



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting  
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2013

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A regular meeting of the Borough Council was held on May 20, 2013 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 Roll Call of Council. Mrs. Gahrs was not present for tonight's meeting. All other members were present for tonight's meeting.

Mayor Fromm asked for a moment of silent prayer and saluting of the flag. Remember Earl Rode who recently passed away.

Mr. Weeks moved to approve the minutes of the 05/6/13 regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all present yes.

Mayor Fromm announced that Swedesboro was presented with the final deed to the Auction site and thanked all who attended the ceremony. This is a great opportunity for Swedesboro as this is the last piece of open space in the town.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one during this portion of the meeting.

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

CORRESPONDENCE-

Mayor and council were given an invitation to attend Kingsway's annual Memorial Day Ceremony on 5/24/13 @8:45 a.m.

REPORTS

Enclosed for tonight's meeting was the police report. Sgt. Lewis attended this evening. Mayor Fromm noted on the report that motor vehicle summons are down. St. Lewis indicated that they are pulling more people over who are running the stops along Third Street and Second Street. Sgt. Lewis indicated that they are enforcing zero tolerance and are moving around from location to location.

Mayor Fromm reported to Sgt. Lewis that residents attended the last meeting and were complaining about speeding on Turner, Mayhew, & South Avenues. Cars are speeding and not stopping at the stops signs and they fear for the safety of their children. Mayor Fromm stated

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that on tonight's agenda is an ordinance for no thru traffic local traffic only on those streets including West Avenue.

Mr. Flaherty asked if we could get wording on the stop signs that list the fines for speeding and rolling stop signs, etc. Sgt. Lewis is not sure of the fee and indicated the fee is determined by the judge Sgt. Lewis is also going to look into zero tolerance signs.

Mr. Casella asked Sgt. Lewis if bike patrol throughout town started yet and Sgt. Lewis indicated that it has not. Sgt. Lewis did indicate that they were short of staff and were losing some of the officers to other jobs and that they need to start the process of replacing those officers. Mrs. Hale asked if we can get a schedule when this is in place so we can set up meetings with the officers and the residents.

Mrs. Hale reported a complaint from Carlos Berrios that the kids playing basketball on Broad Street are not moving and are rude to the drivers. Mr. Weeks stated that the worst area is Broad and Second Street.

Mrs. Hale thanked the officers for their help at Saturday's event and Mayor from asked Sgt. Lewis to specifically thank Buddy Thomas.

Mayor Fromm asked council if they had anything for Mr. Jonas to report back to the County. Mr. Casella asked about the manholes. Mayor Fromm stated that he gave up on the County. Bill Goodwin found a way to hopefully take care of this matter. Mrs. Hale suggested that someone contact Diversified Industries a local company in town to see if they have any suggestions if needed.

Mr. Flaherty thanked Bob Jonas for his help with his father's metals and commented on the beautiful event he attended for the veterans who Bob works closely with.

#### Committee Reports

Finance- Mayor Fromm stated that we are waiting for the State's budget. Mayor Fromm also reported that at the recommendation of the CFO we are going to raise the Water/Sewer rents over the next three years so that we do not have to use our surplus for much needed infrastructure repairs.

Public works- Mayor Fromm reported that the major water project has begun on East Avenue and the water line is on schedule and on budget. The contractor so far is doing a really good, clean job. Mrs. Hale thanked public works for their help on Saturday.

Mr. Casella reported that he forwarded Bill and Dan an e-mail about properties with high grass. Mayor Fromm asked that he be copied on these requests so they can be put in Iworqs. Mrs. Hale asked who is responsible for the high grass at the curb line around the Round a bout.

Mayor Fromm reported that public works did clean up the auction site for the event and the courier post posted a video of the event and had front page coverage.

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Public Safety- Nothing more was discussed.

Economic Development- Mrs. Hale reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday. The first Dancing in the Streets event is scheduled for 06/19/13. Mrs. Hale is going to ask the local businesses if they would be willing to sponsor water ice for the event. Mrs. Hale reported that Richard Nardello a business owner who lives in Woolwich donated water ice.

Mrs. Hale reported that Carlos sold his business to a family in Penns Grove, but still owns the tuxedo business.

Fire- Mr. Wilbraham reports that there is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, however, he cannot attend. Mr. Wilbraham spoke with Chief and they need additional funds to get the air packs even if they get the grant. Mr. Wilbraham stated that everyone is invited to attend the Memorial Day celebration at the Fire house on Monday. Mr. Wilbraham stated that they will have a ceremony naming the new fire Truck, Rumor is that it will be named after Jack Nothdurft.

