



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of August 3, 2009
Approved on August 17, 2009

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held on the above date in Council Chambers with the Honorable Thomas W. Fromm presiding. Councilman David Flaherty absent, all other council members present.

A moment of silent prayer was followed by the flag salute.

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

Mr. Weeks moved to approve the minutes of the 7/20/09 meeting, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Vote all yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

No one from the public spoke.

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

Mayor Fromm addressed the correspondence from Mr. Musumeci. Mayor Fromm stated that he has received several correspondences/e-mails from Mr. Musumeci stating that he is not happy with the site plan requirements.

Mrs. Gahrs stated that she had concerns about the other businesses mentioned in this letter that they did not have to go through the same process.

Mayor Fromm advised everyone that the zoning officer is looking at all business and is sending letters making sure that all businesses are in compliance.

Mayor Fromm also stated that the planning/zoning board/solicitor are going over the ordinances for site plans and will be making changes.

Mr. Weeks stated that the ordinance has been in affect, but has never been followed. Mr. Schmid is following the ordinance that was already in place.

Mayor and Council was given a copy of an e-mail about attending the ribbon cutting ceremony for the bridge reopening on Glen Echo scheduled for 8/11/09 and they were asked if attending to please get back to either the deputy clerk or the clerk.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety- Mr. Casella stated that Chief Marino provided an excellent report on the status of the police merger at the last meeting and feels that the transition is going well.

Mr. Casella also invited everyone to attend National Night Out on 8/4/09 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Locke Avenue Park.

Mr. Casella reported that Chief Marino stated that July has been very busy especially over the weekends. Chief Marino stated that he would attend the second meeting in August to give a report on July.

Economic Development- Mrs. Hale stated that she did submit letters to the state for grants.

Mrs. Hale also reported that the state turned down the town's request for Jazz Festival grant money.

Mayor Fromm also stated that the CDBG grant was rejected due to state cuts.

Mayor Fromm commented that the library expansion is moving forward.

Board of Health- Mr. Casella stated that some of the members have watched the video on review of rights for volunteers and found it very informative. There are still some members that have to view it.

Environmental/Shade Tree- Mr. Ayers reported that there were no meetings of Shade tree for the month of July and they will not be meeting in August. Mr. Ayers did report that the Environmental Committee meeting will be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Mayor Fromm asked who is responsible for cleaning up trees/weeds in front of local businesses. He asked that members of council and maybe the business association talk to the local business owners and ask that they take care of the trees/weeds in front of their properties.

Mayor Fromm reported that unfortunately the manhole problems have not been addressed. Mayor Fromm has been in touch with the county and was assured that the repairs of the manholes will be started next week.

OLD BUSINESS



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Mr. Casella brought up the issue of the breathalyzer and asked if it could be sold to Rowan University since the sheriff's department does not need it.

Mayor Fromm stated that he talked to the CFO and that this is an item that can be sold as part of an on line auction and that perhaps we could get more money than what Rowan is going to pay.

Mayor Fromm stated that he would look into it further and get back to Mr. Weeks and Mr. Casella.

Mr. Casella asked if he can have the person at Rowan interested in the breathalyzer call him directly.

Mayor Fromm stated that he would talk to the person from Rowan.

Mrs. Gahrs wanted to know if the issue of lowering the lake has been discussed as there is a small window of opportunity for this to be done. Mrs. Gahrs stated that she had a few residents asking about this so that they can make repairs to their properties.

Mrs. Gahrs was advised to talk with Mr. Simmerman and the department of Fish and Wildlife. If this does get done all residents and Borough organizations affected should be given the information.

RESOLUTIONS

- Deputy Clerk read the following resolution: (resurfacing Guest Ave.- American Asphalt)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote, Mr. Flaherty absent, all others yes.
- Deputy clerk read the following resolution: (Cancel grant receivable & Approp.-2006 Community Forestry Mgmt. Grant)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll Call Vote, Mr. Flaherty absent, all others yes.
- Deputy Clerk read the following resolution: (Cancel grant receivable & Approp.-Safe and Secure Grant)
Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote, Mr. Flaherty absent, all others yes.
- Deputy Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Mayor to sign proposal from Federici & Akin for site inspection-library)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Gahrs. Roll Call Vote, Mr. Flaherty absent, all others yes.
- Deputy Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Mayor to sign Mutual Aid Agreements for the Woolwich Fire Co.)



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- Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Gahrs. Roll Call Vote, Mr. Flaherty absent, all others yes.
- Deputy clerk read the following resolution: (Bond Reduction-Swedes Dev. LLC)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella with the recommendations of the engineer. Roll Call Vote, Mr. Flaherty absent, all others yes.
 - Deputy clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Mayor to sign Dupper Settlement)
Mrs. Gahrs moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll Call Vote, Mr. Flaherty absent, all others yes.
 - Deputy clerk read the following resolution: (Renew Municipal Alliance Grant for 2010)
Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Gahrs. Roll Call Vote, Mr. Flaherty absent, all others yes.

ORDINANCES

The following ordinance was introduced at tonight's meeting with a public hearing to be held on 8/17/09 (Amendment to Salary Ordinance 0-19-2009)

Mayor Fromm stated that the Teamsters contract has been signed and all salary increases were based off of that contract.

Mr. Weeks moved to introduce the ordinance at tonight's meeting with a public hearing on 8/17/09, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote, Mr. Flaherty absent, all others yes.

Mr. Weeks moved to pay sick pay benefits to Mike Sparks so long as he has the time available, seconded by Mr. Casella.

