



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of July 6, 2009
Approved on July 20, 2009

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

A moment of silent prayer was followed by the flag salute. Mayor asked that everyone keep in their prayers former councilmen Andre Ascalon as he suffered a recent fall injuring his back.

Mayor asked for a roll call vote of Council.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the minutes of the 6/15/09 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Vote all yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

No one from the audience spoke.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- Clerk went over the correspondence received.
- Woolwich Fire Co. report for June, 2009
- Deputy Clerk read a letter from Carlos Berrios requesting that he not be required to pay the additional late fees for his rental units for the landlord rental inspection. A discussion followed and it was determined that since other landlord's have already paid additional fees and that the letter clearly stated that there was a 30 day payment requirement that his request would be denied.
- Mr. Flaherty motioned to approve the applications for the N.J. State Fireman's association membership application for Edward Barber, Marion Tention, and Martin Shurr, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police- Mr. Casella noted that he and other members of Council attended the tour of the new Woolwich Twp. police building and stated that it is very impressive.

Mr. Casella stated that Officer Sheldon Lewis will be heading up the Town Watch program and encouraged everyone to pass the word about the program. The meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Casella stated that he spoke with Chief Marino and there were no significant problems over the 4th of July Holiday.



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Mr. Casella stated that Chief Marino will have a full statistic report ready for the next meeting.

Mr. Casella also stated as in the past those residents going on vacation can contact the Woolwich Twp. Police Department and let them know for extra police patrol during their vacation.

Woolwich Township is having an upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony for their new building during the Tomato Festival on 7/18/09.

Economic Development- The last meeting was held on 6/25/09.

Mrs. Hale commented on the nice job Pat's Pizza did on their remodeling.

Mrs. Hale stated that she spoke with Mr. Russo and the drug store project completion is on schedule as is Sal's complex.

Economic Development is currently working on the walking tour of Swedesboro.

Fire- Mrs. Gahrs stated that the ordinance for the police radios is being introduced tonight and asked if insulation for the fire house was in this current year budget. Mayor Fromm stated that it was not part of the current year budget and that the radio costs were part of an agreement with Woolwich.

Garbage & Recycling-Mr. Weeks stated that Recycle Bank will be attending our next council meeting to provide information.

Mayor Fromm stated that he was contacted by Mayor Minor from Logan Township about discussing the possibility of Logan Township doing Swedesboro's trash pick up and Mayor Fromm stated that this is worth looking into.

Mayor asked Mr. Weeks to look into when our recycling contract is up and to start looking into other options as this process can take several months.

Mr. Casella commented that the benefits of recycle bank had to be looked into prior to any decision.

Mayor Fromm advised that all aspects will be looked into before any decisions are made.

Library- Mr. Flaherty stated that they are waiting for clarification on the sprinklers prior to receiving the letter from Ron.



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Board of Health Mr. Casella reported that there was not enough members for a quorum and the video could not be watched and the meeting was not held.

Environmental/Shade Tree- Mr. Ayers stated that the next environmental meeting is scheduled for 7/23/09 and that there will be no Shade Tree meeting for the next 2-3 months.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Hale wanted to know the status about the motion lights and programmable thermostats.

Mayor also stated that the back lights are not working. Deputy Clerk will ask Mr. Simmerman about these issues.

Mrs. Gahrs stated that the transition with the Woolwich Police Department seems to be going very well. Mrs. Gahrs has gotten some positive feed back concerning issues with cars speeding and the trucks slowing down going through town.

Mrs. Gahrs asked if there was a committee for the parking survey and who will be making the decisions for the town. Mrs. Gahrs stated that she has had several business' approach her with this question. Mayor Fromm stated that all questions can be directed to Economic Development, Federici and Akin, or himself, but all decisions will be made by council.

RESOLUTIONS

- Deputy Clerk read the following resolution: (Support Kingsway to restore the majority rule in school board elections).
A discussion followed introduction and no member of council moved to approve this resolution.
- Deputy Clerk read the following resolution: (Cancel Trust Other reserves to Current Fund)
Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote-all yes.
- Deputy Clerk read the following resolution: (Current Fund Emer. Temp. Approp.)
Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote-all yes.
- Deputy Clerk read the following resolution: (Utility Fund Emer. Temp. Approp.)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote-all yes.
- Deputy Clerk read the following resolution: (Award bid for lease of space on water tower)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote-all yes.



