



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2010
Approved on NOVEMBER 1, 2010

A regular meeting of the Borough Council was held on October 18, 2010 in Council Chambers with the Honorable Thomas W. Fromm presiding.

Mayor Fromm advised that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mayor Fromm asked for a moment of silence and saluting of the flag.

Mayor Fromm asked for a Roll Call Vote of Council, all members were present for tonight's meeting.

Mr. Casella moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2010 meeting, seconded by Mr. Weeks.

No opening comments from Mayor Fromm.

At this point Mayor Fromm asked if the company scheduled for the presentation have arrived yet and Mr. Casella indicated that they have not, they are coming from a distance.

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

PUBLIC PORTION:

No one spoke during this portion of the meeting.

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

No correspondence was presented at this time.

REPORTS:

Enclosed was a report from the construction office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance-Mayor Fromm reiterated what Mr. Weeks stated at the last meeting that we will be starting to do the budget and Mr. Weeks had nothing to add at this time, other than he will be meeting with the CFO in the beginning of November.

Mayor Fromm stated that he spoke with Jeff Coles, over the weekend and it was noted that we had not done anything with the washing machine that we needed for the fire department that was budgeted for.



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Mayor Fromm asked Mrs. Gahrs to speak with the fire department regarding this because if we do not get it this year we will lose the money. Steve Phillips informed the Mayor that they were preparing bids, but the Mayor stated that we need to have three quotes unless the CFO gives us other direction. The budget amount was \$9500.00.

Public Works-Mayor Fromm met with the Chief of Police and also Sergeant O'Leary, the new operations chief for the department and a lot of things were discussed. Mayor Fromm passed on the information about the excessive speeding in specific locations. Mayor Fromm asked after the meeting if anyone has additional information on the buses that are speeding etc. or anything that would be helpful to relay the information. Mayor Fromm also talked with the Chief regarding property maintenance issues, illegal car issues, speeding issues, and the word needs to be passed to the police department that time for warnings and the time for education is over and that they are going to very strictly enforce the speeding laws.

Mr. Casella stated that his business parking lot has been very busy with the vehicles being pulled over since our last meeting, it has been very consistent.

Mrs. Hale also notes in the evening there is a noticeable difference.

Mayor will pass on a thank you to the police department and again Mayor Fromm asked anyone who has anything to add to report specific information to the Mayor or Police Department.

Mrs. Hale noted that Mike Murphy a father of quadruplets brought to her attention in the morning the cars are making a left hand turn onto Park and he asked if we could get a larger sign stating no Turn during certain hours. Mrs. Hale states that it does work for other towns. Right now there is a little sign and we need a bigger sign. Mayor Fromm will take care of this.

Mayor Fromm thanked the police department for the help with the Jazz Fest.

Mr. Casella asked if we could proceed with the presentation as they had just arrived, however, Mayor Fromm indicated to finish the committee reports.

Economic Development/Clean Communities- Mrs. Hale thanked all those who helped with the Jazz Fest, Swing Night and Battle of the bands. Mrs. Hale thanked the police whose presence was greatly appreciated. They were very polite and were a pleasure to work with. The borough workers were also a huge help in getting things set up. For the Jazz Fest there were approximately 800 people in town. The battle of the bands was a very successful event for the young kids in the Kingsway School District. Four bands participated and they are very talented kids.



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Kathy Mulholland is working with the local business owners for Visit NJ.com and is trying to get the business owners hooked up with them.

Nothing for clean communities, but they are looking for people to help for clean ups for the end of the year.

Mayor Fromm added all the events were very organized and the Jazz Fest it was extraordinary to see the number of people brought into town and there was nothing but compliments for the quality of the set up and bands. The business owners do appreciate it.

Fire-Mrs. Gahrs spoke to Sam Maccarrone from Woolwich asking them about the billing of insurances and if they were going to change their wordage in the resolution and he stated that they were not. He talked to Tim Chell and he said if we want to stick with our wording as far as not charging individuals for the fees for responding to the calls then we could have two different ordinances. If something happened in Swedesboro our ordinance would apply and the same for Woolwich.

Mayor Fromm asked if Mrs. Gahrs will do some sort of draft or proposal and then pass it around and see what everyone thinks. Mrs. Gahrs will take care of this.

Garbage/Recycle- Mr. Weeks stated that Tim Chell has reviewed the wording for the interlocal with Logan and there are still some items that need a little bit of definition and clarification, but something should be ready for the next meeting to begin finalizing.

Street Lighting/Public Celebrations- Mrs. Hale stated that she did not attend the Christmas Parade meeting, but asked Mrs. Gahrs if she had additional information.

Mrs. Gahrs met with Laura Dunn last week and they are looking for volunteers. Laura was supposed to draft a letter to Council and Mayor Fromm about how he wanted the street closing, etc and she will contact him about that. The time of the parade is 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mrs. Hale is trying to get a band or two to participate.

Mayor Fromm indicated that Mrs. Dunn sent him the specifics, but he has not gotten back to her yet.

