



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 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.

Mayor reported that there are more of the Best In County businesses in Swedesboro than in any other municipality in Gloucester County.

Mayor recognized the Great Wall for 10 years of business in Swedesboro and also Swedesboro True Value as Best of County for 2007.

Ms. Churchville moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2007, regular and closed, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Mayor stated that he is pleased that tonight the Residential Homeowner Protection Ordinance will be introduced and put everyone's mind at ease from the fear of eminent domain.

Mayor stated that Swedesboro-Woolwich Day was a great success and that there were over 800 runners and walkers for the Dragon Run, the Jazz Festival was spectacular and that there were approximately 7000 – 9000 people in attendance. Mayor went on to thank the S/W Day committee and all who helped that day.

Mayor announced that the specs from the architect for the repairs and restoration to the clock tower and the replacement of the front door at the Borough Hall are completed and will go to bid this week.

Mrs. Gage asked if the same contractor doing the door would also do the tower. Mayor stated yes.

Mayor stated that for Streetscape Phase II, they have received \$150,000 from the DOT grant and \$200,000 from Federal funds and have been going through the process to proceed and that approval has been given with help from Congressman Lobiondo and our senators. Mayor stated that he hopes to go out to bid this week and the area to be covered is Franklin St. to the Borough Hall on both sides of Kings Hwy.

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



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No one from the public spoke.

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

Committee Reports

Garbage & Recycling – Mr. Dryden stated that he spoke before about ordering tags to put on regular trash cans to use for recycling and has found that the price will be \$1800 and is trying a different route. Mr. Dryden said that Diane Hale has also observed recycling cans contents going in with the trash and she is looking for tags or stickers for cans to be able to use for recycling.

Mayor reported that he has tried to have discussions with Recycle Bank and Omni and is having difficulty connecting but that a representative from Omni wants to meet with Mr. Dryden and himself to discuss other options rather than Recycle Bank.

Library – Mr. Flaherty reported that he met with Marge and they will meet with the County regarding the building.

Parks & Recreation – Mrs. Gage announced that they would meet on 10/3/07 at 7 PM at the Stratton School. Mrs. Gage stated that the Splash Program is right on tract and it will be held on 10/14/07 from 11 AM – 3 PM and that EMS, fire and rescue and police will be notified.

Board of Health – Mr. Casella reported that Secane Pizza and Berrios grocery store were inspected and were satisfactory with minor corrections. The inspection on the duplex has not been resolved and it will be a court matter.

Mr. Casella stated that he spoke to George Weeks and the Board of Health will be getting a web link.

Police – Mr. Casella stated that he spoke to the Chief and he met with the officer and the Durango is ready to go.

Mr. Casella stated that for S/W Day the Police dept. did a great job along with Logan, Woolwich and Harrison and Ptl. Weber is back on duty.

Mr. Flaherty stated that he wants the Durango back in the fleet tomorrow. He stated that we need vehicles in the fleet and the Chief doesn't need it to drive home. Mayor stated that Council needs to say that the Borough has the right to say where and how equipment is allocated and that there are two vehicles on the road with over 170,000 miles on them. Mayor stated that he heard that the Durango has been held up since beginning of September because the bill can't be paid. Mr. Casella stated that we spent \$14,000 for radar signs but we don't have \$2500 to get the Durango completely outfitted. Mr.



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Casella said that he spoke to the CFO and she was trying to find the money and he would like to know how the money was found for the radar signs but not to outfit the Durango. Mayor stated that the radar signs were in the budget for this year.

Mayor stated that we can't ask the officers to drive 24 hours the same vehicles and should have the best vehicles and if we need to get new vehicles then we need to get them.

Mr. Dryden stated that he heard that the current vehicles are not in safe condition. Mr. Flaherty reported that for two weeks vehicles have been broken down and the Chief is driving the Durango. Mayor stated that it is unsafe to operate the vehicles for 24 hours straight when we have other vehicles to use and at this time we only have two vehicles that are running. Mr. Flaherty asked if anyone does not agree with him about putting the Durango's in the fleet to let him know. Mr. Casella said that he agrees with putting them in the fleet and Mr. Dryden to strongly suggest to the Chief to place them in the fleet. Mr. Murray said that with the two Durango's and three other vehicles we now have five safe vehicles and maybe next year we may have to buy 2-3 new vehicles.

Mr. Murray motioned to direct the Chief to allocate the two Durango into the fleet within 72 hours and to use an older vehicle for his use, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Mayor stated that he heard that requests for new vehicles have been made and that this Mayor and Council have turn it down. Mayor stated that they have always supplied all that is needed and find the remarks insulting and Council has not been approached that they were in need of a vehicle.

Mr. Casella stated that he asked the Chief to submit a 2008 budget request by 10/31/07 and to go all out on their requests. Mr. Casella suggested that a meeting be held with all department heads and go over their budgets. Mayor stated that reports can be run any time and that there is no reason that they don't have their budgets under control.

Mr. Murray stated that S/W Day had a beautiful beginning and end and commended the Police and Public Works for doing a great job.

Mr. Murray reported that we were the host community for the Run/Walk and it was a great event and that Mayor Fromm had a lot to do with that. Mr. Murray thanked the S/W Day committee for a great day.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Flaherty spoke to Mr. Casella and Mr. Ross regarding the fire house roof and sent an email to Woolwich to have the specs prepared for just the roof.

