



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2008

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.

Mrs. Gage moved to approve the minutes of 2/4/08, regular, as corrected, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ed Barber, Fire Chief asked if the roof replacement would be awarded tonight. Clerk stated that it would be done on 3/3/08 due to a change in the wording of the resolution.

Mr. Barber asked if the preparations for the Memorial Day Service should proceed. Mayor stated that they have all of March, April and part of May to complete the job. Mayor asked Clerk to see the number of days that it must be completed by.

Mr. Barber asked about the traffic on Kings Hwy. and Auburn Ave. blocking entrances to the Fire House and stated that Dennis Connelly is looking into a light system that would alleviate the problem. Mayor advised them to speak to the County Engineer regarding this. Mr. Barber stated that he is getting the information together and hoped that the Borough would speak to the County. Mr. Casella stated that the Police Chief would like to meet with the Fire Co. regarding this problem. Mayor asked Mr. Barber to work it out with Mr. Casella and the Police Chief and then get back to him and he'll speak to the County Engineer.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Garbage & Recycling - Mr. Dryden asked the status of the contract for Recyclebank. Mayor stated that the contracts are signed and we got the best deal in Gloucester County. Mayor stated that he is preparing a letter to go out to all the residents and hope to begin 3/10/08.



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Mr. Dryden stated that there is a problem with storage of batteries, and florescent lights which have a source of mercury. Mr. Flaherty stated that he is looking into computers and laptop disposal. Mr. Weeks stated that there is a company in Glassboro who will pick up TV's and computers. He will check to see if they will do a town pickup. Mr. Dryden suggested having a town pick up prior to the County's hazardous waste pickup. Mayor stated that we cannot become a hazard waste center.

Finance – Mr. Flaherty stated that there is no preliminary budget as yet. Mayor advised that an answer on the health plan is needed.

Shade Tree – Mrs. Gage reported that they met on 2/14/08 and discussed their budget. Mrs. Gage asked Mrs. Hale the date of the Garden Show and that they will be participating. Mrs. Hale stated 5/17/08.

Mrs. Gage announced that they will hold an Environmental Green Day at the Lake Narraticon Park and that Carolyn Grasso from the Environmental Commission will be helping out and also Woolwich Twp. The event will be held on 5/10/08 and no fishing license will be required that day.

Mrs. Gage announced the following activities:

Movie Nite on 1/08 100 children attended

Bowling Party 2/9/08

Easter Egg Hunt 3/22/08

Mrs. Gage stated that Lisa Tarquinio, 24 Franklin St. is interested in becoming a member of the Parks & Recreation Com.

Planning/Zoning - Mr. Weeks announced that the Planning/Zoning meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will be 3/10/08.

School Districts - Mr. Weeks stated that he has spoken to both schools regarding their budgets and both boards will make a presentation in March. Mr. Weeks stated that the schools are getting more State aid and also additional funding. Construction on the new S/W dist. school moving along and hope to open in 7/08.

Mayor stated that our budget requests are running 25% - 100% higher than last year and our State Aid will probably be cut.

Fire - Mr. Casella reported that the Woolwich Fire Company will be celebrating their 110th anniversary in 8/08. Mr. Casella stated that in their budget for 2008 they are requesting a command vehicle. There is a possibility that the Woolwich Constr. Dept. can give one to the Fire Co.



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Police – Mr. Casella submitted the police report for 1/08. Mr. Casella reported that there have been several robberies on Broad and Church Sts. and that the Chief will be meeting with residents.

Class I, Spithaler and Class II Thomas will start in 08/08 and Class II Fratto will start on the street this week and Ptl. Gregory will start the Academy in 3/08.

Mr. Casella reported that Police Car #7 needs the engine replaced. The car has 107,000 mi. Chief getting quotes.

Mr. Casella stated that some residents are complaining about the hazard of several poles near the Walter Hill School. Mr. Casella stated that they are waiting for the Cable Co.

Mr. Casella discussed the possibility of parking on one side of South Ave.

