

Borough of Norwood
Work Session
April 28, 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 8:02 P.M.

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 P. 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

At 8:03 PM, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve Resolution 10:88 authorizing the Mayor and Council to convene into closed session for the purpose of discussing layoff/furloughs and the Compost Facility RFQ after which time formal action may be taken upon returning to open session. The motion was made by

Mayor Barsa convened the meeting at 8:23 P.M.

Motion approving a resolution (10:91) to authorize a layoff plan in the Borough of Norwood for reasons of economy was made by Mr. Condoleo, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Motion approving a resolution (10:92) to reject the proposal for Leaf Composting Contract and to authorize preparation of revised specifications was made by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Condoleo. All Council Members present voted aye with the exception of Mr. Scott who voted nay.

Public Hearing on Ordinance 10:07

Mayor Barsa stated he had before him an ordinance for Council action entitled:

An Ordinance Amending the Schedule of Annual Fees for Alcoholic Beverage Licenses
In the Code of the Borough of Norwood, Chapter 77

It was moved by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Nicolai to open the meeting to the public for discussion on this ordinance. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio to close the meeting to the public. A motion to adopt Ordinance 10:07 was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio. On the roll call vote:

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

There being six (6) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 10:07 was approved. Mayor Barsa announced that the ordinance was finally adopted and will take effect upon publication in the Press Journal.

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Barsa reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda and asked if any Council Member wished to remove an item. No Council Member wishing to be heard, Mayor Barsa requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following resolutions:

- 10:89 Approving an Emergency Temporary Budget in the amount of \$2,789,569
- 10:90 Authorizing an application to the Local Finance Board to permit the return of accrued vacation and sick time reserve to the Current Fund

Motion of approval was made by Mr. Rapaport, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Items for Discussion:

Haring Cemetery

Historic Preservation Committee to make presentations regarding the Haring Cemetery wall and landscaping and a proposed sign/plaque for the Yorkview development – Rich Williams, Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee explained that the attached proposal (Attachment “A”) for the Haring Cemetery is based upon receiving funding from the County without the use of Borough money. He continued that a new survey is required with the placement of permanent markers in the ground. Mr. Scott reminded that discussion regarding the wall and landscaping for the cemetery took place over a year ago and at that time there was almost \$170,000 in the Open Space Trust Fund that could be used for this purpose. Upon Mrs. McMackin confirming that the penny tax could be used for parks, recreation and historic preservation, the motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Condoleo that the proposal be funded with monies from the open space trust fund. The motion was declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present. It was the consensus of the Council that the Historic Preservation Committee proceed with obtaining prices for the wall and landscaping.

Mr. Williams advised that the Committee has also recommended the placement of an informational plaque commemorating the Yorkview development on the Fourteenth Street Circle. Mr. Rapaport advised that if the penny tax could not be used for the purchase of this sign, he and Mr. Condoleo would raise the money for it. The Historic Preservation Committee was directed to obtain quotes for the signage.

Attorney's Report – Mr. Fede advised that he had nothing further to report.

Engineer's Report – Mr. Speer referred to his monthly report (Attachment "B").

Mr. Rapaport confirmed that quotes were solicited for improving the operation of the water feature of the Kennedy Park War Memorial and making it vandal proof. Mr. Speer explained that the lowest quote received was for \$9,643.75 and that he plans to discuss some ideas with the Administrator/Clerk.

Mr. Marino questioned when the drainage work to the Kennedy baseball field would begin. Mr. Speer advised work would commence the last week in May and would take a day or two before the field would be restored to playing conditions.

Administrator's Report – Mrs. McMackin reported that a second pump at the Kennedy Park War Memorial burnt out due to vandalism. She explained that it is being studied whether the collector pool and trough could be covered with Plexiglas with the cost paid for from the penny tax. Mrs. McMackin further explained that there is no money in the budget to purchase a new pump.

Mrs. McMackin advised that the Auditor will prepare an ordinance authorizing the reassessment process to be paid over the next five years.

Mrs. McMackin requested and received permission to prepare the following resolutions for approval at the May 4, 2010 Public Meeting:

Opposing the Repeal to the Bergen County Blue Laws

Opposing Public Law 2009 c 118 creating a Pilot Program in Gloucester County to permit the County to take over tax assessment

At this time, Mayor Barsa explained that because of the number of tax appeals filed, a townwide reassessment will be done to better reflect today's market value.

General Public Comment:

Motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present. Mr. Rapaport recommended that each person wishing to speak be limited to a three minute period.

George Hertzberg, 24 Carter Street, identified himself as Municipal Chair of the Democratic Club and referred to the fatal pedestrian accident that occurred on April 1, 2010. He questioned whether a detailed analysis could be provided to prevent a similar occurrence. The Chief of Police explained that the Bergen County Fatal Accident Unit was called and that the accident was caused by unfortunate circumstances stressing that it was an accident.

Mark Plescia, 65 Eton Terrace, referred to the rejection of the Request for Proposal to operate the compost facility and questioned how it would be run in the interim. The Borough Attorney explained that the present operator would run it on a temporary basis until new specifications were prepared for advertisement. Mr. Plescia voiced his opinion that the facility is not being run according to DEP regulations and that the Borough could be faced with fines.

Patrolman Paul Kapu questioned the number of police officers that were slated to be laid off. Mayor Barsa advised that two officers would be laid off two weeks from Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

Tom Brizzolara, 320 High Street, questioned whether the Borough filed a layoff plan with the State. The Borough Attorney explained that the Borough is not a Civil Service employer and that the Mayor and Council have the authority to hire and fire. Mr. Brizzolara voiced his understanding that many unions have agreed to wage freezes and contributions to medical benefits adding his hope that an agreement could be reached with the Police Department. Mr. Condoleo explained that all Borough employees will not be getting a salary increase for the next two years and will begin contributing to health care benefits as of May 21, 2010.

Moses Arm, 411 Dogwood Court, thanked the governing body for recognizing the concerns of the Northwoods residents in their decision regarding the compost facility.

George Hertzberg, 24 Carter Street, referred to earlier budget discussions regarding the possible closing of the public library. Mr. Scott advised that the Library Board of Directors is working very closely with the Mayor and Council to reduce library operating costs. Mr. Hertzberg volunteered to work with Mr. Scott to set up fundraising events to benefit the library.

Peter Stonitsch, 143 Kensington Avenue, questioned the 2010 Budget figures. Mayor Barsa advised that the Budget is on-line and is also available in the Borough Clerk's office. He explained that in order to save approximately \$1,000.00 in printing and mailing costs, it was the unanimous decision of the governing body that the budget newsletter be made available on line and that a Swift Reach message be used to notify the public about the May 4, 2010 Public Hearing date for the Budget.

No one else wishing to be heard, a 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.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 9:45 P.M. was made by Mr. Rapaport, seconded by Mr. Condoleo with all Council Members voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC
Administrator/Clerk