



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 3, 2007

APPROVED MINUTES

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held on the above date in Council Chambers with Council President, David Flaherty presiding. Mayor Fromm and Councilman Murray was absent, all others present.

A moment of silent prayer was followed by the flag salute.

Mr. Flaherty advised that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law.

Mrs. Gage moved to approve the minutes of 11/19/2007, regular, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Grover Price, 122 East Ave., representing the Shade Tree Commission, explained that the Borough received a Cool Cities Grant last year and was given a verbal ok to begin the work. Commission went ahead and did the work and then found out that we were not given the grant. Shortly thereafter we were awarded the grant. The grant is set up in that the Borough must put out the money first and then get reimbursed from the State. The total amount needed to be put out is \$15,000 and then we would get reimbursed 85% of that in 2008 and the balance in 2009. Mr. Price went over the plan. Mr. Flaherty stated that budget talks would be starting and it would be discussed at that time.

Mr. Price also reported that the stump at 1327 Kings Hwy. will be removed and they are planting 6 trees on 12/12/07 and that Tree Awareness is donating 2 trees that will be planted near the Presbyterian Church.

George Weeks, 111 Helms Ave. reported that are an increasing number of people coming to the Borough [web] site and he went over the numbers.

Mr. Weeks stated that the Economic Development went out and offered free web links to those who would donate web coupons and also offered people to link for free to our web site if they already have a web site.

[Webmaster's NOTE: EDC is offering FREE web links on the Borough of Swedesboro's website to ALL local businesses, whether or not you have your own website. EDC is also offering the opportunity to post web-coupons for those businesses that are interested in helping to increase our web traffic. Businesses are NOT required to offer web coupons in order to get free web links.]



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Diane Hale, 506 Park Ave. announced that the House Tour, which has quite a few new people who have opened up their houses, is on 12/14/07 and is sponsored by the Economic Development and Swedesboro-Woolwich Historical Society and that a lot of businesses are giving discounts that night.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. announced that HELP will hold their 3rd Annual Martin Luther King Day on 1/21/07 at 1:00 PM at the Margaret Clifford School and that patrons will be sponsoring the booklet.

Diane Hale, asked that at the last meeting a proposal from Margo Bagby for Black History Month was discussed and she stated that we have to move forward if Council in agreement. All agreed.

Lucille Stewart, Richardson Ave. asked when leaves are picked up. Mr. Flaherty stated Wednesday and Thursday. Ms. Stewart stated that a resident on Kings Hwy. was blowing the leaves onto Kings Hwy. Mr. Flaherty to check out.

Mr. Weeks asked the status of the traffic light. Mr. Flaherty stated that it should be on blinking early next week for a few days and then it will be on all the time.

Edie Rohrman, Trinity Church stated that she heard there is a hearing this Thursday on the application for the billboard in Woolwich. She stated that the Church and Historical Society will be there to make a statement. Mrs. Rohrman stated that she heard that Mrs. Gage did a great job defending Swedesboro at the last meeting. Mrs. Gage stated that Les Viereck stated that the sign that is proposed is beautiful. Mrs. Gage stated that people must attend the meeting.

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

Committee Reports

Board of Health – Mr. Casella stated that there was an issue regarding heat at a property in town.

Police – Mr. Casella thanked Mr. Dryden and Mr. Flaherty for assisting with the interviews for the Class I and II Officers. Mr. Casella stated that they have a few candidates and requested a closed session.

Parks & Recreation – Mrs. Gage reported that their meeting would be on Wed. 12/5/07 and budgets would be discussed.



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Shade Tree – Mrs. Gage motioned to appoint Carolyn Dupper to the Commission, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Vote all yes.

Mrs. Gage stated that she feels that Maryann Homan and Grover Price are the two most dedicated people regarding trees.

Garbage & Recycling – Mr. Dryden reported that he has stickers for trash cans that then can be used for paper and cardboard.

Streets & Roads – Mr. Flaherty reported that the reconstruction of Poplar Street will depending on the weather may be done in the spring.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the No Left Turn onto Park is working and there have been not as many cars.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Gage gave a special thanks to the Police Dept. for having an officer go to neighbor's homes and inform them of the breaking and entering that has occurred in their neighborhood.

Mr. Flaherty suggested that there be traffic control for at least ½ hour after the Christmas Parade and also no parking on either side of Kings Hwy. Mr. Dryden stated that there are elderly people who sit in their cars on Kings Hwy. to watch the parade. Mr. Flaherty stated that it could be no parking just in the business district.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Casella reported that the heating assistance notice was in the New Town Press and the clerk's office has the forms for residents to apply.

Mrs. Gage stated that the tree lighting was beautiful and it was a shame that more Council members do not attend. Mrs. Gage stated that the Swedesboro-Woolwich Business Assoc. did a great job.

Mr. Dryden asked if a letter was sent regarding the "Advertiser". Clerk stated yes.

Mr. Flaherty reported that the Library received a grant for \$3000 for a reading program for the children.

Mr. Dryden motioned to approve the request for Dolores Connors to carry over 4 day's vacation to 2008, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Vote all yes.



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Mr. Flaherty stated that regarding the request to close the offices on the two Mondays prior to the holidays that we would be allowed to close at 12 noon on Christmas Eve.

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

George Weeks, 111 Helms Ave. asked for a copy of the heating assistance notice to put it on the web site.

Mr. Weeks stated that he is in favor of what Mr. Flaherty suggested regarding the police traffic control for 15 min. to ½ hour to keep the street closed to traffic after the Christmas Parade.

Helen Fromm, Weatherby Ave. suggested a handout at the parade announcing that there is a tree lighting ceremony and also Santa Secret Shop. Mr. Dryden suggested that the SWBA get in touch with Mr. Weeks to put it on the web page.

Lucille Stewart, Richardson Ave. stated that there was no 911 program this year and why wasn't there one. Mrs. Rohrman stated that it started with all the churches and each year less and less attended. Ms. Stewart stated that it could be a community project. Mr. Flaherty stated that it will be discussed and then decide.

Mr. Weeks suggested that there be a different church take the lead and be in charge of the program each year. Mr. Casella suggested someone from the SWBA. Ms. Rohrman agreed that someone from the SWBA organize it like the Memorial Day Program.

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

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Closed Session)

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

Council Pres. adjourned to closed session at 8:12 PM.

After returning from closed session, Mr. Dryden moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Churchville. Vote all yes.

Council Pres. adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Dolores M. Connors
Borough Clerk