



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of February 17, 2009
Approved on March 2, 2009

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held on the above date with the Honorable Thomas W. Fromm presiding. Councilman Flaherty was absent, all others present.

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

Mayor asked for a roll call of Council.

Mr. Casella moved to approve the minutes of 2/2/09, regular, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Weeks abstain, all others yes.

Mr. Casella moved to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Vote all yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave., reminded all about the 4th Annual Black History Program on 2/22/09 at the Trinity Church. Mr. Casella stated that Spec. Officer Thomas will be on duty to help.

Peter Patane, Franklin St., reported that traffic is still flying down Franklin St. Mr. Casella to reinforce with the Chief to have it covered. Mr. Patane complained about a lot of trucks. Mr. Casella stated that nothing can be done unless the trucks are over the weight limit but they can't be kept off of County roads.

Lucille Stewart, Richardson Ave. complained about a neighbor putting their trash out on Thursday in the morning. Mr. Casella told her to call the Police.

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

Clerk went over the correspondence received.

Mr. Casella asked if the increase suggested for the dog license fees are in line with other towns. Clerk stated that she did a survey a while ago and some towns had increased their fees. Mayor stated that the CFO is recommending this because we need to cover our costs.

Mayor stated that the recommendation to raise the landlord rental inspection fees is due to their being multiple re-inspections that the inspector receives a fee but the Borough does not collect an additional fee.

Mr. Ayers motioned to accept the recommendations from the Borough CFO for the increase in fees for the Dog Licenses and the Landlord Rental Inspections, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Mayor reported that they will be getting the first draft of the 2009 Budget shortly but will not be introducing the budget for a few months since they are waiting to hear what the State will be receiving from the stimulus plan.

Public Safety – Mr. Casella reported that Weber and Kemp were still out and that Hargraves Sr. is back.

Mr. Casella stated that the County is holding off extending the green light on Lake Ave. to see if the traffic eases and people use other detour routes. If they find it is not working they will extend the light.

Mr. Casella asked for approval to have one officer work a 4 hour shift just for the speeding of traffic on either a Friday or Monday. Mayor stated that he supports the idea and has said before that if they concentrated on speeding, the overtime would pay for itself.

Mr. Casella stated that the information that the Mayor wanted from the Chief will be completed tomorrow.

Economic Development - Mrs. Hale reported that she attended a Tourism meeting on 1/23/09 and it was a very successful meeting.

On 2/10/09 she met with Historical Society regarding Phase III of Streetscape Project and waiting for approval from the S/W Historical Society and Historic Preservation.

Mrs. Hale stated that she attended a play, Learning Stages, and they are looking to expand their program and would like to bring it to our town. It teaches children how to act, write plays, make scenery, etc. Mrs. Hale to get more information.

Fire – Mrs. Gahrs stated that since the weather has gotten warmer the heaters at the firehouse have not been running like before and the meeting that was scheduled with Mrs. DiBella, Mr. Maccherone and Chief Barber will be tomorrow or Thursday. They will go over the five year plan and also discuss grant money that is available.

Garbage & Recycling – Mr. Weeks stated that he met with Mr. Teter and that we need to review our trash ordinance and have it updated. Mr. Weeks went over the suggested changes.

Mayor stated that he spoke to RecycleBank and they will make a presentation in March and give ideas to kick up the program.



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Mayor also reported that the issue with the house on the corner of Horner and Kings Hwy. went to Court and there is progress on how it will be addressed. It is a slow process to have a house condemned.

Mayor stated that two homes on General Harker La. are to be demolished and asked if anyone knew of any relatives of the deceased owners to let us know. Ms. Stewart stated that there is a daughter in California and she has her address.

Environmental/Shade Tree – Mr. Ayers stated that they will meet this week and applying for grants whose application must be submitted by the end of March.

School Boards – Mr. Weeks stated he is waiting to hear back from both schools regarding the reviewing of their budgets.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Hale reported that the walking tour buildings have been chosen and the brochure should be out by April.

Mrs. Hale stated that she is working with Mr. Weeks to get information together for the Safe Walk to School Grant.

Mr. Casella stated that he noticed the light at Kings Hwy. and Glen Echo is blinking yellow and felt that it should be turned back to a regular light. Mayor to find out the reason it was changed.

RESOLUTIONS

- Clerk read the following resolution: (Transfers – Current)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll Call
Vote- Flaherty absent, all others yes.

ORDINANCES

Public Hearing

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO DISSOLVING THE GARBAGE COLLECTION DISTRICT FOR THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED THE PROVSIIIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

Mr. Weeks moved to open the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

No one spoke for or against the ordinance.



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

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

Mr. Casella moved to approve sick pay benefits for Christian Gregory for 1/28, 1/29/09, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Hale stated that they are looking to find people in Swedesboro who could use the RCA Grant money. They must qualify by their income but there is no age restriction.

Mrs. Hale also stated that there are no lists of senior citizens in town and that there are tax breaks for senior citizens who qualify but need someone to let her know who they are.

Mayor stated that he spoke to our Tax Collector and she has a small list of about 30 but feels it could be double that as to who could qualify.

Mrs. Gahrs announced that the GSBA sends an invite to Mayor and Council to be a participant of the Annual Memorial Day Program and are asking permission to use the fire house and parking lot on 5/25/09 at 10:30 AM, to block off Kings Hwy. and have Police direct traffic.

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

Peter Patane, Franklin St. stated that the traffic light at Glen Echo and Kings Hwy. is dangerous blinking yellow due to businesses and a resident coming from Glen Echo onto Kings Hwy. Mr. Casella will have the County address it and the Mayor will find out why it was changed.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. Asked that the list being put together that are shovel ready to include Turner and Mayhew Ave. Mayor stated that they are on the list. Mrs. Edwards asked if it was considered to include curbing on streets where they never had curbing. Mayor stated that if it did not have existing curbing the State will not allow it to be put in but that any roads that we have done we have stretched the limit to fix everything.

Mrs. Edwards reported that there is one handicap ramp on one side of Bridgeport and Kings Hwy. but not the other side. Mayor stated that they put in as many as the money allowed.



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Kim McDonough, Thompson Ave. suggested putting the information regarding the RCA and tax money on the Boroughs web site and stated that the Planning Board meeting schedule is not on there.

Ms. McDonough stated that our W & S Supv. saw the sewer was backed up again on Thompson Ave. and was going to come back with a video camera to see what the problem is. She stated that she does not know if that was done. Mrs. Hale stated she will look into this.

Ms. McDonough stated that Bruce Gahrs told her that Swedesboro was deeded Lake Narraticon. Mayor asked that if Mr. Gahrs has info regarding that to email it to him.

Milton Leap, Thompson Ave., expressed his concerns about the ditch adjacent to his parent's property. It is a storm water drain that his father used to be able to maintain but can no longer do that. It is eroding their property and it is 30" deep in some spots and is getting close to their foundation. He asked if something could be done. Mayor stated that this was being discussed at the Planning Board and they are trying to figure out how to do this. Russo has agreed to clean out the ditch and Mayor stated that the ideal situation would be to hard pipe it. Mayor also stated that some of the problem is there has been a lot of stuff dumped into the ditch which doesn't help the situation. Mayor assured him that they are looking into it to solve the problem.

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

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

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Dolores M. Connors
Borough Clerk