Mayor Fromm met with members of the fire department to discuss a communication plan for notification of emergencies. Lines of communication are to include the emergency management coordinator.

Garbage/Recycling- Mr. Weeks thanked everyone for their help with the swapping of the recycle bank cans with the newly purchased recycle cans. Clerk reported that there were no significant reported problems, a few cans were missed, but all problems seem to be resolved.

Street Lighting- Nothing reported.

Parks and Recreation- Mr. Wilbraham read the financial report from Fun Day that Mrs. Gahrs left for him. Mr. Wilbraham reported that on 5/23/13 the Logan Class will be delivering the park benches and will be there all day if anybody would like to meet them.

Mayor Fromm was pleased that we were on the County schedule for Movie Day in the Park. This will be held in September.

Planning/Zoning Board- Mayor Fromm reported at the last meeting the variance filed on Park Avenue was withdrawn and that Botto's was given conditional approval for their over flow lot. Mayor Fromm reported that there were some neighbors in attendance with some questions and Mr. Botto was able to address all of their concerns. Some of the requirements will be installing a fence, lighting, and addressing the drainage issues, as well as sound buffering.

Board of Health- Mr. Weeks reported the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday night with the Emergency Management Coordinator for the County.

Environmental- Mr. Casella reported that they met last Thursday and they had a booth at the Outdoor Living and Garden Show. Mr. Casella reported that the Kayak event is scheduled for July and encouraged everyone to attend. Mr. Casella spoke with Kerry Miller from ANJEC who

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stated that our dues have not been paid for three years and she requested a copy of the ordinance from Woolwich and Swedesboro.

At the recommendation of Mr. Casella, Mayor Fromm asked for a motion to appoint Karen Murray for a three year term ending 12/31/16, Charles Wells to a three year term ending 12/31/16, and Matthew Cahill to a two year term ending 12/31/15. Mrs. Hale made the motion to appoint the members recommended by Mr. Casella and approved by Mayor Fromm, seconded by Mr. Weeks. All Council present voted yes. Mr. Casella reported that Woolwich was appointing their members tonight as well.

Shade Tree- Mr. Flaherty reported that he was not able to attend the meeting, however, he did contact Petals & Paints and gave them 60 days to remove their sign from the tree. Further discussion ensued about the location of their sign, preferably to be off the building.

Census- Nothing reported.

Historic-Preservation- Nothing reported.

School Boards- Nothing reported.

Library- Mr. Flaherty reported that the new traffic pattern is working great and no reported complaints. Mr. Flaherty reported after the extensive rain we had there was no problems with the roof.

Municipal Alliance- Mrs. Hale reported that the library held a bullying program, which was well received. The library is planning another lock in for the kids and purchased new games.

Clean Communities- Mrs. Hale reported a few inquiries from organizations, but nothing is scheduled.

Mayor Fromm stated that he was removing Mrs. Hale as Council Liaison for Municipal Alliance and Clean Communities, Mayor Fromm will now be the Liaison for Municipal Alliance and Mr. Casella will remain the liaison for Clean Communities.

Cable Franchise- Nothing reported.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Hale thanked everyone for their help with the Outdoor Living and Garden Show.

Mayor Fromm brought up the vacant properties in town and what we can do about them. He indicated that Millville did an ordinance about vacant properties allowing the town to take action regarding cleaning up the properties, demolition, etc. Further discussed ensued. Clerk did indicate that we have an ordinance in place that allows us to move forward with cleaning up properties, i.e. cutting grass, etc., the problem is that with the increasing number of vacant properties the town will need to budget for grass cutting, debris removal, boarding, etc.

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Mayor and council would like to take an aggressive approach. We will need to review our ordinances for property code maintenance, etc. Mrs. Hale indicated that Gloucester City adopted a similar ordinance.

Clerk reported on the following; enclosed vacant property list as compiled from the water/sewer shut off list, copy of Logan and Woolwich's basketball/sports equipment in right of way ordinances, animal license notices went out, and reminded Mayor and Council that their financial disclosure statements need to be completed. Clerk also asked council to relay this to their boards and committees.

Clerk also commented on Mr. Battersby's complaint at our last council meeting in regards to a letter his street received from the post office not delivering their mail due to a dog hazard. Clerk indicated that she reached out to the animal control center and they did go to the location on 05/05/09 and did give them a letter of violations that they needed to correct. I sent an OPRA request to obtain the records. They were instructed to get the dog a bigger cage and to move the mail box. I spoke with the post office on 5/14/13 as well and they indicated that the mail box was moved and they were delivering the mail. I will send a letter to Mr. Battersby after I receive the records requested.

