



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 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 on speaker phone, all others present. Also present was Chris Beck, freshman at Kingsway Regional High School who was the Mayor for a meeting.

A moment of silent prayer was followed by the flag salute.

Acting Mayor Beck advised that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law.

Acting Mayor Beck asked for a roll call of Council.

Mr. Weeks moved to approve the minutes of October 7, 2008, regular, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor introduced Chris Beck, a freshman from Kingsway Regional High School as the Acting Mayor for the night.

No one from the public spoke.

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

Committee Reports

Finance – Mr. Flaherty stated that he is waiting for the end of the quarter reports.

Public Safety

Board of Health – Mr. Casella reported that there will be no meeting this month.

Fire Co. – Mr. Casella reported that there are still issues with the roof and that money is being held until the issues are addressed.

Mr. Casella stated that new radios are needed and the estimated cost is \$11,500 which would be split with Woolwich. Borough CFO stated that money is available and that we would need to do an interlocal with Woolwich. Chief Barber stated that they would purchase 14 radios – 7 for the line officers and 7 in the trucks.



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Mr. Dryden asked that after 9/11 controversy where Firemen and Police could not communicate with each other would these radios have that capability. Chief Barber said yes they do.

Mr. Casella stated that the radios would be owned by the Woolwich Fire Co. and not the individual. Mr. Weeks suggested ordering additional batteries.

Mr. Casella motioned to move forward with preparing the interlocal agreement with Woolwich and ordering the radios, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

Police – Mr. Casella thanked the Police Dept. for assisting with the Jazz Festival.

Mr. Weeks moved to approve the request for the Halloween curfew to be at 8 PM from 10/27/08 – 11/2/08, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Acting Mayor Beck asked if curfew is 10 PM on Halloween. Mr. Casella stated no it is 8 PM.

Economic Dev. – Mrs. Hale reported that their next meeting will be on 10/30/08 and she thanked all volunteers for the Jazz Festival.

Shade Tree – Mrs. Gage reported the following:

- Discussed conference of NJ State Shade Tree Federation
- Applying for new grant. Grover Price writing it.
- Spoke to Mayor and Chuck about continuing to water the new trees.
- Reported that bushes by sign at the RR Park and Third St. were hacked off.
- Will address over hanging trees on Styvestant. Getting estimates.
- Will get in touch with Ron Baus who is donating 2 trees.
- Paul Beister offered to plant 2 trees on Kings Hwy.
- 2 trees in front of Trinity Parish House will be removed by County.
- 2 trees on Church by Trinity Church. No money now, will try to wait for grant.
- John Carpenter will check out trees on Kings Hwy. to any work that needs to be done.

School Boards

S/W School Dist. - Mr. Weeks reported that the S/W School Dist. has 1583 pupils enrolled which is an 4.7% increase over last year. State passed a requirement that if you have a pre-school the district must provide all day for 3-4 yrs. old. The district has a modified program now and it will not be much of an impact. District is also reviewing 10 policies.



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Kingsway School Dist. – Mr. Weeks stated that demographer will be helping with the projection of enrollment figures and the district is looking to purchase land. Fuel costs more than budgeted. Energy Saving Co. will look to see where they can save on utility costs. Supt. Altersitz will come to one of our meetings in Nov. or Dec. to discuss their budget.

Mayor suggested that next year have the notice for the Halloween curfew be advertised in the New Town Press prior to Halloween.

Planning/Zoning Board – Mayor reported that the Board did approve the re-examination of the Master Plan and are looking into how to comply with the new Affordable Housing rules.

Parks & Recreation – Mr. Flaherty reported that they are planning their 2009 events. Mrs. Gage stated that Fun Day at Stechers was a great success and the Halloween Parade will be at the Stratton School.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Casella reported that the old and worn street signs have been replaced.

Mrs. Hale reported that Gloucester County Senior Services will be at the Borough Hall tomorrow to help anyone with applications, forms etc.

Mr. Flaherty stated that discussions are still moving forward for the expansion of the Library.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the Borough has a large quantity of the old green recycling containers and that if any resident wants one to use for trash for them to call the Borough Hall.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Cancel outstanding checks)

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

Clerk read the following resolution: (Req. approv. Items of revenue JIF Safety \$3425.00)

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

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve sick pay benefits for Carl Bagby for 9/28, 29, 30/08 and Ken Hunt for 10/13/08, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

NEW BUSINESS



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Mr. Weeks reported that two Swedesboro residents, Lois Stanley and Russell Shiveler, have written a book about Swedesboro and Woolwich. The cost is \$21.99 and will be available in December.

Acting Mayor Beck asked what is the book about. Mr. Weeks stated that it covers from the history of Swedesboro from 1800 – 1953.

Mrs. Hale stated that there will be a Town Clean Up on 11/15/08 with a rain date of 11/22/08. Any group interested in applying can get an application on the web site or the Borough Hall.

Mrs. Hale reported that Economic Dev. has applied for a History Grant for a walking tour of Swedesboro.

Mayor Fromm thanked Jeff Hale, Chairperson of the Jazz Festival. It was a fantastic event and helped the businesses in town.

Acting Mayor Beck suggested having Swedesboro-Woolwich Day more than once a year because it was so much fun.

Clerk brought up the Vendors Permit application that had been submitted and stated that she checked with the Borough Solicitor and he stated that you cannot pick and choose who you issue permits to. Mayor stated that we need to protect our businesses and if we need to change our ordinance we will.

Mr. Casella motioned to table until further discussion with the Borough Solicitor, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Mayor Beck asked why the curfew is at 8 PM on Friday night which is Halloween. Mayor Fromm stated that it is for safety reasons.

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

Helen Fromm asked if Woolwich has the same curfew as Swedesboro. Mr. Flaherty stated that they will have the two Mayors talk.

Pete Patane, Franklin St., asked Mr. Weeks why the Italian Program was cancelled this year from the S/W Dist. Mr. Weeks stated that he believes that the person in charge retired but he will ask Mr. Fisher.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. asked if there were restrictions when peddlers come into town. Mr. Weeks stated that it depends on what street that the downtown has no restrictions.



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Mayor Fromm stated that they park in one spot and then move to 3-4 spots during the day.

Acting Mayor Beck asked about the need for street lights at the intersection of Rt. 322 and Locke Ave.

Lucille Stewart, 4 Richardson Ave. asked if the peddlers pay state taxes. Clerk stated that before a permit is issued they must produce there certificate from the State.

Mr. Casella reported that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and there is a good feeling in town and the pink ribbons give a good touch to the town and thanked Mrs. Hale and Mayor Fromm.

Mrs. Hale stated that she hopes next year to come up with more ideas and the pink ribbons were donated by Petals and Paints.

Fun & Game Night will be held at the Richardson Ave. School this Friday at 7 PM.
\$8.00 per ticket.

Acting Mayor Beck suggested having a kick ball tournament and have a big sports day.

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

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

Mayor Fromm thanked Acting Mayor Beck for a great job and asked all to listen to the questions that he asked and stated that he is a great example of the kids in town.

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Dolores M. Connors
Borough Clerk