



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of April 5, 2010
Approved on April 19, 2010

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 a 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 4/5/10, seconded by Mrs. Gahrs. Vote all yes.

OPENING COMMENTS

Mayor Fromm stated that he received notification from Senator Sweeney that we were awarded a grant in the amount of \$75,000 for Shared Services with Woolwich to help with the cost for the merger of the Police with Woolwich.

Mayor Fromm was excited over a recent Bond Rating that the Borough received from Standards and Poors. The Borough's previous rating was a BB- and now it is an AA-. This is a tremendous improvement and is very impressive for any town. This rating is saving the town thousands and indicates that the Borough is doing very good at managing the budget.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Joseph Musumeci-Lake Avenue Mr. Musumeci expressed his concerns over the fact that he feels that he is losing business due to the planning/zoning regulations and that he has had to put out a lot of money for the process. He feels that other businesses in town have not had to go through the same process as him and feels that "his rights are being violated".

Mayor Fromm advised Mr. Musumeci to go to a Planning/Zoning board meeting to address his issues.

Mayor Fromm addressed the request of St. Joseph/St. Alfio for the annual "Feast of Alfio". Mr. Weeks motioned to approve their request, seconded by Mr. Zappala. Vote all yes.



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Mayor Fromm also addressed the request of the Swedesboro/Woolwich League to attend their opening ceremonies on 4/10/10. Mayor Fromm encouraged council and residents to attend.

Mr. Casella commented that Chief Marino was aware of the parade/ceremonies and that police coverage will be available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Mayor Fromm commented that he had a meeting with the CFO and finance committee in regards to the budget and that the budget looked really good and that it would probably be introduced at the next meeting. Mayor Fromm is pleased with the outlook of the budget.

Mr. Casella requested a special meeting with all members of the council to go over the budget prior to introduction. Mayor Fromm stated that once it was done that perhaps he could have it electronically sent to all members of council. Mr. Casella still inquired about a special meeting and Mayor Fromm stated that he would check with the solicitor.

Public Works- Mayor Fromm stated that he has had several complaints about the manhole problems again along Kings Highway. The County did attempt to fix this problem, however, the problem still continues. Mayor Fromm will speak with Vince Vatassia about permanently fixing this problem.

Robert Jonas, the County Representative said that he would look into this problem as well.

Public Safety- Mayor Fromm stated that he received an e-mail from Larry Haines regarding a traffic study that was done at the Fire Company. The County felt that there was no problem and that anything that was to be done would have to be done through the Borough.

Economic Development- Mrs. Hale reported that the next meeting would be held on 4/22/10. The Blues fest will be held on 4/24/10. Mrs. Hale also reported that Zoo on Wheels will be attending the Outdoor Living Show and that the details are being finalized.

Fire- Mrs. Gahrs reported that the police are trying to stop cars from entering/blocking the Fire Station parking lot. Mrs. Gahrs feels that the ongoing problem with traffic blocking the fire house parking lot needs to be taken care of.



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Mrs. Gahrs also stated that the Fire house will be holding their Easter Flower sale over the weekend and encouraged everyone to stop by. Mrs. Gahrs also reported that the Fire House is updating their website and information can be obtained by going onto woolwichfd.com.

Garbage & Recycling -Mr. Ayers reported that the website will be updated to reflect the new metal pick up schedule, which will be the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month.

Street Lighting/Public Celebration- Diane thanked Lois and Tanya for reporting the problem regarding the lights that were out to Atlantic City Electric and that the lights were repaired. It was suggested that a notice be placed on the website to contact Borough Hall to report any lights that are out.

Parks and Recreation-Mr. Zappala reported that the Easter Egg Hunt was very well attended and that he enjoyed his role as the Easter Bunny. He reported that there were at least 150 participants.

Planning Board- Nothing to report

Board of Health- Meeting was canceled.

Environmental/Shade Tree-Mr. Ayers reported that there will be a document started for the Environmental services of the Borough and that there could be environmental grants available.

Mr. Ayers also reported that Shade Tree had a meeting to discuss their budget and they are looking to have Tree Awareness donate some trees.

School Boards- Mr. Zappala attended a power point presentation for Kingsway and Mrs. Gahrs attended the meeting for S/W since they were both held on the same night. Mr. Zappala referred to a pie chart that was presented and indicated that no cuts were going to be made to the Marching Band, off site sports, but that they would be cutting into certain aspects of each sport. Mr. Zappala reported that at this time there is an increase of approximately .15 cents for Kingsway, increasing the average property school tax in Swedesboro approximately \$153.00 and an increase of approximately \$287.00 for the S/W school district.

Mrs. Hale asked if they spoke at all about pay freezes or health care contribution.

Mayor Fromm stated that Mrs. Alversitz advised him that there were talks with the unions to hold salary and to contribute to health care.