Mrs. Hale contacted Lois this morning on a few lights that were out around town and she will get in touch with Atlantic City Electric. Mrs. Gahrs asked if one was at Glen Echo and Kings Highway as Mrs. Gahrs called that in last week. Mrs. Hale did state that was one of the properties.

Parks and Recreation-Mr. Zappala reminded everyone that the masquerade party that is scheduled for this Thursday night at the Auburn Road Winery.



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Mrs. Hale asked if they are going to have some balloons or something out on the road as it is hard to locate in the dark. Mr. Zappala stated that the parks and recreation meeting is Wednesday night and he will suggest that.

Planning Board-Mr. Zappala stated that there was a meeting last week and the preliminary approval was given for the Courts at Church Run at the South end of town near the post office.

Board of Health-Mr. Casella stated that Pat's Pizza had an initial inspection on 10/5/10 with a conditional satisfactory with a follow up inspection on the 12th. Pizza Villa was inspected on 10/1/10 and they have some issues to work out and they are having another inspection on the 15th. Mr. Casella stated that a letter was sent from the County Board of Health regarding a water situation on West Avenue and Mr. Casella read the letter from the County.

Environmental/Shade Tree-Mr. Ayers stated both groups are meeting later in the month. The environmental commission meets on the 21st at Boro Hall @7:00 and they will be discussing their environmental resource inventory that has been ongoing and has reached the draft phase moving towards the finalization. Shade Tree will meet on the 27th and they are going over their five year management plan that is in draft, which is a requirement of the State.

Mayor Fromm asked Mr. Ayers to remind both groups about budget information.

School Boards- Mr. Zappala had nothing to report on Swedesboro/Woolwich. Kingsway board is meeting tomorrow evening and he will talk about the Swedesboro children that have to wait 45 minutes as Mr. Weeks reported to see what can be done.

Mayor Fromm stated that there is going to be a very high level meeting giving credit to Jennifer Cavallaro and Meg Westburg along with the new superintendent as they have been basically following the Governor around as he speaks trying to state the case of our issues with our schools and they got his attention in Gloucester Twp where he was speaking and he said he would meet. On Monday four representatives of the Swedesboro/Woolwich District are meeting with the Governor's director of Finance, a representative of the Treasurer's Department, Department of Education and the Governor's Chief of Legislatives affairs in Trenton at 10:00 and will state the case of the Swedesboro/Woolwich School District. Mayor Fromm hopes that something good comes out of it and will report the findings.

Census-Mr. Casella is still waiting for numbers and as they get closer to the end of the year the numbers should start coming in.

Reassessment-Mrs. Gahrs has nothing new to report and the letters will be coming out around 11/15/10.



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Library-Mayor Fromm stated that progress is being made and they are trying to catch up on the schedule after the issues with the back wall. There has been progress in the infrastructure. Mayor Fromm stated that it is important to report about an issue of concern regarding the funding of the furniture and shelving inside. The county has let us know that they have reallocated some funds with \$90,000 into the local budget for the library so they can take care of those parts of the library expansion project. We will amend the amount we allocated and we will not be spending any of that money.

At this time Mr. Casella introduced our guests from First Light Solar. Mr. Casella stated as discussed at our last meeting representative from this company were looking to possibly help save some electric for the residents and municipality of Swedesboro. They recently met with Kingsway Regional High School and Mr. Casella introduced Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Kim.

Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Kim introduced themselves and set up a power point presentation and passed out some information for Mayor and Council. They discussed at length the proposal of tying together through solar the local schools and possibly Swedesboro. They outlined how they would be an independent grid of the electric company and explained where the property location is in Woolwich Twp where the solar panels will be installed. Mayor and members of Council asked questions as to how they would work with Atlantic City Electric and how they are a competitor with Atlantic City Electric.

Mr. Kim discussed further how the State of New Jersey has incentive programs. Mr. Kim stated they will not be bypassing Atlantic City Electric. Mayor Fromm asked if there will be another line or just tying in. They responded by saying that they are just tying in.

The solar panels and there locations were discussed. Mrs. Gahrs asked if it would look like the Wellshire Farms solar panels and Mr. Schmid said it would not be such an eye sore and trees will be planted around the panels.

Mr. Schmid is taking care of loose ends through Woolwich i.e. permits, etc. Before Swedesboro can consider anything the process with Woolwich has to be complete. The company's home base is in South Plainfield. Mr. Schmid owns all the properties and will lease the properties off to investors.

Mr. Kim outlined his company and their locations. The power point presentation and all the incentives being offered through the State and the investors were described, as well as how the solar panels work. Mr. Kim outlined the tax credit incentive program for homes and businesses.

Mayor Fromm asked who would benefit from the incentive programs and Mr. Kim addressed his questions.



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Mr. Kim summarized the benefits of a solar system and the warranty of the solar systems.

There are several investors looking to work with non profit entities and give the non-profits incentives.

Mayor Fromm stated that if the permits go through and the agreement goes through with Woolwich it could be worth Swedesboro looking into. Mayor Fromm feels that he might get some resistance as they could be seen as an eye sore.

Mayor and council thanked Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Kim for coming out and for doing their presentation.

