



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting  
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES of April 23, 2009  
Approved on May 4, 2009

---

A special meeting of Borough Council was held on the above date with the Honorable Thomas W. Fromm presiding. This was a joint meeting with the Mayor and Township Committee of Woolwich and was held in the General Harker School, Woolwich Twp., NJ. Councilman Flaherty was absent, all others present.

Township Clerk advised all that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Borough Clerk took a roll call of Mayor and Council and the Township Clerk took a roll call of Mayor and Committee which was then followed by the flag salute.

Mayor Fromm welcomed everyone and stated that they would go over the study and then answer any questions from the public.

Mayor Chila welcomed all and turned the meeting over to Deputy Mayor Lavender who thanked all involved in the study and then proceeded to go over the proposed study.

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

The following people spoke for or against the joint study to investigate contracted Police services by the Borough and the Township.

Angelina Hoffmann, 1620 Kings Hwy.  
Andrew Putnam, Helms Ave.  
Bill Ezzo, Kings Hwy.  
Christine Luscan, 200 Helms Ave.  
Joe Musumeci, Woolwich Twp.  
Donald Fanslau, 28 Lake  
Darlene Gage, 222 Broad St.  
Mike Cramer, PBA Rep.  
Patti Dryden, Maybrook Ave.  
Carol Gahrs, 110 Thompson Ave.  
Bruce Gahrs, 110 Thompson Ave.  
Don Dryden, Maybrook Ave.  
Vernando Sorbello, Broad St.  
Tracey Sorbello, Broad St.  
Mike Murray, Weatherby Ave.  
Cathy Mulholland, Kings Hwy.  
Helen Fromm, Weatherby Ave.  
Sean Dalton, Gloucester County Prosecutor Office  
Kim McDonough, Thompson Ave.  
William Fredericks, East Ave.  
Jean Meddick, Vanneman Ave.  
Mike Nichols, Woolwich Twp.



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting  
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES of April 23, 2009  
Approved on May 4, 2009

---

Eric Voight, Helms Ave.  
Kurt Goehringer, Second St.

The main concerns were:

- People were not notified of the meeting.
- Feels it is the first step in combining the two towns.
- Concern for the officers finding other jobs.
- Woolwich hiring our officers.
- Do not comprehend figures in the study.
- Can't walk into town and go to the Police Dept. offices.
- Suggestions of putting the vote to the residents.
- Will there be a full time detective.
- Will taxes go down by not hiring the full Swedesboro Police Dept.
- Concern of police coverage in town.
- Need time to review study and study facts.
- Meeting site not easy for Swedesboro residents to attend.
- Want residents to have input in the decision by voting on the issue.
- What happens if interlocal contract is cancelled.

The responses by both the Borough of Swedesboro and the Township of Woolwich officials were as follows:

- All statutory advertising was done under the Open Public Meetings Act and there was an article in the Gloucester County Times stating date, time and place of the meeting.
- Trying to find other areas for the officers that would be affected by this.
- Not economically feasible to hire all the Swedesboro officers.
- Financial impact would be an average saving of \$380 and the next year the impact would be greater.
- Borough needs more services than what is available now.
- Discussion of study has been going on for at least a year.
- Mentioned at almost every Council meeting.
- Police Committee met with the entire force and informed them what is going on.
- Interlocal considered due to Governors' address regarding shared services and would rather begin the process ourselves rather than someone telling us what to do.
- Borough residents would have better protection and tax savings.
- Woolwich has applied for a COPS grant to pay for an officer for next 3 years.
- Officials elected to serve the residents and make decisions for what is best for the residents.
- If interlocal contract is cancelled there would be sufficient notice and it can be renegotiated or we would immediately hire police officer and purchase equipment.

Mayor Fromm asked if there were any further questions.

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



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting  
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES of April 23, 2009  
Approved on May 4, 2009

---

Mayor Chila thanked everyone for coming and stated that this is an emotional issue.

Mayor Fromm thanked all for attending and also all who participated with the study and they will try to do what is needed.

Mayor Fromm proposed to make a motion to allow the two Mayors and Police Committees to move forward and begin real negotiations and then present it to Council for approval.

Mr. Casella motioned to allow the Mayor, Public Safety Committee and Finance Officer to begin negotiations and determine the actual figures to move forward with the Police shared services, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote – Flaherty, absent, Gahrs, no with stipulation that public be kept aware by coming to Council meetings or notices in newspapers so people can attend, all others yes.

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 10:00 PM.

Dolores M. Connors  
Borough Clerk