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Mrs. Gahrs stated that this was also asked at the S/W meeting, but that the unions stated it was not an option.

Mayor Fromm stated the school budgets would most likely fail and that it would be handled by the Mayors and towns involved and there would have to be drastic cuts.

Mr. Zappala commented on over staffing at the schools. Mayor Fromm did comment on the work load that was imposed on the schools and the administration.

Mrs. Gahrs also commented on the PTO and that they were lacking volunteers and that without fundraising a lot of activities for the children would have to be stopped. Mrs. Gahrs encouraged parents to joint this organization.

Census

Mr. Casella reported the significance of the census and that everybody should return their forms. Mr. Casella was asked after the census is completed will the borough get some sort of detailed report. Mr. Casella stated that once the answers are submitted and the data was compiled that the census workers will go door to door if they need to in an effort to get accurate information.

Mrs. Gahrs spoke with the assessor and she is waiting for tax map approval from the State. The revaluation for Swedesboro will take place in 2010.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Hale stated that she got the notice on her door about replacing her water meter and did call to make her appointment. She stated that it would only take approximately 30 minutes for the installation.

Mayor Fromm stated that the installation process has started and seems to be moving along.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Award bid library expansion-Newport construction).

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

RESOLUTIONS

- Clerk read the following resolution: (Withdrawing funds)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote-all yes.



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- Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Execution of Agreement for RCA funding-Nothdurft).
Mr. Casella commented on the success of this program and that he knows of two of the properties that were repaired and they did a good job. Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote-all yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Current Fund Emergency Temporary Appropriation).
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote-all yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Utility Fund Emergency Temporary Appropriate).
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote-all yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Appoint Registrar)
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Gahrs. Roll Call Vote-all yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Cancel grant-Statewide Livable Communities \$3211.03).
Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote-all yes.
- Clerk read the following resolution: (Authorizing Mayor to sign Proposal with Federici and Akin for Resurfacing Turner & Mayhew).
Mr. Zappala moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll Call Vote-all yes.

ORDINANCE - Introduction

Clerk introduced the following ordinance with a public hearing to be held on 4/19/10 (ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR TAX ABATEMENT WITH SWEDES DEVELOPMENT, LLC FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 50, LOT 1).

Mr. Casella asked about the abatement and Mayor Fromm stated that it is a five year abatement with percentages at 20% increments over the five years.

Mr. Weeks motioned to approve the introduction of the ordinance with a public hearing on 4/19/10, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote-all yes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Weeks moved to approve sick pay benefits for Kenneth Hunt 3/9/10 and 3/10/10, John Gangemi 3/12/10, Chuck Simmerman 3/9/10, and William Goodwin 3/18/10, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Vote all yes.



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NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Weeks noted that there would be a neighborhood watch meeting on 4/14/10, 7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall.

Mrs. Gahrs who lives on the lake noted that with the change in the weather there have been a lot of kayaks and canoes on the lake. She has noted kids without safety jackets and is concerned for their safety. Mrs. Gahrs is also concerned about somebody falling in the lake and notes that the water is still very cold. Mrs. Gahrs would like to put out some type of letter to those who live on or near the lake about safety regulations.

Mrs. Hale commented that volunteers are needed for Swedesboro/Woolwich Day.

Mrs. Hale also commented that there will be a meet and greet with the Business Association at the Swedes Inn on 4/14/10.

Mrs. Hale attended the 100th Birthday party for Miss Norma Lang and stated that it was a nice party.

Mayor Fromm reiterated that Swedesboro is doing everything possible to promote good solid business in town and that there are approximately 35 new businesses.

Mrs. Hale attended the Grand Opening of the Pharmacy.

Mayor Fromm commented that the budget is being worked on and is one of the best in South Jersey. He commented the budget is in very good shape.

Mayor Fromm stated that they are doing everything they can to revitalize the town and are making progress.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Helen Fromm-Weatherby Avenue wanted to make clear that the Swedesboro/Woolwich School District is attempting to make cuts and that the change needs to be at the legislative level to help fund the schools.

Cheryl Zappala Park Avenue-Congratulated the Borough on its bond rating.



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Mrs. Zappala also stated that she is pleased that they will be honoring Steve Meddick on the opening day of little league.

Mayor Fromm commented that Mr. Meddick was instrumental in restarting the little league.

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

Mr. Casella moved to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Mr. Weeks, however, Mr. Weeks did have a question about a purchase order to be discussed after the meeting. Vote all yes.

Mayor Fromm did comment on the CDBG grant that was applied for regarding sidewalks and ramps.

Mayor Fromm also noted that the house on the corner of Kings Highway and Horner is completely down, as well as Borough owned houses on Water Street.

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

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by Tanya Goowdin, Borough Clerk