Mr. Casella asked if anything further was being done about the light that stays on all night in the 200 block of Vanneman Avenue. Mr. Casella asked if the deputy clerk could contact Chuck since he has a contact for Atlantic City Electric.

Mrs. Hale also stated that the street light's on Kings Highway are going off early.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Hale thanked the borough workers who after working all night on an emergency removed a broken bench on Kings Highway that could have been dangerous.



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Mrs. Hale also asked if something could be done about the kids skateboarding on the sidewalks along Kings Highway. The residents and business owners are complaining about the kids destroying their property.

Mrs. Gahrs stated that this has been an ongoing problem.

An ordinance may need to be put in place to stop these kids from skateboarding along Kings Highway.

Mayor Fromm asked Mr. Casella to contact Chief Marino and ask him to have his police officers keep an eye out for this and for any one who sees these kids to contact the police.

Mrs. Hale also reported that someone removed one of the dog poop signs and left it on the sidewalk. Mrs. Hale stated she took the sign home so that it was not used in a destructive way. She will return it to Boro Hall and have public works replace the sign.

Mayor Fromm stated that there were two benches at the public works building that were still in good shape. They need to be placed somewhere before they get ruined.

Mayor Fromm asked Mrs. Hale to look into the bench that needs to be repaired and the two benches at the public works building for placement.

Joanna Gahrs stated that she had several complaints from residents who attend the meetings not being able to hear the clerk when she speaks. Mrs. Gahrs asked if the microphones were on a sound system.

Mrs. Gahrs asked why the clerk had to face the council and not the audience.

Mrs. Gahrs also asked if an agenda was available for the residents who attend the meetings so they can follow what is going on during the meeting.

Mayor Fromm stated that there was no sound system in council chambers.

Mayor Fromm stated that when the clerk is speaking her business is directed to Mayor and Council not the audience.

Mayor Fromm asked that the clerk provide 20 copies of the agenda for those who attend the meetings.

Mayor Fromm stated that he received an e-mail from the realtor who is trying to sell the property located at 127-29 Church Street. The realtor is asking that the



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water be turned on at this address for 24 hours so that they can try to sell the property. Mayor Fromm asked the deputy clerk to clarify the situation.

Deputy Clerk stated that this was a property that was specifically shut off for non payment as requested by the owner. There is a balance of over \$1500.00 on this property. There are fees to turn the water on and off and to add additional fees to this property is not recommended since we are not guaranteed that the house is going to sell and that we are going to get our money.

Mayor Fromm agreed and stated that the water would not be turned on.

Mr. Casella moved to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Mr. Flaherty absent, all others yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Carol Gahrs-110 Thompson Ave. stated that the side door was locked and that some residents missed half the meeting because they could not get in and had to walk around to the back door to get into the meeting.

Mrs. Gahrs wanted to know if council approved the minutes of the 7/20/09 meeting and specifically wanted to know where in the minutes the public hearing was done for adopting the budget. She stated that the only hearing was on the amendment, not the budget.

Mr. Weeks stated that the minutes were approved and that the public hearing was held.

Mrs. Gahrs stated that the public hearing should be given special attention and that it should be able to be heard.

Mrs. Gahrs also wanted to know if the letter Mr. Musumeci sent in was addressed.

Mayor Fromm noted that the letter was discussed in the beginning of the meeting.

Joseph Musumeci-11 Lake Avenue asked Mayor and Council why his letter presented at the last meeting was not read. He specifically wanted the letter read out loud.

Mayor Fromm stated that this was a planning board issue and that it should be taken up at a planning board meeting.



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After further questioning from Mr. Musumeci, Mayor Fromm did read Mr. Musumeci's original letter out loud.

Mr. Musumeci asked why Mr. Sabetta issued him a ticket. He felt that he was being singled out.

Mayor Fromm addressed his issues and assured him that nobody was singling him out.

Mr. Musumeci asked about the others businesses in his letter that did not have to go through the site plan process.

Mayor Fromm stated that all the businesses in town were being made to go through the site plan review process.

Mr. Musumeci asked if a doctor was allowed to move into one of his office spaces. He states that he has lost a lot of money in rent and has had to put out a lot of money.

Mayor Fromm advised him to go through the planning/zoning office.

Mayor Fromm advised him that the planning board was looking into stream lining the process on site plan review.

Mrs. Hale stated that it was necessary to go through zoning to make sure the business had enough parking.

Mrs. Gahrs questioned the comment about the parking and stated that there are several businesses that do not have adequate parking.

Mayor Fromm stated that there is a parking problem along Kings Highway and that the planning board is working on getting municipal parking.

Mayor Fromm stated that everything is being done to make things better and to promote businesses coming into town.

Kim Schneider 1522 Kings Highway-Complaining about the tree in front of her house looking horrible and that things fall off of it onto her sidewalk. Mrs. Schneider thinks the tree is a dead tree and wants to know what can be done about it.

Mrs. Hale stated that there were two trees available that could be donated.



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Mrs. Schneider commented that she would be willing to pay for a new tree, but wants the old one down.

Mrs. Hale stated that shade tree is out of money.

Mr. Ayers stated that he would contact Paul to see if anything could be done.

Russ Zappala-560 Park Avenue- wanted to know about the quality of the lake.

Mr. Ayers stated that Denise Ques looked into it and that the lake is in good shape and the fact that it is stocked every year with trout is a good indication of that.

Mr. Ayers stated that the Environmental Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Mr. Weeks thought that there was another meeting held on that date and asked to be forwarded a copy of all the meeting dates and times held at Borough hall.

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

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

Mr. Weeks moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Vote all, Mr. Flaherty absent, all others yes.

Mayor Fromm adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Tanya Goodwin
Deputy Borough Clerk