDR program. Mayor stated that the original TDR program can be found on the Smart Growth Website.

Mayor asked Joanna Gahrs if she would ask members of the Business Association to help take care of the plants on Kings Highway especially those with business' along Kings Highway. Joanna stated that she would bring it up at the meeting.

The hanging baskets are hard to reach. Mr. Simmerman is looking into a watering system that can reach the hanging baskets.

Mrs. Gage asked if there was grant money to purchase watering supplies for the business'.

Diane Hale stated that the business could "adopt a planter".

Mayor thanked Diane Hale for the flags and banners. Diane stated that they were donated by different companies.

Mayor commented that he spoke to local business' regarding the importance of taking care of the pavers. He stated that there is a significant grease stain outside of one of the business'.

Diane Hale stated that she witnessed a motorcycle riding from May Rogers house to Victor's Merchandising on the pavers. Diane asked the owners of Victors to speak with this individual, but they stated that they did not know who he was.

Mrs. Gage told Diane in the future to call the police.



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A discussion was also held on skateboarding and bicycling on the pavers. No ordinance is currently in place stating that they can not.

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

PUBLIC PARTICPATION

George Weeks-111 Helms Avenue- Mr. Weeks asked if an ordinance can be done prohibiting skateboarding and motorcycle's on the sidewalks. Mr. Casella will talk to the chief of police to discuss our current ordinances and review them.

Lucille Stewart-Richardson Avenue- Lucille thanked Diane Hale for her up keeping of the plants on Kings Highway.

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

Tanya Goodwin read the following resolution: "**CLOSED SESSION**" Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote-all present yes.

After returning from closed session Mr. Casella motioned to pay the Chief longevity pay as previous, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Roll Call Vote-all present yes.

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

Mrs. Gage moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Vote all yes.

Tanya Goodwin
For Dolores Connors, Borough Clerk