

Borough of Norwood
Work Session
March 31, 2010

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

Mayor Barsa called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 Auditor	Steven Wielkocz
Borough Engineer	John Speer
Chief Financial Officer	Maureen Neville
Chief of Police	Jeffrey Krapels
Superintendent of Public Works	Camilo DiRese

At 7:10 PM Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 10:72 authorizing the Council to convene into closed session to discuss contract negotiations, personnel issues and Attorney-Client Privilege. The motion was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present. Formal action may be taken upon return to open session.

Mayor Barsa reconvened the meeting at 8:38 PM and asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was made by Mrs. Orecchio, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Allen Olsen, 65 Kensington Avenue, referred to the recent storm and flooding in many areas. He explained he spoke with a representative of United Water who suggested that the Borough contact the Department of Environmental Conservation and request a control release of water from the Oradell reservoir. Mayor Barsa asked Mr. Marino, Chair of the Public Works Committee to work with his committee members and Mr. Olsen to see what can be done.

Carol Bellini, 130 Broadway, advised that she received a violation notice for not clearing her sidewalk after a snowstorm and explained she could not access it since her home is at an intersection and the snow was plowed too high. The Superintendent of Public Works advised that usual DPW procedure is to clear all corners of the intersection and then to return to those areas that have sidewalks. However, due to the severity of the storm this was probably not done.

Ms. Bellini also referred to the lack of parking facilities for commuters. Mayor Barsa advised that the redevelopment of Jay Street as a municipal parking lot is being proposed as part of the Livingston Street Beautification Project.

No one else 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.

Items for Discussion:

John Guercio, Tax Assessor to request the Mayor and Council approve a Re-assessment of the Borough – Mr. Fede advised that this matter should initially be discussed in Closed Session.

Bergen County Improvement Authority – Capital Purchasing – Ms. Neville informed that she was unable to contact the representative from the Authority to make a presentation at this meeting. The Borough Auditor, Mr. Wielkottz, explained that this MUNI Bank program was set up four or five years ago whereby funds can be borrowed at a lower interest rate to purchase capital items having a maximum life of ten years. He continued that this program does not require a down payment and there are no costs associated for Auditor and Bond Counsel services as with bonding.

Review of ordinance to amend Chapter 77 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood regarding the fees charged to renew liquor licenses – Mrs. McMackin explained that although the fees in the present ordinance are at the state maximum, it only is for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009. Therefore, the ordinance has to be amended before she is can bill the liquor license applicants for the 2010 year. It was the consensus of the Council that the ordinance be introduced at the April 6, 2010 Public Meeting with the Public Hearing scheduled for April 28, 2010.

Business Plan Presentation for the Compost Facility by P & K Topsoil and Lombardo Excavating

Brendan C. Koth, Member of P&K Topsoil, LLC, 370 Summit Street, Norwood, NJ, presented the firm's business plan for the operation of the Borough's compost facility. Also present were Member Daniel Plescia and Wayne DeFeo of DeFeo Associates, 15 Washington Valley Road, Warren Township, New Jersey contracted by P&K Topsoil for consulting services. Mr. Koth explained that P&K will guarantee the Borough rental payment of \$46,000.00 per year and will make improvements to the berm of the facility by adding low lying shrubbery and trees.

Jon Lombardo of Lombardo Excavating, 20 Wayne Avenue, River Edge, NJ, advised that he was withdrawing his proposal for consideration. He explained that the minimum yearly rental payment of \$45,000 plus the expenses of running the business would necessitate generating approximately \$400,000 per season translating into a huge amount of product. He voiced his opinion that there would be increased activity at the facility that would have a negative impact on the adjacent property owners.

At this time, motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Allen Olsen, 65 Kensington Avenue, confirmed that the Borough salt sheds are situated on the same property as the compost facility.

Sal Lombardo, 519 Elm Court, voiced his opinion that the annual \$45,000 rental payment, plus the expense of machinery, employees and insurance will require a great deal of product to be moved in order to make a profit.

Moses Arm, 411 Dogwood Court, advised that he reviewed the proposal submitted by P&K and voiced his opinion that it is not responsive to the RFP since it does not have an explanation of how they plan to make a profit while paying the yearly rental fee.

Tom Brizzolara, 320 High Street, confirmed that TOBAR did not submit a RFP to be considered as a contractor.

Kiara Lombardo of Lombardo Excavating voiced her understanding that TOBAR offered to pay the Borough \$2,000.00 per month and suggested the Borough continue with this low key operation.

Harvey Eigenfeld, 507 Elm Court, voiced his opinion that the RFP of the sole contractor should not be accepted since this firm does not have sufficient experience in operating a compost facility.

At this time, Mr. Nicolai explained that a survey of other towns revealed that many facilities have reached capacity according to Department of Environmental Protection rules and regulations. Mayor Barsa added that the contract can be terminated if the facility is not run properly.

No one else wishing to be heard, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mrs. Orecchio, seconded by Mr. Scott and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Review of Ordinance to amend Chapter 50 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood regarding the fees charged to private contractors for police services – It was the consensus of the Council that this ordinance be introduced at the April 6, 2010 Public Meeting.

Engineer’s Monthly Report - See Attachment “A”.

Mr. Rapaport questioned the status of the pump station infrastructure application. Mr. Speer advised that the proposed repairs received Treatment Works Approval from the NJDEP. Mrs. McMackin explained that all the required financial information was filed with the State by the March 1, 2010 deadline and that the Borough would be considered for a low interest loan.

Attorney’s Report – Mr. Fede had no items to discuss in open session.

Administrator Report - Mrs. McMackin had no items for discussion in open session.

At 9:50 PM, Mayor Barsa declared a five-minute recess before proceeding in Closed Session. Motion authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session to discuss contract negotiations and pending litigation was made by Mr. Rapaport, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Mayor Barsa resumed the meeting at 10:20 P.M.

Motion to authorize the Borough Attorney to investigate whether RFP’s are needed to move forward with the Tax Assessor’s proposal to hire an outside vendor to perform a reassessment of the entire Borough was made by Mr. Nicolai and seconded by Mr. Scott. All Council Members present voted aye.

Motion to approve the appointment of Ruth Falkenstern, RMC Insurance Broker, for a one-year term as Risk Management Consultant (10:73) was made by Mr. Rapaport, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

General Public Comment:

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

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Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 10:20 PM was made by Mr. Condoleo, seconded by Mr. Nicolai and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC
Administrator/Clerk