



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of June 1, 2009
Approved on June 15, 2009

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

Mayor stated that this is the first day of the new arrangements with Woolwich Police coverage and thanked our officers with all their new endeavors and thanked Woolwich for their service in the future.

Mayor stated that we will introduce the 2009 Budget tonight and the increase for an average homeowner with an assessment of \$94,000 will see about a \$26.00 per year increase. If changes had not been made there would have been an average increase of about \$244.00 per year on the same assessed home. There will be no increase in W & S fees. Mayor reported that the growth and activity in Gloucester County was 1.6% and in Swedesboro it was 9% growth and that does not include construction going on. The Borough is going through growth spurt and it will have a positive impact by spreading the tax burden and next year residents will see the full benefit of the Police arrangement with Woolwich.

Mr. Weeks moved to approve the minutes of 5/28/09 regular, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Clerk went over the following correspondence:

Notice of public hearing in Woolwich Twp. on certain blocks and lots being determined as a redevelopment area.

Clerk asked Council to review the 2008 Audit and we will accept it at the next meeting.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Catherine Slusar, 1850 Kings Hwy. asked Council to approach NJ Transit to have them stop using their jake brakes.

Mrs. Slusar also stated that trucks over 4 ton are using Bridgeport Ave. and also asked that something be done for cars passing on the right side to go around a car that is making a left hand turn. Mayor stated that he will pass it on to Woolwich Police.



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Milton Leap, 120 Thompson Ave. thanked the organizers and participants of the Memorial Day Program. He stated that a lot of towns do not honor the military men and it was nice to see it done here. Mr. Casella stated that Joanna Gahrs was the chairperson of the event and did a great job. Mayor agreed that it was a great program.

Elaine Edwards, 626 Auburn Ave. reported that the Brightwood Community Center is visiting and taking the Underground Railroad Tour and they will be stopping at the Mt. Zion Church and cemetery on Thursday.

Peter Patane, Franklin St. asked when the bridge replacement on Glen Echo will be done. Mayor stated that the last he heard was in June. Mr. Patane stated that he heard August.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Mr. Flaherty briefly explained the 2009 Budget. Mr. Casella stated that Mrs. Homan, Chairperson of Shade Tree asked for an additional \$600.00 and were they going to have that added to their budget. Mr. Flaherty stated that they will work with her later.

Police – Mr. Casella reported that he met with the Chief and they are moving forward with what is best for Swedesboro. It was a somber long run but the coverage will be better and more manpower. Mr. Casella stated that he would like to honor the Chief and the officers at our next meeting.

Mayor stated that he stopped in the office on Sunday night and there was one officer working full time in the office and no officer patrolling the town. Mayor went on to say that as he was walking home he saw a man sitting on a bench on Kings Hwy. sharpening a hatchet. He called the non-emergency dispatch number and within 4 minutes a Woolwich police officer was on the scene and about 45 seconds later another officer came to back him up.

Mr. Casella stated that he spoke to Chief Marino and the first day went fine and they are doing catch up with records and will continue to have a dialogue with Swedesboro.

Economic Development – Mrs. Hale stated that they held their meeting on 5/28/09 and that Mrs. Rohrman attended a seminar on the Main Street Program and brought back info on grants. Rack cards have been collected from the visitor's center and are preparing some to advertise Swedesboro. Mrs. Hale reported that the Meet & Greet will be held in September with the local businesses.

Garbage & Recycling – Mr. Weeks announced that RecycleBank will attend our next meeting.



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Parks & Recreation – Mr. Flaherty reported that Fun Day had a great crowd. Mayor stated that he would like some flyers to be distributed to some Borough residents to let them know about the fireworks ahead of time.

Library – Mr. Flaherty reported that he, Mayor and CFO met with the architect to start the process to look at all the final drawings and hope to go out to bid by the end of the month.

Board of Health – Mr. Casella stated that the Board will look at the video from JIF at the next meeting.

