



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2011

A regular meeting of the Borough Council was held on January 3, 2011 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, all members were present.

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

Mr. Weeks moved to approve the minutes of December 20, 2010, seconded by Mrs. Gahrs. Vote all yes.

Mayor Fromm welcomed everyone and stated that he is looking forward to a wonderful year and continuing to get a lot done for Swedesboro.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Elaine Edwards-636 Auburn Avenue is here representing the HELP Organization and wanted to invite everyone to the Martin Luther King Day Celebration at the Margaret Clifford School on 1/17/11 at 1:00 p.m. Mrs. Edwards did have a flyer and asked Mr. Weeks to post on the website.

Kim McDonough-114 Thompson Avenue has complaints about the appraisal company and not getting them to release her property tax card. Mrs. McDonough stated that the company explained that it was Swedesboro not authorizing this to be released. Mrs. McDonough needs the documentation on how they did the assessment of her property. Mrs. McDonough also stated that other residents were having the same problem.

Mrs. Carol Gahrs who was also in the audience did state that it is the property record card that should be on file.

Mayor Fromm nor Joanna Gahrs knew of what she was referring to. Mayor and Council did not ask them to hold anything.

Mrs. Hale and Mr. Casella both stated that they met with the appraisal company and were satisfied with the results.

The clerk stated that she should come into speak with Robyn and after further discussion the clerk asked for Mrs. McDonough's phone number and advised her she would contact the assessor directly to get further information.

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

CORRESPONDENCE- nothing



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REPORTS

Enclosed for review was the construction report.

Mayor Fromm commented that the tax rate is up to 96% this year, which is higher than last year, but the goal is to get it at 97%.

Committee Reports

Finance- Mr. Weeks has scheduled a meeting with the CFO to discuss the budget. The temporary budget is being introduced tonight. Mayor Fromm asked Mr. Weeks to let him know when the meeting is scheduled.

Public works- Mayor Fromm indicated that he has heard good reviews for the snow removal from the latest storm. Mayor Fromm heard from the president of the Homeowner's association in the new development and they are happy with the plow results.

Mr. Casella stated that a resident on Valley Glen off of Glen Echo was plowed in their driveway and was upset because she had a doctor's appointment. Mayor Fromm stated that he was aware of this and our men did go and resolve this issue.

Mayor Fromm stated that the Borough does plow the four homes on Valley Glen.

Public Safety- Mayor Fromm talked with the Chief and they are going to schedule a meeting along with Sergeant O'Leary as Mayor Fromm states that 80 traffic stops in Swedesboro was not an impressive number and averages 2 ½ stops per day.

Economic Development- A meeting will be held on the last Thursday of the month.

Clean Communities- A meeting will be held with the County at the end of the month.

Mrs. Gahrs asked about the pharmacy and if it was closed. Mrs. Hale stated that it is closed and Nate is meeting with an individual who may be interested in starting a new business in this location. Mrs. Hale stated that Serenity Spa moved to a new location at the Donaldson Building, but did not leave the town. Mayor Fromm encouraged everyone to visit the local businesses and also stated that there was a new business in town, an Army/Navy Store.

Fire-Mrs. Gahrs commented that further oil samples were taken on the rescue truck and they are waiting for the results.

Garbage/Recycling- Mr. Weeks stated that this week the new cans will be used for trash pickup and the new day for pick up is on Thursday. Mr. Weeks noted that some residents did put these cans out last week. Christmas trees will be picked up every Friday in January.



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Mrs. Gahrs stated that not all tenants got the newsletter and those who did not receive one were referred to Borough Hall.

Mr. Weeks commented on the new E-waste program, which cannot go in regular trash. There will be a container at the Sewer Plant. The Clerk stated that our guys will pick up e-waste and white goods on the 1st and 3rd Fridays.

Mr. Ayers advised everyone to share the information with their neighbors if they are putting their trash out wrong or on the wrong day.

Vegetative waste will be picked up once a month in January and February and then weekly starting in March.

Mayor Fromm stated that there will be growing pains initially, but shortly Logan will start tagging the cans and advise the residents of the problems.

Mrs. Hale asked what will happen on Kings highway in the Business District more specifically what will they do with their cans if cars are parked in the street.

Mayor Fromm stated that they will be picking up the trash on Kings Highway first and will be done before the stores are open.

Mr. Casella asked if the problem on Mill Hill (Franklin Street) was resolved through JIF.

Mayor Fromm stated that it was still an issue and as a temporary situation Logan will move the cans across the street and return them.

Street Lighting/Public Celebrations- nothing to report.

