

Borough of Norwood
Work Session
March 10, 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
Chief Financial Officer	Maureen Neville
Tax Collector	Kunjesh Trivedi

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

Vincent Rinaldi, 36 Eaton Terrace, explained he had safety concerns regarding roadside debris as many of his school buses travel through the town. Mayor Barsa explained that due to the recent snow storm and the large number of trees that came down, the DPW has fallen behind schedule but are continually working to clear the remnants of the storm.

Tom Brizzolara, 320 High Street, informed the Council and public that the Norwood Runners Association has agreed to pay the entire cost for the new trophy case. Mayor Barsa extended his thanks on behalf of the Council.

Anthony Plescia, 444 Summit Street, thanked the Norwood Runners Association for their donation on behalf of Norwood Recreation. He also questioned the status of the proposals received for the operation of the Borough's compost facility. Mayor Barsa advised this item is on the agenda for this evening.

No one else wishing to be heard, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Rapaport, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio with all Council Members present voting aye.

Consent Agenda:

At this time, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following items:

Resolutions:

- 10:67 Approving the payment of bills and vouchers in the amount of \$5,990,392.51
- 10:68 Capping the amount to be paid for Police Arbitration at \$20,000

Motion was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Items for Discussion:

Bergen County Improvement Authority – Capital Purchasing – Maureen Neville to give presentation – The Chief Financial Officer explained that due to the current financial climate, the Council may wish to consider purchasing needed items through the Bergen County Improvement Authority rather than adopting bond ordinances. She further explained that the interest rate is usually better because the County has an AAA bond rating and payment can be spread out over ten years. The other benefit is that there are no fees associated with the Auditor or Bond Counsel. Ms. Neville advised that the Borough of Demarest has purchased police cars, copiers, a dump truck, generators, etc. through loans with the Bergen County Improvement Authority. There was a brief discussion regarding the negative press the Authority has received. The other concern is that the Borough should only purchase items absolutely necessary. It was the consensus of the Council that a representative from the Bergen County Improvement Authority be invited to the next Work Session to be held on March 31, 2010.

Disbursement of Tax Appeal Refunds – Mayor Barsa explained that when a homeowner appeals his assessment and receives a reduction, the school's portion is not reduced. He further explained that due to the number of tax appeals filed in 2009 and the number already filed in 2010, it is the opinion of the Assessor that a reassessment may be in the Borough's best interests. Mr. Guercio voiced his opinion that a reassessment would be fair and equitable for those residents who do not file appeals. Mr. Guercio advised he would touch bases with the Borough of Haworth who underwent an in-house reassessment to get a cost as well as obtaining a quote from an outside vendor. He will report his findings to the Mayor and Council. It was the consensus of the Council that he so proceed.

JIF Annual Safety Awards – Mayor Barsa announced that the Borough received the “Gold Safety Award” of \$1,500.00 at the March 9, 2010 Joint Insurance Fund Breakfast, as well as the “Most Consistent and Most Improved Award” of \$3,000.00. He thanked the DPW employees, Rob Tracy, Michael Conguisti and John Oddo who were in the audience as well as the Clerk/Administrator, Lorraine McMackin, and Deputy Clerk, Carol Donovan. Mayor Barsa explained that the Borough would not have received these awards without the diligence of all employees and asked for a motion authorizing that a bonus of \$50.00 be given to all twenty-seven full-time employees. The motion was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Rapaport with all Council Members voting aye.

Compost Facility – Mayor Barsa advised that he met with Mayor Polce of Old Tappan with the understanding that the Administrators of both Boroughs will begin working together on a feasibility study regarding an interlocal agreement for the operation of a compost facility at Old Tappan. Mr. Scott voiced objection since this would remove the potential of the Borough receiving \$45,000 per year in revenue. Mayor Barsa stressed that all he is asking for is a motion authorizing this feasibility study. The motion was made by Mr. Rapaport, seconded by Mr. Condoleo with all Council Members voting aye.

Mr. Rapaport voiced concern regarding the time element since it is now almost mid-March and April, May and June are the months to sell topsoil. Mayor Barsa reminded that the contract with TOBAR expired and that they are operating the facility on a month to month basis. He continued that TOBAR has agreed to pay the Borough \$2,000 per month in addition to the \$4/yard for top soil over 500 yards.

Mr. Scott again voiced his opinion that the Borough is moving in the wrong direction. He noted that the residents of Northwoods were given misinformation in that the physical operation cannot be expanded and stone crushing has been eliminated. Mr. Scott also questioned whether or not Old Tappan can increase the size of its facility.