PUBLIC HEARING



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Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO ADDING CHAPTER 110, HANDICAPPED PARKING OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO**

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. asked if each business would have a space. Mayor stated that they can make application. Clerk stated that the ordinance only applies to residential spaces.

Andre Ascalon, Auburn Ave. suggested changing the name to special needs parking. Mr. Dryden stated that officially it is handicap parking.

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

AWARD BID

Clerk read the following resolution: (Award bid for Poplar St. Reconstruction-American Asphalt)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Mayor to sign EMS agree. With Cty.)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth Mayor to sign Agreem. With Woolwich, and Cty for deicer facility)

Mr. Casella asked that it be held to the next meeting

Mr. Casella motioned to table the resolution for further discussion, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Clerk read the following ordinance: **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO RESIDENTIAL HOMEOWNER PROTECTION ORDINANCE**

Mr. Dryden stated that he has always had a problem with eminent domain and not that Mayor and Council would use it but does feel that it needs to be adopted.

Mr. Murray asked if the planning board had any input since they were the ones who adopted the redevelopment zone. Mayor stated that it is not just the redevelopment zone but no power anywhere else.



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Mr. Casella motioned to adopt the ordinance with the changes suggested by the Borough Solicitor with a public hearing to be held on 10/15/07, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

Mr. Dryden moved to approve sick pay benefits for Alfred Worrell for 9/7/07 and Angie Michener for 9/7,8,9,12,13/07, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Mayor stated that we need to button up on benefits and follow the Policies and Procedures. Vote all yes.

Clerk stated that all of Council received a copy of the Corrective Action plan for the 2006 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dryden thanked the S/W Day committee and asked if it was possible to face the booths towards the businesses due to having a hard time getting to the businesses. Mayor suggested that he attend a S/W Day meeting and bring it up. Frank Lusch stated that they are already discussing ideas for 2008 and 2009 and are looking to expand it even more.

Mrs. Gage stated that Joanna Gahrs will be sending notification for the Christmas Parade which will be held on 11/24/07.

Mayor stated that the review of the Class II officer applications were suppose to be turned over to Lt. Kemp but he has stated that he is not aware of having to do anything. Mayor asked Mr. Casella to check into this.

Mayor stated that in regards to the Employee Handbook it is his understanding that neither the Public Works nor the Police Dept. has received them. Clerk stated that they did received the handbooks but that she had not received the signed statement from the employees that they received them and that each Dept. Head was given enough copies for their employees. Mayor stated that he wants confirmation that all have received them. Mr. Dryden suggested holding employees paychecks until they turn in the receipt. Mr. Dryden was told that cannot be done but Mr. Dryden stated that he meant that when they pick up their paychecks they would have to turn in the receipt. Mayor stated that it has been 4 months since they were distributed and we still have not gotten back the receipt that they received them. Mayor asked that they must be back by 10/5/07 and it is the responsibility of the department head.

Mayor reported that the County EMS service took on as of midnight last night and he attended a press conference today. Mayor stated that it is very satisfying to see Andy Lovell and four others from the Logan EMS being a part of the County EMS. Mayor stated that we are the model for the City and also other Counties in the State.

Mayor announced that he is participating in the Mayors Cook-Off at Riverwinds tomorrow and he will be preparing a marinated venison loin on a bed of spaghetti squash.



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

Lucile Stewart, 4 Richardson Ave. expressed her concerns about the animals who attended S/W Day. Mr. Flaherty stated that they were not supposed to be there and Mayor said that we need to put the word out.

Mr. Lusch stated that it was printed in the brochure but not mentioned in the advertising.

Ms. Stewart also complained about trash that it being put out to early.

Diane Hale, Economic Dev. thanked Mr. Flaherty and Mr. Casella for volunteering to help with the Jazz Fest.

George Weeks, 111 Helms Ave. thanked everyone for a great job, Jazz Fest was phenomenal and people from all over attended. Recognized all volunteers and Police for keeping all safe and Public Works who kept the streets clean and trash cans emptied. All did a great job.

Mr. Casella also thanked friends in Woolwich for their help.

Mrs. Gage congratulated all involved in S/W Day and only suggestion is maybe consider instead of just jazz to include Rhythm, Blues and Jazz.

Helen Fromm reported that Sweetsboro stayed open until after 11 PM and that all the businesses did great.

Mayor stated that he saw the editor of our newsletter and has not had much response from anyone.

Mayor reported that regarding the food at S/W Day, one vendor sold 50 dozen sandwiches.

Mr. Flaherty stated that two years ago S/W Day was a vision of the Mayor and he took the initiative and went with it.

Lucille Stewart, Richardson Ave. announced that there will be a Fun and Game Night on Friday, 10/26/07 from 8-11 PM to benefit the restoration of the Richardson Ave. School.

Mrs. Stewart also stated that she felt it was an affront to the Mayor the way the Police officers read a letter at the last meeting and then walked out.

Mayor stated that it was not just the Mayor but all of Council.



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Mr. Dryden moved to close the public portion, seconded by Mr. Casella. 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- all yes.

George Weeks, Helms Ave. reported that there were over 9000 hits on the web site.

Mayor adjourned to closed session at 8:25 PM.

Ms. Churchville motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Dolores M. Connors,
Borough Clerk