



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 2008

APPROVED MINUTES

A regular meeting of the 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.

Mrs. Hale moved to approve the minutes from 4/21/08, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

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

Lucille Stewart-4 Richardson Avenue-commented that when Mayor Fromm asks for a motion to approve the minutes, it should be clearly stated that the members of council had the opportunity to review the minutes not everybody.

Ron Baus-Spirit, Chrysler, Dodge-Kings Highway-asked if Mayor/Council had any questions about the car that he dropped off. Ron Baus indicated that this is a 2005 Crown Victoria police car with low miles and is reasonably priced. He wanted Swedesboro to have the opportunity to purchase it, although he has other municipalities interested. Mayor Fromm and Mr. Casella both commented that this has to be discussed with the CFO and asked Mr. Baus to give them a couple of days to make their decisions because there are guidelines that need to be followed.

Mr. Flaherty moved to close the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development

The Streetscape phase II has started. Mr. Bitgood informed committee that during the streetscape construction a tree was broke and that the tree will be replaced.

Mrs. Hale commented that the outdoor show is coming together. They have more vendors this year and also will be having a WXTU ticket run. Mrs. Hale explained that the radio station will be hosting a ticket run for their concert and that this is very popular and hopefully will bring in a bigger crowd.



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Mrs. Hale also commented that the jazz fest is also going well.

Parks and Recreation

Green Day at Lake Narraticon is scheduled for Saturday, May 10th from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Flaherty commented that this should be a great day. Mr. Flaherty commented that Mr. Simmerman from Public Works is having his department clean up leaves at the park for this event. Mayor Fromm commented that Public works had an emergency street repair and that this might delay the clean up of the park. There is electricity at the park and Mr. Simmerman is supposed to be checking into if they can hook up to it.

Library

The library will be presented with an award for their teen advisory program by the South Jersey Regional Library System at a lunch on 5/21/08. They will be given a check for \$500.00 for the teen program.

Shade Tree

Mrs. Gage commented that the next meeting will be held the third week of May and that all of the new trees planted are doing well.

The planning board will be having a meeting next Monday, 5/12/08.

Mr. Weeks commented that the school budget was defeated and that meetings to go over the budget are being held. Their will be an open public meeting on Thursday, 5/9/08 at the Stratton School and everybody was encouraged to attend. Mayor Fromm also commented about the school budgets and what this means to Swedesboro's taxes and again encouraged everybody to attend. Mayor Fromm commented that this was the opportunity for the residents to come out and tell them what they think about what the town should be doing. Mayor Fromm commented on the small amount of people who actually voted on the budget, but 70% of those who voted, voted against the budget. Mayor Fromm publicly thanked the neighboring towns of Woolwich, South Harrison, and East Greenwich for holding the ground that the budget still needs to be cut to the point where Swedesboro has no tax increase.

Trash and Recycling

The trash report indicates that for the month of April 3.82 tons more recycling was collected comparing to last April. As of April we have a 28.82% recycling rate for this year. The recycle bank program seems to be a success thus far in encouraging people to recycle.



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Mayor Fromm would like the recycle rate to go up to at least 45%-50%.

Mr. Weeks advised the residents that they could call recycle bank if they would like a bigger or smaller can.

Board of Health

Mr. Casella commented that he met last week with the board of health and inspections on old Swedes Inn and the Clifford school have been done and they have passed.

Fire

The construction on the roof is still on hold. Ed Barber and Jim Sabetta were informed that there was a problem with the specs. The error was on the part of the engineer. Mr. Casella has had discussions with Jim Sabetta, Sam Maccarrone and Mayor Chila and was assured that everything would be okay and no change order should have to be done. Mr. Casella is hoping that the project will be started this week or next week. He is waiting to hear from Sam Maccarone as to when Mr. Sabetta was going to give them the okay.

Mrs. Gage asked how this will affect the Memorial Day Celebration. Mr. Casella stated that options are being looked into such as using a POD or renting an offsite storage facility. Mr. Casella stated that if the project is not started by next week that they will hold off until after the celebration. The Mayor stated that since we have already waited so long that the start of the project should be after the Memorial Day celebration.

Police

Mr. Casella commented that the officer in school has passed firearm training. Mr. Casella also stated that the car offered by Ron Baus seems like a good idea, but he does not know all of the specs.

Mr. Casella talked with Chief Dupper and Chuck Simmerman about the white line down Kings Highway in front of all the business'. Mr. Casella advised Mr. Cheega that if he has vehicles blocking his driveways to call the police when this occurs and they will issue tickets. Mr. Casella stated that Chuck Simmerman is supposed to be looking into alternatives such as signing, etc. Mayor Fromm commented that this is a county road and that the county should have done something about it during the road construction project. He advised to call the county and possibly have either yellow or white stripes or something painted in front of everybody who has a driveway. Mayor Fromm commented that Stan Bitgood will be in town for streetscape and that he could maybe contact the county.

NEW BUSINESS



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Mrs. Hale attended the Bankers and Brokers breakfast and spoke with Joseph Scarpetto who advised her that there is grant money available for replacing lights in an effort to go green and Mrs. Hale is looking into it and will forward the information.

