



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of May 18,2009
Approved on June 1, 2009

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held on the above date at the Margaret Clifford School with the Honorable Thomas W. Fromm presiding. Councilwoman Gahrs 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 Law.

Mayor asked for a roll call of Council.

Mr. Weeks moved to approve the minutes of 5/4/09, regular, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Mayor stated that there are many issues to be decided tonight and it is important to move forward with progress and the future of the Borough.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following people spoke:

- Mary Ann Homan, Ch. of Shade Tree Com. asked for \$600.00 more to be added to her budget for 2009. Mrs. Homan went on to explain the reason for the request and outlined previous projects that had been completed. Mrs. Homan also asked that Darlene Gage be appointed to the Commission due to a vacancy.
- Marge Dombrosky, 102 East Ave. commended Diane Hale for a job well done on the Outdoor Living Garden Show this past Saturday. Mayor asked that the Economic Dev. team to stand and stated that the event was extraordinary and it was well run and organized.

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

Mayor stated that they would be following a different format and would hold the public hearings on the ordinances:

ORDINANCES - PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO REPEALING CHAPTER 35 OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO ENTITLED POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



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Kathy Mulholland, 1911 Kings Hwy. stated she supports the Police Study and the Woolwich Police covering Swedesboro. She stated that at the meeting at the Gen. Harker School, she complained about Woolwich speeding through town and that since that meeting they are going much slower.

Toni Beltz, Swedes Inn, stated that Swedesboro and Woolwich already do work together and that we need to move forward and work together.

Shay Richardson, 114 South Ave. stated that the Study was fabulous and economically it makes sense and congratulated Mayor and Council for a great job.

Kim McDonough, 114 Thompson stated that she would like the following:

- a. To see the contract with Woolwich be a permanent contract for the Police Services
- b. Keep half of the revenue that Woolwich will get
- c. Would like to see contract before it is signed and offer comments.

Mayor stated that we barely break even with the revenue from tickets due to most of it going to the State and Court fees.

Art Stanley, 1214 Kings Hwy. supports the interlocal with Woolwich/
Lorraine Flaherty, 110 East Ave. supports the passage of the ordinance.

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

Mr. Casella read a statement to the general public and Police.

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

BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS PIECES OF EQUIPMENT AND COMPLETION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$2,110,000 THEREFORE, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$1,577,000; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND CONVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING.

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

Mike Murray, 423 Weatherby Ave. thanked Mayor and Council for this ordinance and stated that aggressive steps need to be taken in the redevelopment area.



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Helen Fromm, 402 Weatherby Ave. supports the ordinance.

Deborah Harker, 142 South Ave. stated that she does not agree to expand the Library due to the economy and the Borough cannot afford to borrow the money.

Mayor stated that we can recoup our costs and the goal is to control taxes in town. Mayor went on to say that new businesses are coming into town, diner, car wash and store with the help of a tax abatement program and over the next 5 years it will bring in more ratables.

Fred Clark, Woolwich Twp., stated he supports the expansion of the Library and that his family uses the Library often. Mayor reported that it is one of the busiest libraries in the area and we need to expand.

Greg Muscelli, 139 South Ave. stated he is not in support of the expansion due to the economy. Mr. Muscelli went over the dollars he will lose this year due to no longer getting the Homestead Rebate, raising of his taxes, etc.

Terry Lynch, 115 Helms Ave. stated that if taxes go up any further she will have to move.

Toni Beltz, Swedes Inn, stated that she has seen the town go from 1-2 surviving business to 50 businesses surviving. Improvements bring jobs to area and increase property values and it is a great time to do this. Mrs. Beltz thanked Mayor and Council for the town looks great and businesses are thriving.

Kim McDonough, 114 Thompson Ave. stated that she is against the ordinance and that we should invest in the town and this is not the way to do it. She went on to say that we need water and sewer infrastructure and that health and safety is more important than expanding the Library or the Streetscape Project.

Mayor stated that Streetscape is a grant and that we put the money up front and then get reimbursed from the grant and he also went over the areas that have had W & S lines replaced.

Kathy Muholland, 1911 Kings Hwy. stated that Diane Hale puts in a lot of time finding and applying for grants and that there is money out there at the State level. Ms. Muholland suggested that people attend the Council meetings to find out what is actually going on.

Shay Richardson, South Ave. supports the ordinance and he can't see denying funds for children and that this is the best time to invest in construction.



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George Weeks reported that there are millions out there waiting for towns to put in an application to apply for grants. The downtown is half done and it needs to be completed.

Karen Murray, 434 Weatherby Ave. stated that the Library is packed and the workers are amazing and they definitely need more space.

Eoin Kinarydy, 215 Vanneman supports Library expansion.

Deborah Harker, 132 South Ave. stated that she can't afford \$23 a year for expansion of the Library.

Dan Shemesa, 156 South Ave. suggested moving the shelves closer to give more room.

Lois Stanley, 1214 Kings Hwy. stated that she has served on the Library Board for years and they have outgrown the building. She did express concern about the building in the rear of one lot that is listed in the Bond.

Jennifer Streitfeld, 401 Second St. stated that she is willing to pay the increase in taxes to expand the Library.

Kim Schneider, 1522 Kings Hwy. stated that the Library is a great asset.

Cyril Sebasco, 164 South concerned about the cost of the Library and possible cost and possible construction overruns but still does support the expansion.