Following further discussion, motion was made by Mr. Rapaport to accept TOBAR’s offer to continue on a month to month basis and pay the Borough \$2,000 per month as well as \$4/yard for top soil over 500 yards. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Orecchio. On roll call vote:

Ayes: Marino, Orecchio, Rapaport, Condoleo, Nicolai
Nays: Scott
Abstentions: None

Motion carried: 5-1

Mr. Fede referred to the business plan received this evening from P&K Topsoil, LLC that needs to be reviewed by the governing body. Since the sixty-day time period to review the proposals is running out, he recommended that the companies be asked to agree to a thirty-day review extension. Therefore, motion authorizing the Council to request a thirty-day review extension from the two operators who submitted proposals was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present. The Administrator/Clerk was also directed to request that Lombardo Excavating submit their business

plan for review. It was the consensus of the Council that once the business plans are reviewed, both companies be invited to make a presentation before the Mayor and Council.

Sustainable New Jersey Municipal Certification Program – Approval of Resolution 10:69

Mr. Fede advised that the resolution does not commit the Borough to any activity. Ms. Hageman, Chair of the Environmental Commission confirmed explaining that a municipality needs to attain 150 points to become certified. She added that 244 municipalities have registered and 34 have received certification.

Motion to approve the resolution authorizing the Borough to register with the sustainable NJ Municipal Certification Program and appointing Christine Hageman to serve as the Borough's agent for the Sustainable New Jersey Municipal Certification process and authorizing her to complete the Municipal Registration on behalf of the Borough was made by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Nicolai. On the roll call vote:

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

The motion carried 4-2

Amendment to Chapter 28 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood regarding reimbursement for Police Services by Private Contractors to increase the hourly rate - Mayor Barsa explained that this amendment would increase the rate for reimbursement for Police services by private contractors from \$100/hr to \$125/hr. Motion authorizing the Borough Attorney to prepare the amendment for introduction at the April 6, 2010 Public Meeting was made by Mr. Rapaport, seconded by Mr. Condoleo with all Council Members voting aye.

Attorney's Report - Mr. Fede advised that he had a tax appeal matter to discuss in Closed Session.

Administrator Report - Mrs. McMackin wished the Mayor a very Happy Birthday. She reported that approximately \$43,000 has been spent to date from the DPW overtime budget of \$65,000 for snow removal. Mrs. McMackin explained that the Borough is looking into renting an additional chipper since there is down time in bringing a full load to the compost facility.

General Public Comment:

Motion to open 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.

Tom Brizzolara, 320 High Street, referred to the hourly rate increase for police services by private contractors and said the Council should keep in mind that many utility companies hire their own flag men and are only using Police Officers at very busy intersections.

Stu Bran, Vice President of the Northwoods Condominium Board residing at 101 Aspen Court, referred to the discussion regarding reassessments and reported that Northwoods residents are receiving letters from different law firms offering services for tax appeals. He explained that the Northwoods Condominium Board has been approached to hire a firm to file an appeal for the entire complex. Mr. Bran reported that the Board will not act as an agent nor make any recommendations.

Mr. Bran referred to the compost facility discussion and clarified that the Northwoods residents are not concerned about the physical size of the facility increasing but the scope of operation increasing. He noted that he will notify Mr. Plescia of P&K when the next Board meeting is scheduled so that he can make a presentation. Mr. Bran advised that the Board would not be adverse in giving the contractor the opportunity to disseminate information.

No one else wishing to be heard, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Condoleo, seconded by Mr. Scott with all Council Members voting aye.

Adoption of Resolution 10:70 Authorizing the Council to convene into closed session to discuss contract negotiations, Risk Manager's Contract and a Tax Appeal Settlement.

Formal action may be taken upon returning to open session – Motion of adoption was made by Mr. Condoleo, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

At 9:20 PM, Mayor Barsa declared a five-minute recess before proceeding into Closed Session.

Mayor Barsa reconvened the meeting at 9:55 PM.

Motion approving Resolution 10:71 authorizing settlement of tax appeals of Kevin and Allison Passante for Lots 5 and 6 in Block 98, 3 and 11 Cobblestone Crossing was made by Mr. Condoleo, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Motion was made by Mr. Nicolai to provide Ruth Falkenstern the opportunity to obtain Errors and Omissions coverage as well as a New Jersey Business Registration Certificate so that a resolution can be prepared and adopted at the April 6, 2010 Public Meeting appointing her Risk Manager effective April 1, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present with the exception of Mr. Rapaport who abstained.

Page 6

Mayor and Council Work Session Minutes – March 10, 2010

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 10:00 PM was made by Mr. Nicolai, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC
Administrator/Clerk