Environmental Com. – Mr. Ayers stated that Mrs. Homan has requested \$100 to allow to have 2 members attend seminar.

Mr. Ayers reported that the grant they applied for has been delayed. Mayor stated that the CFO put the matching money in a separate fund for the grant.

Mayor stated that Principal Coleman is leaving Kingsway and that he will be missed.

Mayor reported that the County is supposed to start working on the manholes on Kings Hwy. and that they also put the Rt. Number of 538 on the detour sign for Glen Echo Ave.

Mrs. Hale stated that the curbs at the corner of Lake and Park are crumbling asked if they will be replaced when that road is overlaid. Mayor to contact County.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Weeks reported that his home computer is down and it will be on line tomorrow.

Mrs. Gahrs thanked the Woolwich Fire Co. for the use of their facility and their help with the Memorial Day Program and also Ken Hunt, Public Works, for the clean up around the War Memorial at the Borough Hall.

Mrs. Hale reminded everyone of the Town Wide Yard Sale this Saturday.

ORINDANCES

Introduction of 2009 Budget

Clerk introduced the 2009 Budget and stated the public hearing would be held on 7/20/09.

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



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RESOLUTIONS

- Clerk read the following resolution: (Renew Liquor Licenses)
[Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote – Casella no, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Cancel Court Checks)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote – all yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Submission of SHARE Grant)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote- all yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Make App. to Finance Bd. for levy waiver of Garbage Dist.)
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote- all yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Appt. Ron Faul, Arch. For Library project)
Mr. Casella asked what the salary would be. Mayor stated \$5000 and an agreement would be signed. Clerk stated that the agreement would be filed with the resolution of appointment.
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote- Casella no, all others yes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO REPEALING CHAPTER 7 OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO ENTITLED MUNICIPAL COURT**

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

No one from the public spoke for or against the ordinance.

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

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

Mr. Weeks moved to approve sick pay benefits for Chris Beckett, 5/5, 5/19/09, Angelina Michener for 5/12/09, and Mike Sparks for 5/29/09, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Vote all yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Hale contacted Collingswood regarding their signage on Rt. 130 and Haddon Ave. and got info but they are pricey.



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Mrs. Hale reported that the Epilepsy Foundation is holding a fundraiser on 6/11/09 and Mayor Chila will be a bartender.

Mrs. Hale stated that they are looking for groups of a minimum of 10 people to hold clean ups and to contact her. Mayor stated that we must use the money or lose it.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Debbie Morris, Kings Hwy. stated that they are putting up additional fencing and they were told to come to the planning board due to the type of fence being questioned. Mr. Flaherty told her to contact the Planning/Zoning Board Secretary.

Elaine Edwards, Auburn Ave. asked about the double telephone poles at Fish & Calatozza and some have signs on them. It was stated that some of those poles are not telephone poles but lighted poles for the businesses.

Carol Gahrs, 110 Thompson Ave. asked when the budget can be looked at and when the public hearing would be. Clerk stated that it can be looked at in her office.

Milton Leap, Thompson Ave. asked where the town purchased the petunias and that they look beautiful. Mrs. Hale stated Platts.

Mike Murray, 423 Weatherby Ave. thanked Mayor and Council for keeping taxes down and the residents appreciate it.

Carol Gahrs, 110 Thompson Ave. stated that there are 70 new homes every homeowner will see a school tax increase of an average \$300 per home and asked why the 2009 budget is lower than last year but the taxes are still going up. Mr. Weeks stated that the increase is due to the bonds to be issued.

Lucille Stewart, Richardson Ave. asked the emergency number for the Police. Mr. Casella stated 856-589-0911.

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 Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Closed Session)

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



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Mayor adjourned to closed session at 8:07 PM.

After returning from closed session, Mr. Weeks moved to enter into negotiations to hire someone to be a Police Liaison for the transition, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote – all yes.

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Dolores M. Connors
Borough Clerk