



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 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 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.

Mayor recognized One More Time Boutique as being voted best in Gloucester County and presented the owners with a plaque. He thanked them for doing business in the Borough.

Mayor also presented the owner of Sweetsboro Pastry Shop with a plaque and congratulated them for being voted best in Gloucester County. He thanked them for doing business in the Borough.

Mr. Dryden motioned for Tanya Goodwin to take the minutes in the absence of Dolores Connors, Borough Clerk, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all present yes.

Mrs. Gage moved to approve the minutes of 10/1/07 regular and closed, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Vote all present yes.

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

Edie Rohrman-Trinity Church-Edie thanked those who helped with the conference at the Church on Saturday. The conference was of benefit to the town business's. She personally thanked Diane Hale and George Weeks for signing people in. The church was sent a proclamation and all the local mayors were invited to attend. Doug Fisher attended on behalf of the Green Acres Committee. Mr. Dryden thanked Edie and Trinity Church for bringing business into the town.

Helen Fromm-402 Weatherby Avenue-asked if there was any money available to assist in the cost of cleaning up the streets.

Mr. Lusch addressed Mayor and Council and informed them that there are funds available, however, there has to be groups that are willing to participate. He stated that if anyone knows of any groups to ask them to get in contact with clean communities.

Mayor stated that perhaps the community service people could be part of the street clean up process.



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Mrs. Gage stated that the Gloucester County Times has to be informed to stop littering the streets with their flyers. She stated that they are thrown all over the streets and nobody is picking them up. She requested that a letter be sent by Mayor and Council asking them to stop littering the streets.

George Weeks-111 Helms Avenue- Mr. Weeks asked if a call box could be placed out front for emergencies that occur when the police are not here.

Lucille Stewart-4 Richardson Avenue- Mrs. Stewart agreed that something has to be done about the littering of the streets by the newspaper.

She also asked if yard sales are permitted on Sunday. She was informed that there is no ordinance stating that yard sales can not be held on Sundays, but they do need a permit.

Diane Hale-506 Park Avenue-Mrs. Hale asked if anything has been done about the no thru traffic sign on Park Avenue from 7:00 to 9:00 am.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the public works department is looking into this.

Frank Lusch-8 Maybrook Avenue-Mr. Lusch stated that JEMS is doing a clean up at Locke Avenue Park on Saturday. Mayor asked Mr. Lusch if the organization can focus on the streets of Swedesboro particularly along Kings Highway. Mayor stated that the need is on the streets of Swedesboro. Broad Street was another street requested to be cleaned. Mr. Lusch stated that he will have this organization focus on the streets.

Elaine Edwards-636 Auburn Avenue- Mrs. Edwards complained about the property at 624 Auburn Avenue, the yard is a mess and needs looking into. A question of who the owner is needs to be addressed and Mr. Orbanus has to look into this.

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

Committee Reports

Garbage and Recycling- Mr. Dryden read the September recycling report. He stated that for September the recycling was at 19.65%.

Mr. Dryden stated that stickers will be distributed for residents to recycle their paper.

The Mayor stated that Omni and Recycle Bank did meet and they are working out an agreement.

Mr. Dryden recommends starting with the single stream option.



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Library- Mr. Flaherty stated that he met with Marge and they would like to have a power point presentation prepared to be presented to Swedesboro and Woolwich. They want the project to move forward.

Parks & Recreation- Mrs. Gage reported that the Movie night on 10/3/07 got rained out. Mrs. Gage reported that approximately 260 people showed up for family fun day at Stetcher's. Mrs. Gage mentioned some upcoming events including a Halloween parade on 10/31/07 (4:30 p.m.) at Locke Avenue Park hosted by the Mom's Club. Mrs. Gage also stated that there are tickets available for the bus trip to New York City. She also stated that their will be a bowling party in December.

Mrs. Gage reported that the Splash/Water program on the Lake was a success. She stated that approximately 20 people showed up and everything went well. She stated that they will definitely do this program again next year.

Mrs. Gage reported that the next shade tree meeting will be held at Mrs. Homan's house on 10/16/07.

Police Mr. Murray and Mr. Casella met with the Chief two weeks ago. The rules and regulations were signed off on. All the policy and procedures were signed off on by the Borough employees and all of the police departments should be received by December.

Mr. Murray stated that the Chief's overtime will be addressed by the PBA

The Chief's Durango is back in the fleet. The new Durango is to be outfitted. Mr. Murray stated that the new Durango was not taken to Atlas today as scheduled. He stated that Atlas made the time for this to be done, but the vehicle was not taken.

