



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 7, 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. Councilman Dryden was 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.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the minutes of 3/17/08, regular, 3/20/08, special, 4/3/08 special and closed, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dennis Cheega, 1329 Kings Hwy. stated that the minutes on line stated that the Mayor spoke to Botto, Maratorano and Cheega. Mr. Cheega stated that the Mayor never spoke to him regarding the Borough looking into the acquisition of land. Mr. Cheega stated that he feels that it is being swept under the rug and would like to talk to the Mayor. Mayor said that he is available anytime.

Mr. Cheega asked if the Old Swedes Inn is offering the parking lot to the Borough or sell to the Borough. Mayor stated that he is not aware of this. Mayor stated that it would be an ideal situation if the area from Ashton Ave. to Bottos could be a parking lot.

Mr. Cheega asked the ordinance 01-2008 has a list of all lots in the Redevelopment area at the beginning and asked if the ordinance was for all the lots or just the 4 lots. Mayor stated just 4 lots.

Wendy Snowberger, Pres. S/W Parks & Rec. asked if the Mayor was considering openings on Parks & Rec. and that a regular position and alternate position is open and asked when the decision will be made.

Mr. Flaherty stated that he will speak to someone on Franklin St. shortly and will have one next month.

Lucille Stewart, 4 Richardson Ave. asked if we can ask people who have room in their yard to not park on the street.



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Mrs. Gage asked if she meant that someone was parking on her property and if so that she should call the police. Mrs. Stewart that there are times when she comes home and someone is parked in her driveway.

Mayor asked Mr. Casella to tell the Chief to check it out.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police – Mr. Casella stated that he spoke to Chief Dupper and Class I Spithaler is doing traffic control, Fratto will be certified next week, Car 7 repairs will be done soon, Christian Gregory doing well at the Academy.

Mr. Casella stated that Governor Corzine is asking towns to share services and that Swedesboro is in a situation where there will be a \$.45 increase in taxes and that we are doing all that we can to tighten the budget. We are doing joint services through the Fire Co., Library, EMS, etc. Budgets are getting tighter and have had to lay off employees. We need to look outside the box and one thing needs to be explored is to look at a shared Police Dept. with Woolwich and if we don't begin looking into this the Governor will force us to do it. Mr. Casella stated that the Police Budget is \$600,000 which is a large chunk of our budget and if we look into this now, we will have a say in it and not have the State telling us what to do. Contracts, position must be looked at but we need to show the State that we are doing this.

Mayor stated that there have been whispers but we were never interested in doing this. Mayor reports that an extraordinary aid application has been filed and there are grants to study the possibility of this joint service and also to implement it. We need to send a letter to Woolwich that it needs to be discussed.

Shade Tree – Mrs. Gage stated that they will meet on Tues., 4/15/08 at 7 PM and that it has been marked where the new trees will be planted and that grant money is being used.

Mrs. Gage reported that she attended the Key Communication Meeting at the S/W Board of Education held and she reported the following:

New school – will have contest to determine name
145% increase in enrollment in district over the past 4 years.
In 9/08 the Hill School will be just 6th grade, new school will be 3, 4, and 5,
Stratton, 1, and 2 and K at the Clifford School

Mayor stated that it is projected that increase could be \$.36 per \$100 of assessed value. Mayor stated that the only good news is that Kingsway will only be a \$.018 increase. Mr.



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Weeks reported that the bulk of the S/W District increase is due to the debt service on the new building that voters approved 3 years ago.

Mayor is speaking to local legislators to see if more aid can be gotten.

Parks & Recreation – Mr. Flaherty reported that there were 1000 children at the Easter Egg Hunt. Mrs. Gage stated that the Kingsway Interact groups were a great help.

Mr. Flaherty asked Mr. Patane to reconsider and stay on the Commission. Mr. Flaherty thanked everyone who helped out at the Easter Egg Hunt. Mrs. Gage reported that next year Parks & Rec will not be doing their own pictures because Polaroid film is being phased out and they will supply the bunny but parents will take their own pictures.

Mrs. Gage announced that there were 47 Phantoms game tickets sold and the profit was \$94.00.

The following upcoming events:

5/9/08 Movie Nite at the park

5/10/08 Green Day at Lake Narraticon

6 wk. golf clinic for kids and adults

Fun Day 6/14/08

Summer Camp – Super Sat. with County

Mr. Flaherty stated that Kim Dupper was the chairperson for the Egg Hunt and did a great job. Mrs. Gage thanked Pete Patane for all his years of dedication.

Economic Dev. – Mrs. Hale reported the following:

Outdoor Living Show will be on 5/17/08 and they are looking for volunteers and the response from vendors has been great.

