



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of March 16, 2009
Approved on April 6, 2009

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held on the above date in Council Chambers with the Honorable Thomas W. Fromm presiding. Councilman Weeks 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 March 2, 2009, regular and closed, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mahmoud Zayyad, 186 Harrisonville Rd., Mullica Hill, NJ stated that he wants to open a cell phone store and came to the Borough Hall and inquired about registering his business and was told that we do not register our businesses and that he needed a CO inspection. He went to Woolwich and had the CO done and put out almost \$7000 in repairs and then was told that he must come before the Planning/Zoning Board for a change of use variance and put up escrow money in the amount of \$2000 which he stated he does not have. Mayor informed him that he must go before the Planning/Zoning Board due to the change in use and the escrow money that is not used would be returned to him. Mr. Zayyad stated that if he knew that all that was required he would have not decided to open a store in Swedesboro. Mayor told him to see the Zoning Official. Discussion followed.

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

Clerk went over request from S/W Little League to have a parade on April 4, 2009. Mr. Casella stated that Lt. Doakes from Woolwich and Chief Dupper have been in touch regarding the parade. Mrs. Gahrs asked if the other streets will be blocked due to parents dropping off their children at the Walter Hill School to line up for the parade. Mr. Casella will tell the Chief.

Mr. Casella moved to grant permission to do all we can with the Police Committee and Police Dept. to help with the Little League parade on 4/4/09, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Clerk read the following correspondence received:
Thank you card from the Baus Family.
2/09 Recycling Report



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Letter from JIF regarding safety money award.
Resignation letter from Ptl. Hargraves Jr.

Mr. Casella moved to accept with regrets the resignation of Joseph Hargraves Jr. effective 3/31/09, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote all yes.

Letter from Shade Tree regarding their budget.
Mayor stated that their budget was \$3000 and there will be no additional money.

Letter regarding encroachment.
Mayor turned it over to the Borough Engineer to explain the problem and that a letter would be sent to the realtor regarding the guidelines for the future. Mrs. Hale asked about if sidewalks would be installed by the property. Mayor stated that they could be placed across the street on the school side.

Mr. Flaherty moved to sign and send the letter prepared by the Borough Engineer, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Vote all yes.

Public Notice for Block 21, Lots 19 & 21.
It was stated that the Construction Official has deemed the property unsafe and no one from the public offered any information regarding the owners or survivors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Mr. Flaherty reported that the State cut the Borough aid by \$8000 which was a lot less than anticipated. Mr. Flaherty stated that they will proceed with the Bond to cover Well #2, Electric water meters, extension to the Library etc. Mr. Flaherty stated that there will be a tax increase but not as high as anticipated.

Public Safety – Mr. Casella stated that he will follow up with the request for the S/W Little League parade.

Mr. Casella reported that Ptl .Joseph Hargraves Jr. has resigned and will be going to East Greenwich as of 3/31/09. Ptl. Michener and Ptl. Weber and Lt. Kemp are still out. Mr. Casella stated that we need to move on with Woolwich due to our staff being short and something needs to be done and we need the numbers from Woolwich ASAP. Mayor stated that he spoke to Mayor Chila and hope to have a meeting this week and we need to know our options very soon. We need to go forward or restaff. Mayor suggested that we should advertise for Class II officers and if need be a regular officer.

Economic Development – Mrs. Hale reported that the Committee went over their goals for 2009 and proceeded to outline them. Mayor stated that people have noticed the



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changes in the downtown and thanked the Economic Development Committee for all they have done.

Fire – Mrs. Gahrs reported that she met with Chief Barber and Carl Bagby, Safety Coor. regarding the deficiencies on the reports from JIF regarding the Fire Co. and that they will work together to get all the reports submitted.

Parks & Recreation – Mr. Flaherty reported that the Easter Egg Hunt needs volunteers help stuff 1000 plastic eggs. and also Fun Day on 5/30/09 needs volunteers.

Library – Mr. Flaherty stated that he me with the Borough CFO and the bond project is ready to go.

Board of Health – Mr. Casella reported that the owner of the property located at 1830 Kings Hwy. has been given 30 days extension to bring the property up to code. Mayor stated that he did not think that was the case and he spoke to our Prosecutor who will check with our Court Clerk to verify the outcome of the court session. Mrs. Hale stated that the report states that a limited visual inspection was done not an extensive one.

Environmental Com. – Mr. Ayers reported that two members would attend the ANJEC meeting.

School Boards – Mayor reported that both schools will receive a 5% increase in aid from last year.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Flaherty stated that he is looking into removal of vegetative waste and leaves in the spring.

Mrs. Hale stated that Blues Night tickets are on sale for \$25.00 and spaces are limited.

Mrs. Hale asked if anything had been done regarding the light motion detectors and timers on the heat and air conditioner at the Borough Hall. Clerk stated that the message was passed on.