Mr. Flaherty met with Marge and a presentation on the library expansion is being held at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the new CFO is making progress.

Mr. Flaherty commented that Parks and Recreation is having a meeting this Wednesday and he will have more information about what is coming up in the future. Mr. Flaherty complimented on the fire works last night.

Mayor Fromm stated that perhaps a flyer could go out warning the residents to expect the noise from the fireworks, but stated that they did do a great job.

Mrs. Gage stated that there is a new sign on Third Street along the railroad tracks for the trees that were done last year and the money was obtained through a grant. Mrs. Gage also commented that they will be doing more weeding, etc. in that area. Mrs. Gage also commented that she will be talking to Mr. Orbanus about the tree on Glen Echo Avenue. The Mayor asked Darlene if he could be the contact with Mr. Orbanus since Shade Tree was not involved.

Mr. Weeks attended a meeting at Salem County College in regards to shared services. Mayor Fromm was unable to attend and Mr. Weeks went on his behalf. He and Mayor Chila had the opportunity to speak with Senator Sweeney and the Commissioner of DCA about shared services and the monies that are available, etc. DCA is going to help us determine if this is something that would be good for us to do. The Commissioner also stressed that municipal aide funding formulas have been changed and are possibly looking into giving money back this year.

Mayor Fromm thanked Mr. Weeks for going and stated that he did contact Mayor Chila and he made contact with the guy at DCA and there will potentially be another meeting to talk things over.

Mr. Casella thanked Lieutenant Kemp and Chief Dupper for their help with yesterday's celebration.

Deputy clerk read the following resolution: (Award bid for Fow Avenue Resurfacing to Jerry & Son Excavating) Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote-Dryden absent, all others yes.



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Deputy clerk read the following resolution: (Refund overpayment on tax records). Mrs. Gage moved to adopt the resolution seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote-Dryden absent, all others yes.

Deputy clerk read the following resolution: (Click it or Ticket). Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote-Dryden absent, all others yes.

Deputy clerk read the following resolution: (Remove Block 32.01, Lot 12 from the Redevelopment area). Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Roll Call Vote-Dryden absent, all others yes.

Mayor Fromm commented that this particular block and lot is considered a State Park and explained the location. He commented that this could be a viable property in the future.

The Memorial Day services will be held on May 26, 2008 starting at 10:00 am rain or shine.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Hale stated that there are approximately 45 vendors for the Outdoor Show and there will be a tent set up for children's activities. Shade tree will be there and will be giving out seedlings.

Mr. Casella stated that members of the police department will be there to help with security and Mrs. Hale did state that she will need help with security. Mrs. Hale also stated that they got permission from PNC for parking and there will be a shuttle bus to the event. Mrs. Hale also commented again on the ticket run for WXTU in the morning. Mrs. Gage explained what the ticket run is and how it should bring in a large crowd.

At this time during the meeting the Mayor introduced Marge Dombrosky and thanked everybody for coming. Marge introduced Robert Weatherall, Director of The Gloucester County Library System. Mr. Weatherall commended Marge on how she runs the library and stated that it is one of the best libraries in the system.

Mr. Weatherall gave hand outs on the Swedesboro Branch Library expansion project and did an extensive power point presentation. He thanked Mayor and Council for allowing them to do this presentation and emphasized the importance of this expansion. The library does a lot of things with children and there is no space for these programs.

Mr. Flaherty stated that this has been in the works for approximately 1 ½ years.



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Mr. Weatherall went over the cost and stated that the estimates were done last year and are probably higher this year. He also stated that the county would be paying a percentage of the repayment on the bond.

Mr. Weeks asked what was being done with the current upstairs of the library and Mr. Weatherall stated that it would be used for storage. Mr. Weeks also asked if the library would have to be closed during construction and for safety issues especially when taking down the wall Mr. Weatherall stated that it might have to be shut down briefly.

Mrs. Gage asked if the front of the building will remain the same and the response was that it would look exactly the same. All of the new construction is in the back.

Mr. Casella asked if there was enough room for the parking behind the new building. Mr. Flaherty stated there is a lot of room in the back and are looking into different possibilities into the entering and exiting to the library parking lot.

Mayor asked the members of the audience if they are in support of the project and asked the residents to speak out if they supported the project or if they did not support the project. The Mayor discussed the possible cost to Swedesboro and some of the residents did speak out in favor of the expansion.

Mr. Weeks stated that the historical society is doing a book and is looking for old pictures for the book prior to the 1960's.

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

Dan Orbanus-1529 Kings Highway-commented that he attended the last meeting there was a big crowd to support the police department, but stated this was an important meeting to support our library and feels that the library project should be pushed forward.

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

Deputy Clerk read by title only resolution to go into (closed session for personnel matters) Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote-Dryden absent, all others yes.

Mr. Flaherty moved to come out of closed session, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

Mr. Flaherty motioned to authorize the police committee to select a labor attorney if need be before the next meeting, second by Mrs. Hale. Mr. Dryden absent, Mrs. Gage abstained, and all others yes.



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Mrs. Gage moved to approve sick pay benefits, seconded by Mr. Casella if they have the time. Vote all yes.

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

Mr. Flaherty moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Tanya L. Goodwin
Deputy Borough Clerk