



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting  
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of April 20, 2009  
Approved on May 4, 2009

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A regular meeting of Borough Council was held on the above date in Council Chambers with the Honorable Thomas W. Fromm presiding. Councilmen Flaherty 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 Act.

Mayor asked for a roll call of Council. Flaherty absent, all others present.

Mrs. Hale moved to approve the minutes of 4/6/09, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Vote all present yes.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

No one spoke.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Deputy Clerk went over the following correspondence;

Raffle application. Mr. Casella moved to approve the application providing all paper work was in place, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Vote all present yes.

Letter from Gloucester County to designate a representative from the Borough to the Economic Development Council. Mr. Weeks moved to have Mrs. Hale be the borough representative, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all present yes.

Woolwich Fire Company report for the month of March.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance - Mayor Fromm reported that the budget is close to being introduced either at the next council meeting or the second meeting in May.

Mayor Fromm stated that a meeting was held with the finance committee and the CFO to prepare the information for the bond ordinance. This ordinance will be introduced on May 4<sup>th</sup>.



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Police – Mr. Casella reported that the shared services study is completed and Chief Dupper has a copy.

Mr. Casella stated that the little league parade was successful and thanked the police department for their assistance.

Mr. Casella stated that Woolwich police, the fire police, and Ronald Borden will help with the St. Alfio procession. Mr. Casella spoke with Chief Dupper and the fire police are certified.

Mrs. Hale is requesting that the police help with traffic control for the Outdoor Garden and Living Show.

Chief Dupper has contacted some of the local trucking companies and asked them to detour from Kings Highway for the garden show.

Everybody was encouraged to attend the special meeting between Woolwich Twp and the Borough of Swedesboro regarding shared services of the police departments on April 23, 2009 at the Harker School at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Casella stated that he is still waiting for the March statistics from the police department.

Mr. Casella stated that an interview was setup for any officials involved in the shared services to meet with the Gloucester County Times. This was scheduled for Tuesday night. The Chief was notified.

Economic Development – Mrs. Hale stated the meeting scheduled for this Thursday was moved to Wednesday, 4/22/09. Goals/objectives were outlined for the planning board. Edie Rohrman will be attending a main street program being held in Trenton on behalf of the Borough. Mrs. Hale is requesting that Mrs. Rohrman be compensated for her expenses at an approximate cost of \$150-200.

Mr. Weeks motioned to allow Edie Rohrman to attend the program and be reimbursed for her expenses, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all present yes.

Fire – Mrs. Gahrs stated that the upstairs heater in the fire house has a crack. Estimates were obtained and are approximately \$6000.00. Mrs. Gahrs also stated that Chief Barber received a letter from the County that communication frequencies will be changing and all phones/beepers prior to 2007 will need to be replaced. Phones/beepers purchased in 2008 and after should be okay. This is not to be in effect until 2011. Chief Barber will provide updated information as he receives it.



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Garbage and Recycling – Mr. Weeks commented that Recycle bank will be coming to a meeting in May to go over the 1 year anniversary statistics of the recycling program. It was reported that approximately 60% of residents are recycling. The total tonnage is at approximately 28%, which is at the national average. It was suggested that possibly a letter could go out to business/residents that are not recycling encouraging them to do so.

Environmental Com./Shade Tree – Mr. Ayers stated that Mike Hill has agreed to be a member of the Environmental Commission and Shade Tree Commission. The Environment Commission will be set up as part of the Outdoor Living and Garden show to provide information.

Shade Tree is trying to make plans for Arbor Day and hopefully will be able to get donations to offset their budget.

Mr. Ayers is also having Recycle Bank be apart of the Outdoor Garden and living show to provide information on their program.

Mr. Weeks asked everyone to vote on Tuesday at the fire house for School Board Elections.

Board of Health meeting is scheduled for next week. Mayor Fromm asked about purchasing a DVD player with the safety money for informational videos to be copied and given to the board members for review.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Casella thanked the engineers for promptly putting up signs at the gas station at Kings Hwy. and Glen Echo as their business is suffering from the bridge repair.

Mrs. Hale thanked the county for their landscaping shared services with Allan Koch. Mr. Cook has some recommendations and submitted three different options. A suggestion was made about possibly having benches/donations/plaques dedicated in memory of someone outside of Borough Hall by the kiosk. Mr. Koch has some brochures that he will provide.

Mayor Fromm stated that he had a few residents ask if we had this to offer and thinks it is a good idea and hopes that it can be done.

Mrs. Hale picked up and brought with her numerous advertisers/newspapers along a portion of Broad Street and has had complaints about residents not picking up their trash. Mrs. Hale will leave samples for Dolores and she can contact the solicitor for him to submit a letter to the paper.



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It was asked if the street sweeper will be starting soon. The sweeper is being fixed and as soon as it is done they will start pick up.

Mrs. Gahrs wanted to remind everybody about the Memorial Day services on 5/25/09 at the fire house @ 10:30.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

- Deputy Clerk read the following resolutions: (Request for In Rem Foreclosure) Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote – Flaherty absent, all others yes.
- Deputy Clerk read the following resolutions: (Auth. Mayor to apply for CDBG) Mrs. Gahrs asked if Mechanic Street was part of this resolution, Mayor Fromm stated it was not part of this resolution, but will be looked into in the future. Mr. Weeks requested that the plastic be removed from sidewalks. Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll Call Vote – Flaherty absent, all others yes.
- Deputy Clerk read the following resolutions: (Appt. Mark Fruits as Trash/Recycling Coordinator). Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll Call Vote – Flaherty absent, all others yes.
- Mr. Fruits' salary will be prorated and Mr. Teter is aware of the change and will work with Mr. Fruits in the transition.

