

Borough of Norwood
Work Session
February 24, 2010

The Work/Executive Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Norwood was held on the above date.

Mayor Barsa called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM.

Mayor Barsa 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	Frank Marino
Councilwoman	Marianne Orecchio
Councilman	Barry Scott
Council President	Edward Condoleo
Councilman	Allen Rapaport
Councilman	John Nicolai

ALSO PRESENT:

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
Borough Engineer	John Speer
Chief of Police	Jeffrey Krapels

Due to the number of residents in the audience, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Stuart Bran, 101 Aspen Court, identified himself as Vice President of the Board of the Northwoods Condominium Association. He explained that the residents of Northwoods are concerned regarding the specifications prepared for the operation of the leaf compost facility and the advertisement for Request for Proposals. The following were some of the areas addressed: neither of the two companies that responded to the Request for Proposals have any experience running such an operation; during an on-site visit by prospective operators, the DPW Superintendent could not answer questions regarding the specifications; since the contractor will be paying the Borough rent, there will probably be an increase in the operation which will translate into increased traffic, noise and the amount of dirt and dust in the area; the use of a tub grinder will also contribute to the noise level; more heavy equipment will be travelling on Borough roads.

Mr. Bran advised that Northwoods residents are generally happy with the present contractor, TOBAR, as he has always worked with them and their landscaper. It is the Board's recommendation that the Mayor and Council reject the proposals received with TOBAR continuing to run the operation and that the Borough pursue a cooperative agreement with the Borough of Old Tappan.

Mayor Barsa confirmed that he has scheduled a meeting with the Mayor of Old Tappan to discuss a cooperative agreement. He noted that the concerns of the Northwoods residents are being heard and that it is not the intent of the Mayor and Council to create a negative impact on the Northwoods community. Mayor Barsa continued that the contract with TOBAR expired in August 2009 and that the Council looked to this operation to generate a source of revenue for the Borough. He advised that the Council has not yet made a decision and that they have given him permission to work with Old Tappan.

During an hour and one-half discussion, the following residents spoke supporting Mr. Bran's comments and opposing a change in operation of the leaf compost facility:

Tullio Margherini, 608 Fir Court
Rafael and Beth Levin, 810 Hemlock Court
Harvey Eigenfeld, 507 Elm Court
Michael Eisenberg, 408 Dogwood Court
Scott Garber, 600 Fir Court
Anthony Foschino, 48 Burlington Street

Jay Flaherty, 112 Aspen Court
George Arnston, 808 Hemlock
Elliot Reed, 300 Cedar Court
Barbara Glueck, 806 Hemlock Court
Jeffrey Elias, 709 Holly Court

Mr. Marino thanked the residents of Northwoods for their input. He noted their opposition to any expansion of the leaf compost facility and informed that he would vote against the proposal.

Mrs. Orecchio noted that the proposals have not been reviewed and that she would take their concerns under consideration. She also urged the residents in the audience to attend Board of Education meetings.

Mr. Scott thanked the residents for attending and advised that their facts are wrong as there is no intent to increase the facility and stone crushing would not be a part of the operation.

Mr. Condoleo noted the need to protect the quality of life for all Norwood residents and reiterated that there is no intent to increase the activity on that site.

Mr. Rapaport reminded that he is a resident of Northwoods and voiced his disappointment that no Board member ever contacted him. He explained that he and Councilmen Nicolai and Scott were involved in the preparation of the Request for Proposals and that the Recycling Coordinator and DPW Superintendent were also involved. He voiced displeasure with the DPW Superintendent's comments that he could not answer specification questions since he was not involved since this was not the case. Mr. Rapaport repeated that there are extensive DEP regulations regarding the site, noting that the operation cannot be expanded and that stone cannot be crushed on the premise. He continued that it is now the responsibility of the DPW to sweep the street and that under the specifications it would be the obligation of the operator of the facility. Mr. Rapaport

concluded that before a final decision is made, the Council will meet with members of the Northwoods Association.

