



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 4, 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 7/7/08, regular and closed, and 7/17/08 special, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Elaine Edwards, 636 Auburn Ave. thanked Council for attending the Arts Camp and appreciate the support of the community and also reminded everyone of the Bar B Que on 8/16/08, 11-5, \$15.00 at the Richardson Ave. School.

Mr. Dryden arrived at 7:07 PM.

Dan Orbanus, 1529 Kings Hwy. thanked all involved taking care of the problem at the corner of Park & East. The situation has been taken care of with no embarrassment to the town.

Mayor stated that he had a Community Service worker clean up an area and he did a great job.

Lucille Stewart, 4 Richardson Ave. suggested that when people pass away to have the Police patrol their neighborhood more frequently to keep an eye on the empty property. Mayor stated that he will have the Police Committee discuss the suggestion with the Chief.

Mr. Casella reported that National Night Out will be held tomorrow night and that the department is doing it differently this year. The officers will go out into the neighborhoods and they will be stopping at homes and introducing themselves.

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



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Mayor spoke about the letter received from the Chief regarding fuel saving measures and he stated that he does not agree with some of the methods being used especially the one where two officers are in the same vehicle. Mr. Dryden suggested looking into hybrid vehicles. Mayor stated that he felt it is a negative benefit having two officers in one car.

Committee Reports

Finance – Mr. Flaherty praised the finance report prepared by our CFO, Jeff Coles which everyone received.

Public Safety – Mr. Casella reported that the Board of Health met last week and several issues were brought up.

Locke Ave. Park – smoking at the park.

Mr. Flaherty and Mrs. Gage got in touch with Natalie Mathias, Park & Rec. and Woolwich Police would have to issue a citation.

Helms & Weatherby – Dumpster – no application and it has been in place for at least a month. They were given 7 days to remove it. Mayor stated that ordinances must be enforced.

300 block of Vanneman – a lot of cats. Jean Meddick contacted Glou. Cty. Animal Shelter and it will be 3 weeks before traps can be placed.

Fire - Mr. Casella also reported that the new roof at the Fire house is leaking and it has been referred to Const. Off., Jim Sabetta.

Police – Mr. Casella stated that Chief Dupper met with Chief Marino regarding the 5K run. Chief on vacation to 8/16/08 and the Lt. will be in charge. Mayor asked if the person in charge will have access to all areas that may be needed. Mr. Casella stated yes.

Mayor reported that there have been two meetings with Woolwich regarding the Police Dept. to get feed back from Chief Marino on how to cover Swedesboro if we consolidate or share services. Mayor stated that he voiced our concerns and at the end of the meeting it was decided that a sub-committee would get approval to formally ask for something in writing from Woolwich.

Mr. Casella stated that he doesn't know if this will work but that we need to do something. Mr. Casella stated that he wanted to squash the rumors that they are not disbanding the Police Dept. and the officers are not going anywhere. Both Chiefs are involved and it is not secretive and that we need to look at options.

Mr. Dryden asked if the decision would be just from Council and suggested that it be put before the public to decide. Mayor stated that a public meeting would be held and then



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our responsibility would be to make a decision. Mr. Casella stated that Chief Marino offered to do a power point presentation.

Mr. Dryden stated that beyond the economic situation there are other benefits for the town to have their own Police Dept. and the ultimate decision should be up to the public.

Mayor stated that there are 20 towns in Burlington County starting the process and he stated that he feels we are going about it in the right way and that no one really wants to do this but it can't go on the way we have. We need to study and look at everything.

Mr. Dryden motioned to formally ask Chief Marino to submit a proposal on how they envision us having a shared service for police protection, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote- Gage, no, all others yes.

Economic Dev. – Mrs. Hale reported that the July meeting was cancelled. Mrs. Hale stated that she went over the punch list with the contractor for the Streetscape and the pavers need to be inspected by E P Henry due to some being damaged.

Garbage & Trash – Mr. Dryden reported that he is continuing his informal survey of recycling. He stated that our recycling rate is 28.6% and it is 6-7% better than previously but not the 60% that Recycle Bank projected. Mayor stated that they will be looking at the numbers because he does not feel that the numbers they were given were accurate and they will sit down with Recycle Bank

Mayor stated that he is concerned about the service stations charging so much per tire to dispose of it and then they take the tires down to the Borough garage to have us get rid of them and we pay for that. Mayor felt we need to look at some of our policies and cut some out.

Mr. Flaherty stated that you can now take computer equipment to the County on the specified days of the special waste collection.

Mrs. Hale stated that every one of our food places in town have a dumpster except the Chinese Rest. and they have a lot of trash and feels they should have a dumpster.

Shade Tree – Mrs. Gage reported that there was no meeting this month and there is another person interested in serving on the board and they will email their information to the Mayor.

Mrs. Gage thanked the Borough workers for watering the trees. Mr. Weeks asked if any resident that got a new tree has been watering them. Mrs. Gage stated that they have said that they will water them but they haven't.



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School Boards – Mr. Weeks reported that the Charles Harker School is scheduled to open in September.

Planning Board – Mr. Weeks announced that they will meet next Monday. Mayor reported that they did re-examine the Master Plan and will present it to the full Board next week.