RESOLUTIONS:

Clerk read the following resolution R-69-2013 (Renewal Liquor Licenses) Clerk indicated that attached to the resolution was a complaint received from NAACP regarding one of our license holders. Mayor and Clerk indicated that this matter was discussed with our solicitor who in turn discussed this with the Division of ABC, it was advised by our solicitor to remove Kings Liquor from this resolution pending a hearing and further recommendations. Members of council had additional questions, though clerk was unable to answer. Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote-Mrs. Gahrs not present for tonight's meeting, all other members voted yes.

Clerk read the following resolution R-70-2013 (Chapter 159-Clean Communities) Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote-Mrs. Gahrs not present for tonight's meeting, all other members present voted yes.

Clerk read the following resolution R-71-2013 (Permit of Special Consumption of Alcohol in Public Right Away @ Botto's) Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote-Mrs. Gahrs not present for tonight's meeting, all other members present voted yes.

ORDINANCES

Clerk indicated that for tonight we need to have a public hearing on Ordinance 0-5-2013 (Salary Ordinance). Mr. Weeks moved to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Mrs. Gahrs not present for tonight's meeting, all other members voted-yes.

Public hearing on Ordinance 0-5-2009, no one spoke for or against the ordinance.

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

Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the ordinance with one change for the Code Official Salary, should be \$24.69 per hour, seconded by Mr. Flaherty with the noted correction. Roll Call Vote-Mrs. Gahrs absent for tonight's meeting, all other members present voted yes.

Clerk introduced Ordinance 0-6-2013 (Amendment to Salary Ordinance) with public hearing 6/3/13, Mr. Weeks moved to introduce the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote-Mrs. Gahrs not present for tonight's meeting, Mr. Casella voted no, Mrs. Hale abstained and all other members present voted yes.

Clerk introduced ordinance 0-7-2013 (Amendment to Fee Ordinance code, Land use procedures, Zoning Permit Fee (D)), public hearing on 6/3/13, Mr. Weeks moved to introduce the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote-Mrs. Gahrs not present for tonight's meeting, all other members present voted yes.

Clerk introduced Ordinance 0-8-2013 (Amending Chapter 140-30 Fee Ordinance, Section F, Water Service Rates), public hearing on 6/3/13, Mr. Flaherty moved to introduce the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote-Mrs. Gahrs not present for tonight's meeting, all other members present voted yes.

Clerk introduced Ordinance 0-9-2013 (Amending Chapter 140-26 Fee Ordinance, Sewers and Sewage Disposal), public hearing on 6/3/13, Mr. Casella moved to introduce the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Roll Call Vote-Mrs. Gahrs not present for tonight's meeting, all other members presented voted yes.

Clerk introduced Ordinance 0-10-2013 (Amending Chapter 110 Vehicles and Traffic, restricted areas), public hearing on 6/3/13, pending solicitor/engineer approval, Mr. Weeks moved to introduce the ordinance, seconded Mr. Casella. There was a question as to what part of South this is referring to and upon further discussion it was decided that this ordinance will refer to the West Side of South off of Kings Highway. Roll Call Vote-Mrs. Gahrs not present for tonight's meeting, all other members present voted yes.

Mr. Weeks moved to approve the sick pay benefits of Diane Branco ½ sick day 5/1/13 and Ken Hunt sick day 5/3/13, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all present yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Casella asked if we could look into yield pedestrian in crosswalks at South Avenue. Mr. Casella states that there are pedestrian safety crosswalks in that area of town. Mayor agreed this was a good idea and needed to be looked into.

Mrs. Hale asked now that since the auction site is the property of the Boroughs will we be closing Anderson as a thru Street? Mayor Fromm believes that the tentative designs do call for that and states that an egress is in place. Mayor Fromm reported that the buildings at the

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auction are structurally sound. Mayor Fromm reported that for the auction we will need to start the soil testing process, repair the office building, (Mayor Fromm suggested an Eagle Scout), etc. The Mayor states that the engineers will have to look at the platform building to possibly rehabilitate it and it indicates that the bathrooms are structurally sound. Mayor Fromm asked council to think about instead of our guys maintaining the auction site that perhaps we hire seasonal employees local, seniors to cut the grass, etc. Mr. Casella stated that he would reach out to the sheriff's department to see if they can provide some of the prisoners to help. Mayor Fromm asked council to come up with some possible ideas for the auction site.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No One spoke during this portion of the meeting.

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

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

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

Mayor Fromm adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

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Tanya Goodwin, Clerk