A discussion was held about why this was not done and it was felt that the chief was holding up the process.

Mr. Flaherty commented about Mrs. Gage relationship to the Chief and that this was perhaps being done on purpose.

Mr. Dryden commented that this is not a political issue.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the two new vehicles were parked at the Chestnut Street location all week. It is felt that the Chief is not releasing the vehicles. A discussion was held and the Mayor stated that this matter needs to be looked into further before any further speculation is made.



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Mr. Flaherty stated that there are six serviceable vehicles and only car 7 is being repaired. Mr. Flaherty went onto say that it gives the wrong message to the tax payers to see two police officers riding around in one vehicle.

Mr. Flaherty and the Mayor commented that they heard that certain members of the police department are pulling over and talking to residents about their political issues.

Mr. Flaherty, the Mayor and Mr. Murray commented that the police have no right to voice their political opinions since they are employees of the Borough. Mr. Dryden stated that they do have a right to voice their opinions.

Mr. Murray needs to address this matter in a letter to the police department for all to sign.

A member of the audience by the name of Pete spoke out on behalf of Mrs. Gage. He felt that the comments by Mr. Flaherty and the Mayor were uncalled for and their attack on Mrs. Gage was unfair.

He was informed that this was not a public portion of the meeting and that he could address his concerns at that time.

OLD BUSINESS

The status of Merkling Street is still being addressed by the solicitor, Tim Chell.

Tanya Goodwin read the following resolution (Inter-local Service agreement for use of the deicer storage facility and deicer material located in Woolwich Twp.).Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call vote, all present yes.

Chief Dupper sent a letter to Mayor and Council asking that they modify the curfew around the Halloween season. The Chief asked that Mayor and Council approve the curfew to be changed from 10:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This is to be in affect from October 26, 2007 and remain in affect until November 4, 2007. Mr. Dryden moved to temporarily change the curfew, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote, all present yes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO RESIDENTIAL HOMEOWNER PROTECTION ORDINANCE.** Mr. Weeks commended Mayor and Council for prohibiting resident properties to be taken by Eminent Domain. Mrs. Gage moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote, all present yes.



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Upon adoption of this ordinance, Mr. Casella asked that Tanya Goodwin read a letter from him in his absence to Mayor and Council. Tanya Goodwin read the letter as requested.

Tanya Goodwin informed Mayor and Council that a letter was received from Vitas Hospice thanking them for their donation on behalf of Chuck Simmerman's mother.

Mr. Dryden moved to approve sick pay benefits for Mike Sparks on 10/11/07 and William Dupper on 10/12/07, seconded by Mr. Flaherty providing that they had the time available. Roll Call Vote, all present yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Murray commented that the animal census company that the Borough hired is starting to come around to check for licensing.

Mr. Flaherty stated that he has received a lot of comments about the success of the Jazz Fest.

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

George Weeks-111 Helms Avenue- Mr. Weeks asked if Mr. Dryden can forward the trash report to him and Mr. Dryden stated that he will give him a copy of the report.

A discussion was held regarding recycle bank vs. single stream. The Mayor stated that he was under the impression that once the matters with Omni and Recycle Bank agreed that we would be going with the recycle bank program. Mr. Dryden feels that starting single stream would be of initial benefit. It was discussed that the recycle bank program would be of greater benefit to the residents encouraging them to recycle as they will get something in return.

After the discussion it was determined that data from both programs needs to be compared and then a decision will be made.

Helen Fromm-402 Weatherby Ave. Mrs. Fromm commented that the Swedesboro/Woolwich School District has the recycle bank program and that the benefits are going to the school i.e. parties for the children, etc.

George Weeks-111 Helms wants to know why the new Durango was put into the fleet before it was outfitted. He was told that there is a long story behind that and that the Durango will be outfitted this week.



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Diane Hale-506 Park Avenue-Mrs. Hale wants to know who is doing the Co inspections. The mayor stated that John Leech has resigned and that he is supposed to be training a person from Woolwich for the position. The mayor stated that he has not heard anything from John and that this person has not been officially appointed. He stated that this individual is qualified to do the housing and landlord inspections.

Lucille Stewart-4 Richardson Avenue asked when the HELP organization was getting paid. She was advised that this was approved for payment at this meeting.

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

Mr. Dryden moved to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all present yes.

Mrs. Gage motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Vote all present yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Tanya Goodwin for
Dolores M. Connors,
Borough Clerk