



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of September 8, 2009
Approved on September 21, 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.

Mr. Weeks moved to approve the minutes of 8/17/09, regular, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Linda Kell, 222 Second St. read a statement regarding the article in the New Town Press regarding the parking survey and that she was never approached by Councilwoman Gahrs stating that her property was going to be taken from her by the Borough.

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

Clerk went over the following correspondence.

Letter from State of NJ informing Borough that the Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church will receive a grant in the amount of \$12,000.

Letter from Swedesboro Library that they will receive a \$500 grant from NJ Council for the Humanities to present a program series titled Lincoln Yesterday & Today.

Letter from J. Musumeci which was read by the Clerk.

Request from Bethesda Methodist Church for a handicap parking space.

Letter from State of NJ informing Borough that the application for Streetscape Phase 3 was not selected to receive funding.

Request from attorney for Swedesboro Auction that the fees for the minor subdivision and variances be waived.

Proposal from F & A for Library expansion inspections services which supersedes previous proposal.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety – Mr. Casella stated that Chief Marino reported a quiet Labor Day. The officers are ready for the first day of school, the resource officers are in the schools, all crossing guards will be on duty tomorrow and there are two alternate crossing guards available if needed.

Mr. Casella stated that he had a conversation with Mr. Berrios regarding a paneled food wagon selling wares. Mr. Casella stated that he spoke to Capt. Doak and he will make the officers aware and that if a resident sees this to call the dispatcher.

Mr. Casella stated that Mrs. Pandorf, Kings Hwy case went to the Courts and she has a contractor to fix the property and it is to be done within 90 days. Mayor stated that the Woolwich Judge made it clear that it will get resolved.

Mr. Casella stated that only one more member of the Board of Health has to view the video.

Economic Development – Mrs. Hale reported that they will meet on 9/30 for the Meet and Greet and see the slideshow titled “Swedesboro Then & Now”.

Mrs. Hale stated that Mrs. Rohrman attended a meeting with the County regarding strategic planning process for the next three years.

Clean Communities – Mrs. Hale reported that four trash cans were purchased for the north end of town.

Mrs. Hale stated that there will be an assembly for the lower grades for recycling. Mrs. Hale stated that Lorraine Coles went on a trip on a sail boat and maybe some students can do this and learn about recycling and come back and give a presentation to other students.

Garbage & Recycling – Mr. Weeks reported that he met with Mark Fruits, Recycling Coordinator, to discuss trash and recycling contracts. Mr. Weeks stated that they are looking into shared services with other surrounding towns and are reviewing a proposed amendment to our ordinance.

Parks & Recreation – Mr. Flaherty reported that Fall Fun Day will be on 10/31/09 at the Locke Ave. Park from 1 – 5 PM. Green Day at the lake beginning of October. Movie Night on 9/11/09.

Library – Mr. Flaherty stated that they are in the process of reviewing the final specs for the expansion.

Schools Boards – Mr. Weeks reported that the schools will be open tomorrow.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Casella stated that the manhole covers are still not repaired. Mayor stated that the County was scheduled to begin at the north end of town and work south.



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Mr. Casella reported that the road striping was completed on Lake Ave.

Mrs. Gahrs stated that she would like to refer to the previous meeting and that she found out from the reporter that it was she that the Mayor was referring to. Mrs. Gahrs stated that she stands by her response in the New Town Press and she has no time to play political games.

Mrs. Hale stated that residents have asked if the lake will be lowered so they can make repairs. Mayor asked Clerk to check with Chuck.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the Borough is purchasing electronic read water meters and will go to bid shortly. They will be more accurate and we will eventually go to monthly or quarterly reads and bills.

Mr. Weeks asked to be in attendance when discussing utilizing the water tower.

RESOLUTIONS

- Clerk read the following resolution: (tax refund)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote- all yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Include Dupper in State dental plan)
Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote- all yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Increase in change funds, taxes & W & S)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote- all yes
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. sale of breathalyzer unit to Rowan)
Mr. Casella asked why he wasn't included in the discussions with Chief Funk. Mayor stated that he didn't think it was a police issue that he negotiated with the Chief. Mr. Casella stated that he did not negotiate it. Mayor stated that he had numerous discussions with Chief Funk and did his homework and found out what it was worth. Mr. Casella stated that all he got was another \$1000 and wasted three months. Mr. Casella stated that the Mayor wants to be in charge of everything. Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

ORDINANCE - PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing was held on the following ordinance: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED SITE PLAN REVIEW

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

Mayor explained that the ordinance shortens the process to renters of a business.

Carol Gahrs, 110 Thompson Ave. asked if sufficient time was given to Council to review this amendment. Mayor stated yes.

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



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

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Casella moved to approve sick pay benefits for Bill Goodwin, 8/20/09, and John Gangemi, ½ day 8/20/09, 9/4/09, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Casella stated that a resident has requested that a tree be removed from in front of their property. Mayor stated that Mr. Casella and Mr. Ayers can work that out between them.

Mr. Casella stated that this is the anniversary of 9/11 and asked all to stop and take a moment to reflect.

Mr. Weeks reported that the Borough calendar on the web site is being updated and reminded all of the Neighborhood Watch meeting tomorrow night.

Mrs. Hale reported that Friday night is opening season of soccer at Locke Ave. Park.

Mr. Flaherty reported that Municipal Alliance is purchasing 2 computers and 2 lap tops for the Library.

Mrs. Hale thanked the Borough workers for painting the curbs, they did a great job.

Mrs. Hale stated that volunteers are needed in the AM for Swedesboro/Woolwich Day.

Mrs. Gahrs asked if they were still accepting spots. Mrs. Hale stated that are still some available.

Mayor reported that the lease for the cell tower installation and the money is to go to the maintenance of the water tower or construction of a new water tower.

Mayor reported that they helped Swedesboro Auction put in an application for an open space grant and the Borough will assume 25% of the cost which will come from the recreational fees collected.

Mayor stated that TEA money is tough to get and that we have also applied for discretionary aid money for the Phase III Streetscape.

Mayor reported that there will be a pre-construction meeting for Guest Ave. within 3-4 weeks.

Mayor stated that Governor Corzine signed the County wide tax assessor program and the Borough will have a reval done next year at no cost to the Borough and it will then be done every three years.

Mr. Casella stated that approval was given to Wellshire Farms for the Breast Cancer Walk. Woolwich Police are handling everything in town.



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Mrs. Hale stated that she found out that it is better to apply through the County for the DEP gas reduction grant.

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

Lucille Stewart, 4 Richardson Ave. asked if it was mentioned that the Mt. Zion Church was receiving a grant. Mr. Weeks read the letter.

Mrs. Stewart asked if Chief Marino has informed his men that no tractor trailers are to go down Richardson and trash is still being put out early.

Mrs. Stewart stated that it wasn't nice to see the newspaper article. Mr. Casella stated that the Mayor stated he was not going to name any names but then he gave a name to the reporter of the New Town Press.

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

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

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:58 PM.

Dolores M. Connors,
Borough Clerk