Parks & Recreation- Mr. Zappala reported there is a meeting scheduled for this Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Movie night Toy Story 3 is scheduled for 11/14/10 at 7:00 pm. Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for 3/11/11.

Planning Board- Mr. Zappala stated that there is a meeting on 1/10/11.

Board of Health- A Reorganization meeting is scheduled for 1/31/11. Board of Health is one member short and Mr. Spithaler and Mr. Casella will reach out.

Census- Mr. Casella states that no information has been released as of yet.

Environmental/Shade Tree- Nothing to report.

School Boards- Mr. Zappala stated that there was a school board meeting on 12/21/10 and a presentation was provided on the power purchase agreement for solar panels that the school is pointing towards implementing.



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Staff members gave the Board of Education a letter as they are upset that the school is looking to outsource their janitorial staff. No final decision on this has been made. Superintendent Dr. Lavender talked again about the failed referendum and discussions are being held on where to go from here and when to hold a new vote.

Swedesboro/Woolwich School board meeting was scheduled on 12/27/10 at 3:00 pm. Mr. Zappala was not able to attend. Mr. Zappala asked about the meeting with Assemblywoman Reilly and Mayor Fromm stated that it was canceled. Mayor Fromm will let Mr. Zappala know when it is rescheduled.

REASSESSMENT- Mrs. Gahrs attempted to contact Robyn, but was not able to get a hold of her. She will try again this week.

Library- Stan Bitgood the town engineer was here tonight and provided an update on the library. He feels that the library will be completed in February. Mr. Bitgood stated that there will be heat in the lower floor this week. The contractors are all doing a good job. If the weather permits paving can be done. The asphalt companies do stay open and depending on the site conditions asphalt can be put down. Mr. Bitgood stated that if the building is done before the asphalt can be put down crushed gravel will be used. Mr. Ayers did inquire about this.

Mayor Fromm took this opportunity to thank Mr. Bitgood for his role as engineer, as well as contractor and he is doing a great job. The library project is on track.

Clerk had no issues to address at this time as all topics were already covered.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Gahrs stated that Ed Johnson is here tonight and it was noted that he will provide an annual report on all inspections done throughout the town.

Mayor Fromm asked Ed if we could get a copy of the inspections that are done weekly on the pallet companies. Ed stated that he stops by weekly, but they are only required to inspect once a year, however, they are trying to get their inspections to be mandatory on a quarterly basis. Ed stated that the pallet company on Second and Richardson are working towards fixing their properties.

Pallet Logistics 30 day time is up at the end of this month and they will be reinspected.

Mayor Fromm stated that we are really looking at these properties as they are a concern and a possible accident waiting to happen. We need them to be in full compliance as they have a lot of flammable products.

Ed Johnson stated that they are following the fire code and they are limited as to what they can do.



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Mrs. Hale asked if these were surprise inspections or scheduled and Mr. Johnson stated that they are surprise inspections.

RESOLUTIONS

Clerk read the following resolution R-16-11 (Refund Tax Overpayment) Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Gahrs. Roll Call Vote-all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution R-17-11 (Current Fund Temp. Budget) Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Ayers. Roll Call Vote-all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution R-18-11 (Utility Fund Temp. Budget) Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Zappala. Roll Call Vote-all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution R-19-11 (Municipal Liens/Annual Tax Sale), Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote-all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution R-20-11 (Change Order #1 to Spence Maussner), Mr. Bitgood explained that this was for an extended trench repair. Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Gahrs. Roll Call Vote-all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution R-21-11 (Risk Management Consultant-Jif) Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote all yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Casella asked about the new meters if there are any additional problems. He read an article in the paper about another town having issues with their new system and asked if this was the same company. The clerk stated that it was not the same company and that there are only a few meters still not reading, but they are being addressed. The issue this time with the billing had to do with the reads. The last billing cycle did not pick up the stationery 0 and this cycle it did, therefore it caused an overage in usage. Dolores has been getting calls and has been fixing the reads accordingly. The average amount credited is about \$20.00.

Mr. Weeks asked if the excess amount could be shown on the bills.

Mayor Fromm thanked clerk for her involvement in this program.

Mrs. Hale asked about the torn screens being replaced and asked about why the fire hydrant in front of Nate's is covered.

Clerk will have answers for next meeting.

Mr. Casella asked for a closed session and the clerk will do resolution R-22-11 (Closed Session).

Mr. Weeks moved to go into closed session, seconded by Mr. Zappala. Vote all yes.



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A closed session was held and Mr. Weeks moved to end the close session, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Vote all yes.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one spoke from the audience.

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

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

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

Mayor Fromm adjourned meeting at 8:22 pm.

Tanya Goodwin, Clerk