Mr. Casella stated once they get their permits and approval they are welcome to come back out to Swedesboro.

Mayor Fromm asked if anyone had any questions from the public.

Clerk's response to questions from last meeting were addressed. See notes enclosed with the written notes. When discussing the issue about early trash removal and the property on Kings Highway the clerk did state that this property did call about putting their trash out early, however, Mayor Fromm said their trash is out early again this week. A discussion ensued about owner's calling in and landlord's putting out the trash early for those who are calling.

Mayor Fromm and Mrs. Hale discussed the scenarios a little further.

Mrs. Hale did ask when we go to the 96 gallon cans what happens when people put out more trash than the can holds will they get a fine. Mayor Fromm said they will pick it up the first time and leave a note and the second time it is not picked up they take a picture of it and they send it back to the office and at some point there will be a penalty associated with it.

The clerk asked if the Halloween curfew is going to be discussed tonight, it was brought up at the last meeting, however, nothing was finalized. Mr. Weeks will be bringing that up.

The clerk reported to Mrs. Hale regarding the lights at St. Joseph's on behalf of Lois. Mrs. Hale wanted to make clear that there were two lights that need to be replaced. The lights were reported to Lois to be up in approximately 5-7 days.

The Clerk asked Mr. Weeks to be more specific on the location of the children at play sign that is covered up on Fow Avenue. It is reported to be near Fow and Leahy, next to Marcia West's house.



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The clerk went over the JIF incentive Money and that Carl was informed of the deadline. Mayor Fromm stated that if he does not have some ordered by Wednesday or Thursday for the Clerk to take it over and spend the money so it does not get lost.

Clerk let Mayor and Council know that the old meters were bought by United Meter Company and a check was received in the amount of \$3,080.00.

Mr. Casella asked if we had to advertise these meters, but Mayor Fromm stated that it was set up from the beginning that the meters will be sold as scrap.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Weeks made a motion to set the hours for the weekend of Halloween starting Friday and ending Sunday with the curfew being 8:00 pm. Anyone under the age of 16 would not be able to go out without adult supervision. Mr. Casella seconded the motion. All in favor yes, Mr. Ayers no.

Mr. Casella asked that the Chief be brought up to date on this motion.

Mrs. Gahrs addressed the pallet company situation. Mrs. Gahrs has looked in other areas that have pallet companies and she has made several calls to the municipalities and some of them were not even aware that they had pallet companies and so far she has not been able to come up with any other ordinance regulating the pallet companies. Mr. Camp from Paulsboro advised Mrs. Gahrs to look on the New Jersey League of Municipalities for sample ordinances however she has not been able to find anything.

Mrs. Gahrs asked the clerk for some help on that.

Mrs. Gahrs will attempt to go out to the other pallet companies to see how they are set up.

Mrs. Hale has a meeting this Thursday with Allen Koch, the Gloucester County landscape architect to go over a few designs that he has come up with for some borough properties around town. He is also helping with the rain garden that is being installed at the Walter Hill School that will happen on the 10/25 and 10/26 as long as the weather is nice. This will be permanent. The science club will instruct the kids on the importance on collecting the rain water. He is trying to get a grant to have a green house.

Mrs. Hale will be meeting again with Karen and going over the final stages of all the clubs that were started at the school with the kids.

Mayor Fromm asked Mrs. Hale to give a summary of how the grant money that was just sitting there is being used. Mrs. Hale explained the funds and how the funds are to be spent. The money is going to after school programs and keeping children off the streets.



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Some of the clubs will include a photography club, newspaper club, science club, cooking club and ecology club. There are 250 students in the 6th grade and of them 150 students are involved in some of the clubs.

Mayor Fromm stated that a lot of the school programs after school were canceled and this is municipal alliance money that is going to a good after school cause.

RESOLUTIONS:

The clerk introduced R-113-10 Refund of water/sewer overpayments to listed block and lots. Mr. Weeks moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Zappala. Roll Call Vote-all yes.

Mr. Zappala moved to accept the sick pay benefits of Chuck, Mike and Bill, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Hale asked Mr. Weeks to post on the website and Mr. Casella to post at Comcast that the New Health Mart is having a health screening on 10/21/10 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Free health screenings are being offered especially for diabetes.

Mayor Fromm asked the clerk to inform the police department that the Big Bus will be parked on the shoulder and emphasized this needs to draw attention to the service.

Clerk will contact the Chief regarding this matter.

Mayor Fromm asked for everyone to spread the word that there is a full service drug store in town and is trying to survive the economy and for people to try and support them.

Mrs. Hale notified the clerk that there is a Washer on Thompson and asked for public works to pick that up.

Mrs. Hale will be applying for a history grant to try to do a brochure similar to the walking tour brochure about the cemeteries in town. There are a lot of historical people buried in our cemeteries from the revolutionary war and the civil war. It is important to do the brochure and will go for the grant.

Mayor Fromm has a document from the historical society that he will pass on.

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

No one from the audience spoke at this time.



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

Mr. Weeks motioned to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Mr. Casella.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Tanya L Goodwin, RMC