New flowers will be put in the urns on 4/18/08

Jazz Fest. was discussed at their meeting.

Local farmers have asked for a downtown farmers market

Town wide yard sale on 6/7/08

Bellias' office furniture section has moved into the DelMonte building

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Hale reported that the Parking Lot Study has started and a survey is being sent of business owners on Kings Hwy.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the Borough has a new CFO and he will be in the office on Fridays and came highly recommended.



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Mayor stated that the Historical Society honored Norma Lang on her 98th birthday, the oldest living resident that was born in Swedesboro. Mayor read the proclamation.

Mayor thanked Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Zayac for their help in putting it together.

Mrs. Gage announced that Arbor Day Celebration will be held on 4/18/08 and they are planting 3 trees and opening day for Little League is 4/19/08 at Locke Ave. Park.

Mrs. Gage stated that 3 Catholic churches are merging, Gibbstown, Paulsboro and Swedesboro and that Fr. Joe can be called and he will explain.

Mr. Weeks state that the Planning Bd. will meet on 4/14/08 to discuss the Swedesboro Diner and also discuss with the developer the bridge to go over the creek.

Mr. Casella stated that the Borough received the packet for the Fire House roof and a color was decided on.

Mr. Casella stated that the Borough will receive \$2000 for outstanding performance from the JIF with no loss of time and keeping rates down.

Mayor stated that JIF is looking into healthcare for municipalities and is glad that they are looking into it.

Mayor reported that the Borough did hire a new CFO and that Mr. Weeks, Mr. Flaherty, Mrs. Goodwin and Mrs. McCallister interviewed 3 candidates last week.

Mayor stated that he interviewed a Rental Inspec. and a Recycling Coor.

Mayor reported the following:

Recyclebank has started and residents can call to exchange the standard container to a larger one.

Borough Hall construction underway on the clock tower, chimney and back wall and Bill Goodwin is overseeing the repairs.

Manholes on Kings Hwy. by the Borough Hall very loud and got in touch with the County.

Poplar St. not completed due to bad weather.

Borough getting new bus shelters – free. Mrs. Hale suggested one by the Trinity Church.

Mrs. Hale stated that DCA has not approved the amendment to the RCA plan for the rehabilitation home repairs. Mayor stated that our goal is to rehab 10-15 homes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Temp. Budget)

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



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Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Mayor to sign CDBG- curb cuts)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote-
Dryden absent, all others yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (BAN -\$661,500.00)
Mrs. Gage moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote-
Dryden, absent, all others yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Appt. CFO – Coles 2008-2011)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Roll Call Vote –
Dryden absent, all others yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Eliminate position of Police Clerk)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution,

Mrs. Gage commented on the serious budget cuts but suggested that the elimination wait
until a decision to merge Police Depts. with Woolwich is completed and feels that this is
a mistake to eliminate the position.

Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote – Gage no, Dryden absent, all others yes.

Clerk reported that the Borough will receive \$4000 for Clean Communities Grant.

Mrs. Gage moved to approve membership in the NJ Firemen's Assoc. for Edward H.
Barber III and Andrew D. Bean, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

Mrs. Gage moved to approve the request to hold the St. Alfio parade on Sunday, 5/4/08,
seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Clerk read the letter from S/W School Dist. requesting permission to hold a mock trial in
Council Chambers on 5/13/08. Mayor suggested that they get in touch with the
newspaper to have them report this.

Mr. Casella moved to approve sick pay benefits for B. Goodwin, ½ day, 3/27/08, J.
Gangemi, ½ day, 3/28/08, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Mayor reported that the Ct. Adm. and Judge selected a Dept. Ct. Adm. and she is a
Swedesboro resident. Clerk stated that a voice mail was left.

NEW BUSINESS



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Mrs. Gage reported that Kings Things, who have helped many people over the years, will be celebrating their 25 years of service and asked that the Borough do a proclamation. Mayor asked that she prepare something.

Mrs. Hale announced that the SWBA will hold a Meet & Greet on 4/9/08 at Bottos Rest. and all are invited.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gretchen Kunkle, 4 Merckling St. asked if there was an ordinance regarding broken sidewalks. Mayor stated that the Property Maintenance Officer will look at it and send a letter to the resident.

Lucille Stewart, 4 Richardson asked where the handicap cuts will be made. Mayor stated mostly near the Clifford School.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. asked if it was a State law that curb cuts be at the schools.

Lucille Stewart, 4 Richardson Ave. stated that a forum on taxes would be held at the Greenwich Library.

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

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Closed Session)

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

Mayor adjourned to closed session at 8:15 PM.

After returning from closed session, Mr. Weeks motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:39 PM.

Dolores M. Connors,
Borough Clerk