Patrick Daley, 26 Chestnut Hill Ct. supports the ordinance.

Christine Luscan, 200 Helms Ave. supports the library expansion.

Leon Barber, 136 East Ave. supports ordinance and feels it is a step in the right direction.

Judy Daley, 1518 Kings Hwy. supports ordinance.

Mr. Casella referred to Section B of the ordinance and asked who owns the properties listed in the ordinance.

Mayor stated Bottos, Martorano, Cheega, and Davis. Mr. Casella asked if we have agreements with those people. Mayor stated that offers have been made but no agreements as yet. Mayor stated that we will not borrow the money until we have an agreement. Mr. Casella asked what happens if the agreements are higher. Mayor stated that then we may need to enforce eminent domain. Mr. Casella



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stated that we adopted an ordinance previously that we would not take homes through eminent domain. Mayor stated that these are vacant lots not residences. Mr. Casella asked that Section B be removed from the ordinance.

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

Mr. Casella motioned to amend Ordinance O-13-2009 by removing Section B, acquisition of property

No second was forthcoming the motion failed.

Mr. Casella stated that while he is against Section B but that he does support the expansion of the Library and will make the motion to adopt.

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

Public Hearing was held on the following ordinance: BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING VARIOUS WATER & SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT IN AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$2,100,000 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$2,100,000; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

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

No one spoke for or against the ordinance.

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

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

ORDINANCES - INTRODUCTION

Mayor read the following ordinance: ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO REPEALING CHAPTER 7 OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO ENTITLED MUNICIPAL COURT.

Mr. Casella moved to adopt the ordinance with a public hearing to be determined by tomorrow, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote- Gahrs absent, all others yes.



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RESOLUTIONS

- Clerk read the following resolution: (Approve RCA Plan)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote- Gahrs absent, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Interlocal w/Woolwich- Woolwich Fire Co.)
Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote- Gahrs absent, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Interlocal w/Woolwich- Parks & Rec.)
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote – Gahrs absent, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Approv.Application for Streetscape Phase III)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll Call Vote – Gahrs absent, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Interlocal agree. w/Woolwich for Court)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote – Gahrs absent, all others yes.

Mayor asked for a recess at 8:50 PM.

After returning from the recess, Clerk went over the following correspondence:

CORRESPONDENCE

Public notice from Woolwich regarding a public hearing on the proposed Amendment to the Farmland Preservation Plan Element.

Request from Daniel Granson, working to become an Eagle Scout, asked to distribute Vials of Life to Borough residents.

Woolwich Fire Co. report for 4/09.

Application for NJ Firemens Assoc.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the membership application to the NJ State Firemens Assoc. for Martin L. Shurr Jr., seconded by Mrs. Hale. Vote all yes.

Reminder from General Code to complete Editorial Analysis.

Mr. Weeks moved to approve sick pay benefits for the following:

Angelina Michener for 5/3/09

Christian Gregory for 5/6/09

Ronald Borden for 5/8, 10/09



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William Dupper Jr. for 5/12/09
seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Mr. Flaherty will set up meeting for Friday to go over the 2009 Budget.

Police – Mr. Casella stated that Chief Dupper is moving forward with dissolving the Police Dept.

Mr. Casella stated that there will be officers who will help out that day. Mr. Casella asked to stay on as the Police Liaison.

Economic Development – Mrs. Hale stated that they will meet on 5/28/09 and thanked all who helped with the Garden Show.

Garbage & Recycling – Mr. Weeks reported that RecycleBank will come in June to a meeting.

Environmental Com. – Mr. Ayers stated that both Environmental and Shade Tree had tables at the Garden Show.

Mr. Ayers motioned to appoint Darlene Gage to the Shade Tree Commission, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

Mr. Casella stated that the Board of Health will watch the CD from JIF in June.

Schools Boards – Mr. Casella asked about picking up the costs to restore the sports programs at Kingsway. Mayor stated that it would be about \$8000 to restore the sports and asked Council to think about it and it will be discussed at the 6/1/09 meeting.

Parks & Recreation – Mr. Flaherty stated that Fun day is 5/30/09 at Locke Ave. Park and listed the following activities coming up.

- Green Day At Lake
- Ride A Bike Safety Program
- Baseball Camp and many other events.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Hale stated that they are reaching out to Monroe Twp. to their Recycling Coordinator to see how the grant money can be spent.

Mrs. Hale reported that a teacher at Walter Hill will run a program on Recycling.



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Mrs. Hale stated that she noticed that the yellow paint is missing at curbs especially at the fire hydrants and also asked if the Community Service workers could sweep the downtown on weekends.

Mrs. Hale reported that the banners would be done shortly and asked the status of the manholes. Mayor to check.

Mr. Ayers asked if the detour signs could say Rt. 538 in addition to Glen Echo Ave.

Mr. Casella stated that they need to add time to the light at Kings Hwy. and Lake even if it would just be on weekends. Mayor to call County.

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

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Lucille Stewart, 4 Richardson, stated that a lot of people spoke but then they left.

Helen Fromm, Weatherby Ave. reported that Parks & Rec. delivered flyers for the summer events and that the Garden Show used the Day Care facilities to notify parents.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. what they were going to do with the Swedesboro Publishing Building that it has historical significance.

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

Mayor stated that tonight was monumental and it will stabilize taxes.

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:42 PM.

Dolores M. Connors
Borough Clerk