Mr. Nicolai referred to the specifications and advised that they demand that the operator of the facility be a good steward of the property and a good neighbor to the residents of Northwoods. He assured that the business plan submitted by the prospective operators would be carefully examined.

Nancy Sands, 124 Aspen Court, voiced her opinion that the facility was becoming more unsightly especially with the addition of the salt shed. Mr. Rapaport advised that the salt shed is a DEP requirement and Mayor Barsa suggested the size of the berm be increased. Mr. Scott recommended that landscaping of the facility be the responsibility of the operator with no cost to the Borough.

At this time, both the Borough Attorney and Borough Administrator/Clerk, explained that the Borough advertised for Request for Proposals since the five-year contract with TOBAR expired and that the current specifications were more stringent than the original ones.

Ellen Fedida, 824 Hemlock Court, questioned whether anything could be done about the odor emanating from the facility and Mayor Barsa asked Mr. Nicolai to address this matter with the DPW as well as the Environmental Commission to determine whether the leaves are being turned at the right time and in the proper manner.

At 10:00 PM, motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Mayor Barsa declared a fifteen minute recess. Mayor Barsa reconvened the meeting at 10:15 PM.

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Barsa asked if any Council Member wished to remove an item from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Marino asked that the following items be removed.

10:51 Appointing Paul Renaud as Construction Official and Building Sub-code Official for a four-year term to expire on 2/28/2013

10:52 Appointing Paul Renaud and Lenny Herman as Fire Inspectors for a three-year term to expire on 12/31/2012 for a salary of \$1/year/inspector

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following items was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

- 10:48 Authorizing the issuance of Street Opening Permit #10:01 to PSE&G for Piermont Road in Closter to Broadway in Norwood
- 10:49 Authorizing the issuance of Street Opening Permit #10:02 to PSE&G for Railroad Avenue, Oak and Chestnut Street
- 10:50 Authorizing the settlement of Tax Appeal of Bhupendra Tolia
- 10:53 Approving Raffle Licenses 10:06 and 10:07 for Holy Family Interparochial School and 10:08 for the Norwood-Northvale Women's Club

Items for Discussion:

Bergen County Improvement Authority – Capital Purchasing – Maureen Neville to give presentation – discussion postponed until the March 10, 2010 Work Session.

Animal Licensing Ordinance – Mr. Fede requested to prepare an ordinance amending the current one to reflect that the Borough Clerk is issuing dog and cat licenses rather than the Board of Health and to make the fine for not licensing cats consistent with the \$50.00 fine for dogs. The motion authorizing Mr. Fede to prepare this amendment for introduction at the March 2, 2010 Public Meeting was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Norwood Code 77-6 Regarding Serving Alcohol to Under Age Persons – Mr. Fede explained that the Borough ordinance should be consistent with the State violations and asked for authorization to prepare an amendment to Chapter 77, deleting Section 6, for introduction at the March 2, 2010 Public Meeting. Motion so authorizing Mr. Fede was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Rapaport with all Council Members voting aye.

Building Fees Ordinance Revisions - Mr. Fede explained that he was authorized to prepare an ordinance increasing building department permit fee and eliminating some per the recommendation of the Construction code Official. Motion to introduce this ordinance at the March 2, 2010 Public Meeting was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Condoleo with all Council Members voting aye.

Norwood Cub Scout Pack 120 Request for Tree Planting – Motion approving this request and authorizing the Borough Clerk to have them work with the Superintendent of Public Works in choosing a site for the planting was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Extension of Contract for Elevator Inspector – Motion authorizing the Borough Attorney to prepare a resolution extending the contract of the Elevator Inspection using the two-year option for adoption at the March 2, 2010 Public Meeting was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Rapaport with all Council Members voting aye.

Community Hospice of Bergen County request permission to allow volunteers to “buck” at one of the busy intersections in Norwood during the month of April – Both Councilmen Scott and Rapaport suggested that the Council get input from the Chief of Police and the Risk Manager before a decision is made. Mr. Rapaport will contact both.