Library – Mr. Flaherty reported that they are waiting for feedback from Woolwich who is looking to decide if they will contribute to the expansion costs.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Hale reported that Senior Services was in town to distribute the produce vouchers and that six seniors attended. Mrs. Hale stated that Senior Services want to return in the fall to help seniors to fill out forms if needed. Mrs. Hale would like a list of the seniors in town.

Mrs. Hale thanked the fire fighters for their quick response to the fire on Park Ave. last week.

Mr. Flaherty reported that in PA, community service workers are used to do clean up and other things during town events and that we should look into that.

Mayor asked if at the next meeting we would have a list of the 3 police cars that are to be sold. Mr. Casella stated yes. Discussion followed regarding the bicycles in the basement.

Mayor stated that we have an old ambulance which we turned over to Logan when they took over our ambulance service. They no longer need it and asked everyone if they would be interested in donating it to the same cause that we donated a car to a while ago. Clerk stated that she will check with our Solicitor if that would be allowed.

Mrs. Gage asked if any Vials of Life are left. Clerk stated yes.

Mr. Weeks asked that if anyone has any local events coming up to get in touch with him and he will post them on our web site.

Mr. Casella stated that the block party this past weekend to benefit the cancer society ran well and thanked Chief Dupper, Ptl. Hargraves Jr. and special officers Hargraves Sr. and Spithaler, County EMS and our Fire Co.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Audit2007)

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



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Clerk read the following resolution: (Extend Due Date for 3rd Qt. taxes)
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Perf. Guaranty Reduction #3 to Swedes Dev. LLC, Blk. 50 Lot 1)
Mr. Dryden moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Approve Change order #1, Streetscape \$1781.04)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Renew Mem. with JIF)
Mr. Casella stated that he cannot make the monthly meetings and suggested having Carl Bagby attend. Mayor to speak to him.
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Chap. 159 – Fow Ave. \$109,000))
Mrs. Gage moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote – all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Chap. 159 – ADA Frt. Door \$4636.00)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote –all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Chap. 159 – Munci. Ct. Alcohol Ed. %160.64)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance:2008 SALARY ORDINANCE, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “SALARY ORDINANCE 1976 BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO” WHICH WAS ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL ON MARCH 15, 1976.

No one from the public spoke for or against the ordinance.

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



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Clerk read the request from Mr. Russo for cancelling W & S billing for 24 Lake Ave. Mayor stated that our licensed operator stated that the ordinance reads that if it is shut off that in order to turn back on they would have to pay the reconnection fees of \$1500 for water and \$800 for sewer. Clerk to get in touch with Mr. Russo.

Mr. Weeks moved to approve sick pay benefits for:

Ken Hunt 6/30/08 7/31/08
Ron Borden 7/2/08
Gregory Weber 7/4/08
Chris Beckett 7/5/08
Joseph Hargraves 7/6/08
John Gangemi 7/9/08 7/14/08
Mike Sparks 7/7/08 – 7/11/08
Chuck Simmerman 7/14/08

Seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Casella asked if Public Works would check all our street signs throughout town for fading, etc.

Mr. Weeks asked about the crosswalks being painted and to request the County to place Reduced Speed Ahead signs on Franklin St.

Mrs. Hale reported that the tractor trailers are still going over the middle of the road on Lake Ave.

Mayor stated that he had received a request for an easement for the property located at 1446 Kings Hwy. They are asking for an easement to use our driveway by the Library to gain access behind their property for parking. The property is for sale and there is no legitimate parking right now but there is space in the rear of the property. Mayor asked for Council approval and will have the Borough Solicitor prepare the paperwork if all are in agreement. Mayor stated that also the Borough is considering purchasing the whole area behind the Russo and Library parking to use as a public parking lot.

Mr. Dryden motioned to move along the process to grant an easement allowing for parking behind the property located at 1446 Kings Hwy., seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote – all yes.

Mayor reported that he has received four (4) appraisals for the downtown revitalization properties.

Mayor informed Council that a letter went out that no partial payments would be accepted for the W & S bills. Clerk explained that in the beginning they were trying to



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help people get caught up with the bills but that over time it seems that the program is being taken advantage of. People are not making their promised scheduled payments until we are at their door ready to shut the water off. Mayor stated that there are a few people who will remain on the partial payment list but they are grandfathered into the program and they are the ones who faithfully make their scheduled payments.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kim Schneider, 1522 Kings Hwy. stated that she and her son were crossing Lake Ave. at the light and were almost struck by a car. They were in the crosswalk and a car came around the corner and did not stop while they crossed even though they had the signal to cross. Mrs. Schneider stated that she feels that the area needs to be patrolled better and also asked that the trash receptacle at the corner be moved further back because cars cannot see if there is a small child waiting to cross the street.

Mayor stated that we need to have the Police write more tickets and suggested getting in touch with Carmel Morina and tell him we have a situation here and it is not getting any better and see that he would suggest.

Dan Orbanus, Kings Hwy suggested instead of getting rid of three cars to put one car at the site out front. Mr. Flaherty stated that previously Council okayed overtime to have the police concentrate on writing tickets. Discussion followed.

Mr. Dryden motioned to close the public portion, 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 9:25 PM.

After returning from closed session, Mr. Weeks moved to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 10:06 PM.

Dolores M. Connors



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Borough Clerk