Mr. Casella stated that in regards to the peddlers permit application, the Chief has questions regarding the wording in the code book and that a lot of the Borough codes need to be amended. Mayor asked Mr. Casella to read the manuscript received from General Code for the new code book and to look where changes need to be made.

Mr. Casella stated that the traffic light is causing blocking of the intersections of Railroad and Kings Hwy., Church and Kings Hwy. and the firehouse. Getting signs to not block the intersections. Mr. Casella stated that Mullica Hill has a flashing light near their fire house but the Chiefs concern is that theirs is not near a traffic light and it could be a hazard and wants to speak to the Fire Chief.

Mr. Casella reported that the Chief and Lt. met and discussed issues that need to be addressed. Mayor stated that it needs to be said that this is the Lts. Office and that's it. He is in charge of employees and needs to have his own office than be out in the main office doing paper work etc.

Mr. Weeks asked that the next time there is a meeting with the neighbors on Broad St. they should invite neighbors on Helms also and all addresses in the radius around the problem.

Mayor stated that the meeting was a good idea but that Mr. Weeks and he should have been invited as he is the Mayor and Mr. Weeks is on the Police Committee. Mr. Casella stated that there was no intention to leave them out of the meeting. Mayor stated that all of Council should have been invited. Mr. Casella stated that then we would have to abide by the Sunshine Law. Mayor stated it would be a slim chance that all Council would attend.



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Mrs. Gage stated that she just asked a few neighbors who live along the sides of the houses affected. They asked the Chief what is being done and were told that if they see anything suspicious to call the Police.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Emer. Budget)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: Appt. Class I and Class II Officers – Spithaler, Thomas, Fratto)

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

Clerk went over the following correspondence:

- Thank you letter from Hardenbergh Ins.
- Public notice from Woolwich Twp. Planning Board
- Announcement from Bethesda Methodist Church regarding Sunrise Easter Service
- Announcement from Kings Things that they are celebrating their 25th Anniversary
- JIF Safety Breakfast 2/28/08 Nicolosi Catering

Mrs. Gage moved to approve sick pay benefits for Mike Sparks, 2/4/08, Ken Hunt, 2/6, 2/14 half days, Carl Bagby 1/30, ½ day, 1/31, John Gangemi, 2/11, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Dryden asked about the removal of the oil tanks at the Borough Hall. Mayor stated that they are gasoline tanks and they are on the list of things to do and they will be removed.

Mrs. Gage asked Mrs. Hale if the Tree Gators will be charged to Shade Tree. Mrs. Hale stated yes. Mrs. Gage said that they cannot do it this year and will look into it later.

Mr. Weeks stated that the company for the flashing crosswalk signs is located in Florida and the cost is \$1500 each to have them on constantly, and one with button activation cost \$3600 and he is looking into other companies.

Mrs. Hale stated that there is a grant available to purchase those signs and it is called Safe Walk To School and all you have to do is just fill out the application and submit it.

Mr. Weeks stated that he has not heard from the County regarding the call box but is still trying. Mayor advised he get in touch with the Freeholder on that committee.



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NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Casella reported that Mary Pages' (a member on the Board of Health) son is now in the 1000 point club for basketball. Mayor stated that he is going to Boston College and is a great kid.

Mr. Casella stated that he will have Margaret Morrison fill out an application to serve on the Board of Health.

Mr. Weeks stated that there has been an average of 26 hits per day on the web site.

Mrs. Gage asked about the application to serve on a Board or Commission. Mayor stated that they just have to send a letter expressing why they want to serve.

Mrs. Hale reported that there would be a Garden Show meeting at Mrs. Daley's on 2/26/08 and that letters were sent to sponsors and vendors.

Mr. Dryden asked if anyone has any ideas for Earth Day to get in touch with him or Mr. Weeks.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Margo Bagby, Turner Ave. asked if there were any funds under the EPA to remove the tanks. Mayor stated that there are not funds at this time.

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

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

Mr. Weeks moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Dolores M. Connors,
Borough Clerk