At this time, Mayor Barsa explained that the Chair of the Environmental Commission would like the Borough to take action regarding the Sustainable New Jersey Municipal Certification Program. Mayor Barsa asked that the Borough Attorney review this matter to see if it has any negative impact on the Borough. Motion postponing adoption of a resolution to the March 10, 2010 Work Session was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

H1N1 Clinic – reimbursement to Borough Employees who receive vaccination (\$15/shot) - Mrs. McMackin announced that the Board of Health will be holding a H1N1 clinic to be conducted by Rite Aid Pharmacy on Friday, March 19, 2010 from 10 AM to 6 PM. The Board is asking that a policy decision be made by the Mayor and Council as to whether or not Borough employees should be reimbursed for the shot. She explained that in the past if there were extra seasonal flu vaccinations, Borough employees were offered them free-of-charge since the Borough already paid the County for the vaccine. However, for 2009 the Board of Health did not follow this past practice and charged Borough employees who wanted to be vaccinated. Mrs. McMackin further explained that in the case of the H1N1 vaccine, it is not being provided by the County through the Borough, but by Rite Aid. Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Marino that Borough employees absorb the cost of seasonal flu vaccinations as well as the H1N1. The motion was carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Speer asked if any Council Member or member of the public had any question concerning his monthly report (Attachment “A”) and none were raised.

Attorney’s Report – Mr. Fede reported that Key Equipment has agreed to cancel the lease for the Kyocera copier.

Administrator Report – Mrs. McMackin reported that the Council approved two street opening permits for PSE&G whereby new gas lines will be installed along Piermont Road representing a \$2.1M infrastructure project. She continued that the road will be totally repaved and the project would take approximately six months. She suggested that the contractor pay up front for police traffic control and that the funds be put into a trust account. Mrs. McMackin recommended that that Chief of Police and CFO work together to establish a procedure. Mr. Condoleo advised he would so advise the CFO.

Mrs. McMackin advised that she has contacted Cablevision to discuss the possibility of the Borough switching from Verizon to Optimum Voice at a cost of \$29.95 per month/per line and would meeting with a representative on Monday. She explained that she has already had conversations with the Chief of Police and EMS Chief and still has to talk with the Fire Chief. The Class A fire alarm system will have to be maintained by Verizon; however, if the conversion can be done, the Borough would realize a savings of \$1500 per month.

Mrs. McMackin announced that the Borough will be receiving a Gold award from the JIF at the March 9, 2010 Safety Breakfast due to its No Lost Time for last year. Mayor Barsa, Mrs. Orecchio and Mr. Rapaport advised that they would attend. She asked permission to change the March 24th Work Session to March 31st since she and the Deputy Clerk will be attending the Clerk's conference in Atlantic City. No objections were voiced.

General Public Comment:

Motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mr. Condoleo with all Council Members voting aye. No one wishing to be heard, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Nicolai, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio with all Council Members voting aye.

Closed Session: Adoption of Resolution 10:54 Authorizing the Council to convene into closed session to discuss a tax appeal and contract negotiations – Motion to adopt Resolution 10:54 was made by Mrs. Orecchio, seconded by Mr. Scott and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

At 10:55 PM Mayor Barsa declared a ten-minute recess before proceeding in Closed Session.

Mayor Barsa reconvened the meeting at 11:45 PM

The following Resolutions removed from the Consent Agenda were voted upon:

10:51 Appointing Paul Renaud as Construction Official and Building Sub-code Official for a four-year term to expire on 2/28/2013

10:52 Appointing Paul Renaud and Lenny Herman as Fire Inspectors for a three-year term to expire on 12/31/2012 for a salary of 1/year/inspector

Motion to approve the above resolutions was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rapaport. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Marino, Orecchio, Scott, Condoleo and Rapaport
Nays: None
Abstention: Nicolai

The motion carried 6-0

At this time, Mr. Nicolai moved that the Borough Attorney be authorized to prepare a Resolution capping the amount to be paid for Police Arbitration at \$20,000.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott with all Council Members voting aye.

Page 7

Mayor and Council Work Session Minutes – February 24, 2010

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 11:48 PM was made by Mr. Rapaport, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC
Administrator/Clerk