



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 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.

Mr. Weeks moved to approve the minutes of 2/19/08, regular, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

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

No one from the public spoke.

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

Committee Reports

Police – Mr. Casella reported that he met with Chief Dupper regarding the computers in the cars, and that is being handled by Ptl. Michener. Computers would be in 4 cars and a device placed in trucks and cameras through out town to enable the officer to be aware of danger ahead of going to the call.

Mr. Casella suggested to Ptl. Michener to have the Prosecutors office come down here to train everyone.

Mr. Casella reported on the following:

Met with the Chief regarding computers and the web site for the Police Dept.

Lt. office upstairs.

Chiefs concern about certain files.

Christian Gregory started Academy today.

Chief getting quotes regarding engine replacement in one of the vehicles.

Mr. Casella reported that NAWS stands for National Warning System. In the event of an emergency, any officer can be notified from the County, officer contracts Emergency Management Coor. who gets in touch with the County. The County does a test at least once a month. Mr. Dryden stated that it is to make sure that the communication lines are open.

Mr. Casella reported that the Chief and the Lt. are meeting daily and the Lt. will not always work the day shift but will also be on other shifts to keep in contact with all the officers. The number of officers that we now have is eliminating as much as possible having only one



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officer on duty at a time. Mr. Casella recommended to the Chief that Ptl. Fratto can work more days.

Mr. Casella informed Council that a letter was received from Lt. Neal in Woolwich commending Ptl. Hargraves and Ptl. Weber who assisted Woolwich officers recently.

Parks & Recreation – Mrs. Gage reported that a meeting for Fun Day was held on 2/26.

Library – Mr. Flaherty reported that he met with Bob Wetherall regarding the power point presentation.

Parks & Recreation – Mr. Flaherty reminded everyone of the Easter Egg Hunt on 3/22/08 and there are still Phantom tickets available.

Mrs. Hale reported that she attended the Black History Month presentation on 2/24/08.

Economic Development – Mrs. Hale reported that they met on 2/28/08 and went over the filling of the baskets and urns and are getting quotes for flowers around the tree bases.

The applications for the vendors from last year and the food vendors for the Outdoor Show were sent out and are going to ask E P Henry to be the main sponsor for the show.

Garbage & Recycling – Mr. Dryden announced that the household waste collection at the County will be this weekend. Mr. Dryden stated that CFL's and batteries are a universal waste and Mr. Kunkle got a copy of a news release from Gov. Corzine and he states that NJ joins 9 other States that mandated that the makers of computers, TV's and electronic products must recycle them effective 2010. It will be illegal to dump them in landfills and incinerators after 2010 due to their threat to the environment. Mr. Dryden stated that as long as we are considering CFL's to add batteries to our list of things to collect.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Dryden suggested a bi-partisan committee to discuss the removal of the fuel tanks so that we can get the issue moving. Mayor stated that he will get together with him to bring him up to date of what has been done so far.

Mrs. Gage went over the following dates:
Shade Tree Meeting 3/11/08 7:30 PM
Fun Day 3/19/08 7 PM
Easter Egg Hunt Mtg. 3/5/08 6 PM

NEW BUSINESS



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Mayor stated that looking over part time employees and who gets benefits and who doesn't it appeared that the Court Adm. position did not constitute a full time position but asked Mrs. Scott to research if she is to get benefits and she produced the following:

Hired 1997 part time

1993 worked 10-20 hrs.

1998 made full time and Council agreed in April that she would work Mon. – Fri. 9AM – 4 PM and be salaried. At the next meeting it was asked if there was a probationary period before benefits began. No decision was made but she did receive benefits. Mayor stated that after speaking to the Judge, Mrs. Scott and Carol Cummings, Mgr. of the Courts, he is convinced that a full time Court Adm. is needed and asked that the resolution be passed that stated that the Court Adm. is a full time position. Mr. Casella asked if the resolution should state the name of the person who is full time rather than the position. Mayor stated that it is the position that is full time.

Mayor read the following resolution: (Ct. Adm. Full Time)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Appt. J. Surenian)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Withdraw Funds. Rec. Fee Trust)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Cancel Ct. Checks)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Reduce Bond-Westrum \$9000)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Interlocal w/Woolwich, Fire House Roof)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Award to Jottan Fire House roof)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (CBDG 2008-Demo prop. Bk. 21, Lot 21 and Blk. 21 Lot 4)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Appt. Maley, Redev. Counsel)

Mr. Dryden motioned to table the resolution, until further review,



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Mayor explained the need for the Redevelopment Counsel and went over his resume. Mr. Dryden stated that he would like to look at his resume and will probably approve the appointment but would like to review it. Mrs. Gage stated that she never got the resume. Mayor stated that they have a right to review the resume and that he spoke to our solicitor and spoke to people who are doing redevelopment in other towns and he is the best at what he does. Mrs. Gage stated that she didn't get this until this afternoon and did not want to appoint without knowing his background. Mr. Dryden asked who met with Mr. Maley. Mayor stated that he would like it approved but a motion was made and just want to vote and then move on.

Seconded by Mrs. Gage. Roll Call Vote- Gage, Casella, Dryden yes, Flaherty, Hale, Weeks, no. Mayor cast the deciding vote of no.

Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll Call Vote- Gage, Casella Dryden, no, Flaherty, Hale, Weeks, yes. Mayor cast the deciding vote of yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Appt. Christian Gregory)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Temp. Budget-Current Fund)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Temp. Budget- W & S)

Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Roll Call Vote – all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Mayor to sign Police Contract)

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

Clerk read the following ordinance: **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF LAND LOCATED WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AND EXECUTION OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS.**

Mr. Casella asked that this be tabled until the next meeting that he was not for nor against but the ordinance needs to be discussed.

Mayor stated that this was not the homeowner ordinance which was adopted this has to do with purchasing empty lots. Mayor stated that he spoke to Bottos, Martorano and Cheega and wants to move the process in a way that we would enter into real negotiations to acquire empty lots in town and go forward with the plan that everyone agreed to giving fair market value. Mr. Casella stated that there has been no discussion and this was the first that he as seen this and we all need to be in agreement. Mayor stated that this is the beginning of the process and if not in place we're at a huge disadvantage and if it works out we will purchase some land. Mayor felt that it is the right thing to do and we have to have some way to move forward.



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Mr. Casella moved to table the ordinance until the next meeting, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Roll Call Vote – Weeks, Hale, Flaherty, no, Casella, Gage, Dryden, yes. Mayor cast the deciding vote of no.

Mr. Dryden stated that his could all have been avoided if given a heads up and have the courtesy to call ahead and be treated with respect.

Mrs. Hale moved to adopt the ordinance, with a public hearing to be held on 3/17/08, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote- Gage, Dryden, Casella, no, Weeks, Flaherty, Hale, yes. Mayor cast the deciding vote of yes.

Mr. Dryden moved to approve the raffle application for St. Josephs Church, seconded by Mrs. Gage.

Mrs. Hale asked if they have an ID number. Clerk stated yes. Mayor asked if the State application was followed. Clerk stated yes.

Mayor reported that they are raising money to move out of town and he was not in favor of the move. Mayor stated that he reached out before and was not well received. Mrs. Gage stated that the intention is for the Hispanic people that use the church are interested in keeping the church. She stated that she believes that there are about 5000 parishioners and all masses are standing room only.

Vote all yes.

Mrs. Gage moved to approve the application for sick pay benefits for Stanley Kemp, 2/13/08 and Gregory Weber for 2/29/08, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Weeks stated that there is email space to be used for Mayor and Council and would like to get all the email addresses. Mr. Weeks stated that renewals are needed on web site and can add more functions and will get amounts on that.

Mrs. Gage announced that the Memorial Day program will be held on 5/26/08 and Mrs. Gahrs is asking if anyone wants to participate to call her.

Mr. Flaherty reported that the 2008 Budget is not ready as yet.

Mrs. Hale reported that she will meet with the Engineer on Tuesday and the County on Wednesday to get the retail study results.

Mayor reported that he has met and/or acted upon the following the past couple of weeks:
Retailer opening food establishment



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Prosecutor and Borough Solicitor in Woodbury
Pre-disaster meeting at the Fire Academy
Court Adm. resolved
Mr. Flaherty and he met regarding police negotiations
Pennoni Planner went over the Master Plan
Recyclebank – letter going out and registration package will go out next week.
Met with County Tourism
Updating Mayors on new COAH regulations and they need to contest new numbers
Borough Engineer on what projects working on
 Poplar St. start in next couple of weeks
 Streetscape starting
 Final gas station to public sewer
As of right now, no Municipal Aid this year short \$240,000 in aid. We may get some back. Mr. Casella suggested that we send them a letter that we have been doing regionalization well before required.
Discussions at the Planning Board to amend a final plan.
Borough Hall renovations
Second St. water line broke
Discussion with Westrum to help out regarding affordable housing
Resident with no heat.
Entering into an agreement with the Hoertter property and settling for \$45,000.
Discussed Fire Dept. issues regarding the blocked road with the traffic light
Attended Mayors meeting.
CDBG demolitions get PO to do that and get application in to do next round.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. thanked all who attended the Black History Program. Mayor gave his regrets that he could not attend.

Lucille Stewart, Richardson Ave., stated that she thought Council would be different in 2008 and they should consider the way they act.

Robert Botto, Kings Hwy., asked if grant money is available to buy property and where is the money coming from. Mayor stated that there is no grant money to buy property.

Lucille Stewart, Richardson Ave. asked about the sidewalk ramps at Richardson and Auburn. Mayor reported that they got an extension to the grant and no one will bid.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. stated that Mayhew Ave. needs repairs. Mayor stated that Poplar St. was being done now and Fow later.



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Mrs. Edwards asked if there is an ordinance that there is a certain school route and it is mandatory that there be ramps there? Mayor stated that new construction must do it and we have the money to do the job but can't get anyone to do it.

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

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Closed Session)

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

Mayor adjourned to closed session at 8:29 PM.

Mrs. Gage excused herself from the remainder of the meeting.

After returning from closed session, Mr. Dryden motioned to accept the recommendation of the Police Committee, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll Call - Gage Absent, Vote- all yes.

Mr. Casella asked if the Planning Board did not make Russo do a sidewalk on Guest Ave. Mayor stated no.

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:02 PM.

Dolores M. Connors,
Borough Clerk