



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of February 16, 2010
Approved on March 1, 2010

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held on the above date in Council Chambers with the Honorable Thomas W. Fromm presiding. Councilmen Hale, Casella and Weeks were 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.

Mrs. Gahrs moved to approve the minutes of 2/1/10, regular and closed, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Vote all yes.

Mr. Zappala moved to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Gahrs. Vote all yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor introduced Robert Jonas, who is representing Gloucester County, and is our liaison between the County and the municipalities.

Mrs. Hale and Mr. Casella arrived at 7:05 PM.

Marge Dombroski, Branch Manager Swedesboro Library commended Public Works for the excellent job they did on the walkways and driveway. Mrs. Dombroski stated that she heard that she had the best walkways of all the libraries.

Mr. Casella passed on the Kunkles of Merkling St. also commended our Public Works snow efforts.

Mayor stated that a number of Boy Scouts are in the audience tonight to fulfill a requirement to earn a badge.

Mrs. Gahrs moved to close the public portion, seconded by Mr. Zappala. Vote all yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk submitted the Woolwich Fire Co. and Woolwich Police Reports for January, 2010.

Mayor stated that he called Steve Phillips of the Woolwich Fire Co. to see if they could help out by removing snow from around the fire hydrants around town and they accepted the request immediately and helped out.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Mayor reported that they are starting the 2010 Budget and will be implementing a new system regarding trash and recycling.

Mayor attended the sign on for the County Wide Assessment Program and we will have our re-val done this year at no cost to the Borough which is a savings of \$75,000 - \$100,000.

Public Works – Mayor reported that the men kept up with all the other jobs required in addition to the snow removal.

Public Safety – Mayor thanked Chief Marino for sending him the notice of a potential child luring incident. There are some leads of a possible suspect.

Mr. Casella stated that there is an open patch in the concrete at the triangle at Auburn and Locke and asked that Public Works check it out. Mayor stated that there had been a leak and the County fixed it.

Mrs. Hale stated there is a problem with rental properties not having their sidewalks shoveled. Mayor said it is an enforceable violation and that there was a problem at Mechanic St. where the children had to walk in the street to get to school and that Public Works took care of the snow removal.

Mrs. Hale suggested getting a list of seniors who need help shoveling.

Economic Development – Mrs. Hale reported that the Outdoor Garden Show meeting will be on 2/17 at 7 PM and they are looking to expand the committee, Economic Dev. Meeting is 2/25, and the County is putting together a list with our events and all of Gloucester County events.

Garbage & Recycling – Mr. Ayers reported that the Borough is looking into saving money and changing the vendor where the white goods are taken.

Parks & Recreation – Mr. Zappala reported that their next meeting is 3/3/10 and asked the status of the electrical box which is hanging from a pole at the park. Clerk stated that we are awaiting the electric co.

Environmental Commission – Mr. Ayers stated that Swedesboro was considering becoming a part of Woolwich Environmental but for now they are going to remain separate.

School Boards – Mr. Zappala reported that the meeting was cancelled due to the weather.



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2010 Census – Mr. Casella stated that he is urging residents to attend the testing session for the 2010 Census.

2010 Re-assessment – Mrs. Gahrs stated that the County Freeholders signed the First Regionalization Assessment Program agreement. Mrs. Gahrs went over the program.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Gahrs asked the status of the trench on Glen Echo Ave. that was to be repaired. Mayor stated that due to the weather it has not been done yet.

Mr. Zappala stated that the company he works for also signed up for the Energy Curtailment Specialist Inc. Power Play Program and it was very beneficial.

RESOLUTIONS

- Clerk read the following resolution: (2010 Current Fund Emer. Temp. Approp.) Mr. Zappala moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote – Weeks absent, all others yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Approve Approp. Reserve Transfers for Current) Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Zappala. Roll Call Vote – Weeks absent, all others yes.

ORDINANCE - Introduction

Mayor advised Council that he would prefer not to introduce the ordinance listed due to wanting Council to review the documents.

Mr. Casella moved to approve sick pay benefits for Ken Hunt, ½ day on 2/1/10 and Mike Sparks for 2/5/10, seconded by Mrs. Gahrs. Vote all yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Zappala donated programmable thermostats to the Borough.

Mrs. Hale expressed concern for the mountain of snow that is on Bottos lot that as it melts could create a problem for the homeowner in back of it. Mayor said we will monitor it.

Mr. Weeks arrived at 7:34 PM.

Mr. Weeks commended Public Works for doing such a great job during the snow storms and the Borough needs to review the parking ordinance during bad weather.



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Mayor asked if the ordinance addresses removal of cars. Clerk stated that only for Snow Emergency Routes and the ordinance needs to be addressed.

Mayor reported that the final paperwork has been received for the foreclosed properties and now the Borough can move ahead to clean up and sell by auction and get them back on the tax rolls.

Mayor stated that 1930 Kings Hwy. is supposed to be demolished and if not we will go ahead and do it.

Mayor reported that Black History Program will be at the Trinity Church on 2/28/10.

Mayor reported that they are in the process of figuring out how to house the computers during construction of the expansion of the Library. At this time the back room and the Mayor's office will be used and the Fire Marshall has approved the idea of a temporary door to block off the second floor.

Mayor stated that he met with the Historical Society and the Historical Preservation Committee to discuss using the upstairs of the Borough Hall to store articles and hold meetings. They are looking into it.

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

PUBLIC SESSION

No one spoke.

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

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

Mr. Zappala moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:44 PM.

Dolores M. Connors
Borough Clerk