Mrs. Hale stated that the County needs to check the expansion joints on the overlay of Kings Hwy. Mayor to call the County Engineer.

Mrs. Gahrs reported that Woolwich Clerk, Jane Di Bella is still looking into grants for the Fire Co.

RESOLUTIONS



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- Clerk read the following resolution: (County Wide Tax Assessor)
Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote – Weeks absent, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Mayor to sign agree. w/Cty. Landscape Serv.)
Mrs. Hale moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote- Weeks absent, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Mrs. Hale to sign agree. w/Cty. Self Guided Walk.Tour)
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote- Weeks absent, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Mrs. Hale to sign agree. W/Cty. Blues Night)
Mr. Ayers moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote- Weeks absent, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Transfers – Current Fund)
Mrs. Hale moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote- Weeks absent, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Emer. Temp. Approp. 2009 Current Fund)
Mrs. Hale moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote- Weeks absent, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Cancel Grant Approp. 2008 JIF Saf. Award)
Mrs. Hale moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Gahrs. Roll Call Vote – Weeks absent, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Safe & Secure Grant)
Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote- Weeks absent, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Participate in State Health Plan)
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote- Weeks absent, all others yes.

ORDINANCES

- Clerk read the following Ordinance: ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AMENDING CHAPTER 62 OF THE SWEDESBORO CODE ENTITLED “ANIMALS”



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- Mr. Casella moved to adopt the ordinance with a public hearing to be held on April 6, 2009, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote – Weeks absent, all others yes
- Clerk read the following ordinance: ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AMENDING CHAPTER 21 OF THE SWEDSBORO CODE ENTITLED “LAND USE PROCEDURES”
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the ordinance with a public hearing to be held on April 6, 2009, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll Call Vote – Weeks absent, all others yes.
 - Clerk read the following ordinance: ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AMENDING CHAPTER 95 OF THE SWEDSBORO CODE ENTITLED “RENTAL PROPERTY – FEES”
Mrs. Hale moved to adopt the ordinance with a public hearing to be held on April 6, 2009, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote – Weeks absent, Casella abstain, all others yes.

Mr. Casella moved to approve sick pay benefits for Mike Sparks for 2/24/09, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Vote all yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Casella thanks Supt. Simmerman for removing drawers from the dam after a resident called and reported this.

Mr. Casella stated that former Councilman Don Dryden called him and stated that he frequents the gas station at Kings Hwy. and Glen Echo Ave. and due to the construction their sales are down considerably and was wondering if Economic Dev. or the County could do something to help the business.

Mayor asked Borough Engineer to ask the County to put a sign up that the businesses are still open during construction. Mayor asked Mr. Casella to pass the word that they have to connect to our public sewer and pay a connection fee.

Mrs. Hale reminded all that the Outdoor Garden Show will be on 5/16/09 10 AM – 3 PM
rain date 5/17/09 11 AM – 4 PM

Mrs. Hale announced that there will be an Open Shred Day in May with Woolwich, Logan and South Harrison. Anyone can bring their items to be shredded and that Clean Communities money will be used.



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Borough Engineer, Stan Bitgood showed an exhibit and explained the next phase of Streetscape which will go from Ashton to Church.

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

Dan Schemes, 156 South Ave. stated that his taxes are over \$7000 last year.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. thanked Borough Council and the Police Dept. for their support for the Black History Program.

Mrs. Edwards suggested that the railroad be contacted to ensure the safety of the children in the parade.

Lucille Stewart, Richardson Ave. asked if smoke detectors are still given out. Mayor stated that he thinks it was the Fire Co. not the Borough. Mrs. Stewart also complained about residents putting trash out early. She was told to call the Police.

Mrs. Stewart asked about a handicap space for the Seventh Day Adventist church. It was determined that they need a temporary handicap parking space. Clerk told her to get in touch with the Police Dept.

Mrs. Stewart also announced that former Councilman Hank Payne's son passed away over the weekend.

Milton Leap, Thompson Ave. thanked the Police Dept. for their help during the 911 call for his mother.

Vincent Vasta, Park Ave. asked if hard bound books are a recyclable or a trash item. It was decided that it was recyclable.

Mr. Vasta also asked about the ditch that runs through his property. Mayor stated that there is nothing in the budget for that.

Dan Schemes, South Ave. complained that the new homes which he owns one are carrying the big tax burden for the Borough since the last reval was done in 1990. Mayor explained that the Borough is at a 50% tax ratio and that if we get on the County Assessor program the reval would be done and not cost the Borough anything. Mr. Schemes stated that he looked up all the homes in the Borough and the newer homes are paying much higher taxes. Mayor explained the reval assessment. Mayor stated that if they have a County wide Tax Assessor, revals would be done every three years and it would keep it all up to date and the Borough would not have to pay for the reval.

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



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

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Dolores M. Connors
Borough Clerk