

Borough of Norwood  
Work Session  
March 12, 2008

CALL TO ORDER AT 8:08 PM

Council President Scott stated:

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Law, P.L. 1975, Ch. 231, setting forth the time, date, place and purpose of this Public Meeting through a legal notice published in the Record and Press Journal.

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:**

Mayor	James Barsa
Councilman	Tom Brizzolara
Council President	Barry Scott
Councilman	Anthony Guercio (8:20 AM)
Councilman	Allen Rapaport
Councilman	Edward Condoleo

**ABSENT:**

Councilman	Michael Knigin
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**ALSO PRESENT:**

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
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**Approval of Resolution 08:68** – Opposing the Failure of the Governor’s Proposed State Budget for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year to Treat Property Tax Relief as Our Priority

Mayor Barsa explained that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities recommended adoption of this Resolution; therefore, motion was made by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Scott to adopt Resolution 08:68. The motion was carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

**Items for Discussion:**

Borough Attorney Report:

Haring Cemetery – Mr. Fede reported that the Borough is now the owner of the Haring Cemetery as the recorded judgment has been filed and recorded.

In Rem Foreclosures – Mr. Fede informed that the four (4) lots have been acquired by the Borough through in rem foreclosure and can now be added to the Meadowlands Conservation Trust. There was discussion regarding removing the structure on the Ricci property since the Borough now owns it. Mr. Rapaport advised he and the Superintendent of Public Works will examine the area to determine exactly what should be done with the possible help of outside contractors volunteering services.

2008 Municipal Budget:

The following recommendations were made regarding the proposed 2008 Municipal Budget:

*Streets and Roads* - recommended budget - \$42,900.00

*Tree Removal & Pruning* – leave - \$4,500.00

*Sewers* – leave - \$6,000.00

*Solid Waste Collection* – this is a contractual item and the amount can not change - \$584,376.00.

*Buildings & Grounds* – There was discussion that no member of the Department of Public Works is willing to go to school to obtain a pesticide license; therefore recommendation was made that the budget be cut to \$51,000 and that \$7,000 be removed from the Recreation budget for the cost of clay and chemicals to maintain the fields.

*Vehicle Maintenance* – The recommended budgets for the various departments are as follows: Police - \$11,500; Streets & Roads - \$20,000; Volunteer Fire - \$15,000; Volunteer Ambulance - \$3,000; Fire Prevention - \$500  
Total: \$50,000.00

*Storm Water Management* – \$14,000.00

*Public Health* – The recommended budgets for the various line items are as follows:

Contractual - \$49,566  
Legal Advertising - \$300  
Flu Clinic - \$700  
Office Supplies - \$1,200  
Conferences - \$500  
Education/Training - \$500  
Professional Dues - \$150  
Vantage Health - \$2,000  
Total: \$55,916.00

*Recreation* – It was the consensus of the Council and the opinion of the Borough Attorney, that Borough funds can not be used for the upkeep of Norwood Public School fields. The recommended budgets for the various line items are as follows:

Maintenance of Equipment – 0-  
Other Contractual - \$15,000  
Materials and Supplies - \$3,000  
Equipment - \$2,500  
Programs - \$3,000  
Seniors - \$11,000  
Total: \$34,500

*Library* – Mr. Fede advised that the Norwood library is not a free public library as it was never established by referendum in accordance with state statute. Therefore, the state-mandated funding formula does not apply and the amount funded by the municipality is at the discretion of the governing body. He further explained that according to BCCLS By-Laws, a member library must receive the 15% increase annually. Mr. Scott noted that the library does give back a portion of the money to the Borough in the form of rent.

Mrs. McMackin noted that the 15% increase is inside the 4% cap. She informed that she contacted former Borough Auditor, Richard DiMaria, to learn the history of the library. Mr. DiMaria confirmed that Norwood Public Library is a reading room and not a free public library.

After further discussion, the following recommendations were made:

- 1) the Library Board of Trustees is to provide the governing body with the amount necessary to operate the library;
- 2) determination is to be made whether or not the library can operate without an increase;
- 3) decrease the budget with the library not paying rent to the Borough.

Page 4

Mayor and Council Work Session Minutes – March 12, 2008

At this time, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was made by Mr. Guercio, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

No one wishing to be heard, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Rapaport, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative Vote of all Council Members present.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve Resolution 08:69 authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session to discuss a matter of pending litigation. The motion was made by Mr. Guercio, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Mayor Barsa convened the meeting at 9:45 PM and asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Scott and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC  
Administrator/Clerk