### **ORDINANCES**

- Deputy Clerk introduced the following ordinance: (Refuse containers/Dumpsters) public hearing on 5/4/09.  
Mr. Weeks moved to introduce the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote – Flaherty absent, all others yes.
- Deputy Clerk introduced the following ordinance: (Fertilizer application) public hearing 5/4/09.  
Mr. weeks moved to introduce the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote – Flaherty absent, all others yes.
- Deputy Clerk introduced the following ordinance (Private storm drain inlet retrofitting), public hearing 5/4/09.  
Mr. Weeks moved to introduce the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote – Flaherty absent, all others yes.
- Deputy Clerk introduced the following ordinance (Amending “Land Use Procedures”), public hearing 5/4/09.  
Mr. Weeks moved to introduce the ordinance, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll Call Vote – Flaherty absent, all others yes.

Mr. Weeks moved to approve sick pay benefits for William Goodwin 4/9/09, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Vote all present yes.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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Mr. Weeks asked for all resolutions and ordinances be forwarded to him so that they can be posted on the website.

Mayor Fromm stated that he spoke to Dolores and General Code is awaiting the updates on the ordinances so the code book can be updated. Dolores is to call General Code to find out how to get electronic updated ordinances.

Mrs. Hale asked how to go about getting Allen Street and Ashton Avenue designated as one way streets. Mrs. Hale said it is very difficult for people exiting these streets to make left hand turns due to the increasing traffic through town and the inability to see beyond the cars parked. Mayor Fromm said this was being looked into with the possibility of losing approximately 25' of parking spaces to improve visibility. No decisions have been made and the issues are still being addressed.

A discussion was held on the traffic on Franklin and Lake being backed up. The County needs to look into configuring the light. A discussion was also held about the light at Glen Echo and that it needs to be changed back to the regular setting. Mayor Fromm stated that he had a meeting tomorrow to talk about the light, as well as the manholes that are a continuing problem from the repaving of Kings Highway. Mr. Casella asked about the status of the bridge and stated that he had heard that it was not going to be completed until sometime in August. Mayor Fromm stated that he was informed that the project is on schedule and should be completed in June.

Mayor Fromm stated that Guest Avenue repaving should be starting soon.

Mayor Fromm is meeting with Bob Schmid the Zoning Officer about advising Business Owners of the Planning/Zoning Boards rules and regulations in regards to new tenants and sign requirements. Mayor Fromm stated that Mr. Schmid is doing a good job with the regulations and is easing into the transition for the business, but everybody will have to be compliant. Mayor Fromm stated that he has had a lot of complaints about banners on business and that the ordinances will be enforced. There will be an adjustment period, but the business' are looking for some rules and regulations when opening up in a town.

Mayor Fromm stated the Master Plan is being revised.

Mrs. Hale stated that there are several duplexes in town that have multiple cars parked outside of their house and that a lot of the properties still have Pennsylvania Tags on them. Mrs. Hale asked about how many cars each household/rental property are permitted to have. Mr. Casella will ask the police department to check out the legality of the plates from out of state. Mrs. Hale wanted to know who she or other residents can contact when they observe multiple cars outside of a residence. Mayor Fromm recommended that she notify mayor and council, Bob Schmid, police, Dolores and Dan Orbanus.



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Mrs. Gahrs thanked everyone from Mayor and Council for their thoughts and prayers and for the donation made on behalf of her mother's passing.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Carol Gahrs-110 Thompson- had some questions about the article in the Newtown Press about the impact of the school budget and how it would affect Swedesboro Residents taxes. Mayor Fromm stated that the CFO said that it had to do with bonds that are coming due.

Mrs. Gahrs also wanted to know if there was any written documentation to be provided in regards to the study that was done for the police department. Mayor Fromm stated that the study was available to the public, but there were no copies available to hand out.

Mrs. Gahrs asked if action would be taken at the meeting.

Mayor Fromm stated that there would be a presentation at the meeting on Thursday, questions from the public, and an action to move forward with the process could be voted on.

If this was to occur it would be an inter-local agreement between Woolwich and Swedesboro. Inter-local agreements are usually for a time period of 3 ½ years, but could be gotten out of at any time if it is not working.

Mayor Fromm asked everyone to pass along the word about the meeting on Thursday.

Milton Leap-120 Thompson asked Mayor Council to thank Nate Russo for cleaning up the ditch near his property. Mr. Leap asked about the eroding ditch and if it would be repaired as part of the storm water regulations. Mayor Fromm will check into this. Mr. Leap said the main erosion is further back. Mayor Fromm will have someone look into this.

Steve Spithaler-12 Lake Avenue complained about the light at Lake and Kings Highway with traffic backing up and cars running the red light. He stated that at least 4-5 cars run the red light. He asked about extending the light or getting a camera. The police need to go after this problem and enforce this issue by writing tickets. Mr. Casella stated that he will try to coordinate with Woolwich dual action enforcement.

Mrs. Hale also complained about the light and asked if the sequence of the light could be changed. Mayor Fromm stated that the traffic does flow, but will ask the County about changing the sequence.



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Mrs. Hale also commented that she is noticing Woolwich pulling over more cars in Swedesboro.

Other residents also commented about the additional traffic from the light.

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

Mr. Weeks moved to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Vote all present yes.

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:38 PM.

Tanya Goodwin  
Deputy Borough Clerk