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ORDINANCES - PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: RE-APPROPRIATING CERTAIN BALANCES WITHIN THE UTILITY CAPITAL FUND FOR WATER AND SEWER LINES ON GUEST AVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.

Mr. Flaherty moved to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Weeks. 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. Flaherty moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote-all yes.

ORDINANCES - INTRODUCTIONS

Clerk read the following ordinance: ORDINANCE RE-APPROPRIATING CERTAIN BALANCES WITHIN THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT RADIO EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000.

Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the ordinance with a public hearing on July 20, 2009, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote-all yes.

No Sick pay benefits to address.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Casella reported about the Alco breathalyzer unit that was purchased about two years ago and has never been used. The estimated purchase cost was \$14,000. Mr. Casella asked that a motion be passed to sell the unit to Rowan University at a price of \$6500.00.

Mayor Fromm stated that he was not aware that this was going to be discussed tonight and stated that he felt that for a good will gesture in employing our police officers that the unit be given to the county Sherriff's department.

Mayor Fromm also stated that there will be several items offered at auction from the police department and possibly the library and that this could be sold at a public auction for possibly a higher price.

A discussion ensued.



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Mr. Casella felt that since there was an offer already on the table that he would motion to approve this sale, however, after agreeing to meeting with Mr. Weeks and Mayor Fromm, Mr. Casella rescinded his motion.

Mrs. Hale reported that produce certificates will be available shortly for Swedesboro's Senior Citizens. Mrs. Hale stated that currently the County is out of certificates, but once they get some more they would be willing to come to Borough Hall to offer the certificates. Once Mrs. Hale has the dates available she will try to get the word out to the Senior Citizens.

Mrs. Hale also stated that she would like members of Council to meet and go over the current property maintenance code and she feels that changes need to be made in an effort to stop the town from potentially going downhill.

Mrs. Hale also commented that she was approached by the Historical Society about homeowners with historical items on their property taking those items down. A recent incident was the removal of a hitching post. This item was removed by the homeowner and left out as broken trash. Mrs. Hale stated suggested that the Historical Society put together some kind of historical inventory and perhaps the homeowners could be sent a letter advising them of these historical items and that these items can not be damaged.

Mrs. Hale asked Edie Rohrman a member of the Historical Society if there was anything on file and Mrs. Rohrman commented that there was nothing at this time. Mrs. Rohrman did speak with Lois Stanley the head of the Historical Society and they will begin working on this.

Mayor Fromm stated that the County has started fixing the manholes throughout town, but stated that the main one at this time is the manhole located at Church Street and Kings Highway. He stated that he spoke with the County and the rest of the manholes are going to be addressed as soon as possible.

Mayor Fromm also stated that the banners are up and public works did a good job putting up the banners.

The flags throughout town were also put up by public works.

Mayor stated that the bridge is not done at this time, but in speaking with the engineers it is coming along and should be done pretty close to schedule with it being done probably some time in August.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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



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Elaine Edwards, Auburn Avenue informed everyone that the HELP Organization will be having another summer camp this year from 7/13/09 to 8/7/09 at the Richardson Avenue School, 9:00-12:00. The camp will offer arts and crafts, poetry, etc. and the theme is I to Sing America, the program is offered for children ages 8-17.

Lucille Stewart-4 Richardson Avenue, stated that Mr. Ascalon is home in a cast after falling and sustaining a back injury.

Mrs. Stewart asked about the duties of the Woolwich Township Police Department especially in regards to people putting out their trash early. Mayor Fromm stated that they have all the duties as any other police department and should be enforcing all borough ordinances. Mayor Fromm advised Mrs. Stewart to call borough hall or the non-emergency police dispatch number with any concerns or complaints.

Mayor stated that the police transition is going well and that they are making their presence know, but their will be an educational time frame for them to learn and enforce all of our ordinances.

Mayor advised any high grass complaints to be addressed first by Mr. Orbanus.

Russell Zappala-560 Park Avenue commented that it was unfortunate that the hitching post was removed as it was a historical item and asked if it could be replaced or relocated.

It was noted that the hitching post was broken in several places and a discussion followed as to possibly updating our preservation ordinance so that historical items could not be damaged or removed.

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

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

Mr. Weeks moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Tanya Goodwin
Deputy Borough Clerk