

**BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MINUTES
PUBLIC MEETING
APRIL 9, 2014**

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Norwood was held at Borough Hall on the above date.

Mayor Barsa called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and led those in attendance in a salute to the American Flag and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance.

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 Star Ledger, filing a copy in the Borough Clerk’s office and posting on the bulletin board.”

Roll Call:

Mayor Barsa	Present
Councilman Brizzolara	Present
Councilman Marino	Present
Councilwoman Orecchio	Present
Council President Scott	Present
Councilman Rapaport	Present
Councilman Ascolese	Present

Also Present:

Andrew Fede	Borough Attorney
Dan Kaufman	Borough Engineer
Steve Wielkotz	Borough Auditor
Kunjesh Trivedi	CFO/Treasurer

Mayor Barsa pointed out the fire exits and requested that all cell phones be turned off or to vibrate.

Public Hearing of Ordinance 14:02:

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

CALENDAR YEAR 2014 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE
MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

It was moved by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Rapaport to open the meeting to the public for discussion on this ordinance. All Council Members

Public Hearing of Ordinance 14:02 Continued:

present voted in favor of the motion. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Rapaport to close the meeting to the public. The motion was declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 14:02 was made by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Brizzolara. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Brizzolara, Marino, Orecchio, Scott, Rapaport and Ascolese
Nays: None

There being six (6) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 14:02 was approved. Mayor Barsa announced that the ordinance was finally adopted and will take effect upon publication in the Record.

Motion to approve Resolution 14:82 authorizing the 2014 Municipal Budget to be read by title only was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and approved by an affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Public Hearing of the 2014 Municipal Budget:

Mayor Barsa invited Mr. Steve Wielkotz, Borough Auditor to give a brief synopsis of the 2014 Municipal Budget. Mr. Wielkotz informed that even though the governing body approved the cap ordinance permitting the Borough to increase their spending from .5% to 3.5% it is not being used. The actual appropriation is \$300,000 less than the cap, but the intent is to bank the cap rate for future years. The impact to this year's budget will a \$56.94 increase to the average tax payer. The overall budget is a 1.5% increase from last year, well under the 2% cap. Because of the March 21, 2014 fire at the DPW building, the Borough will not be adopting the budget this evening. On the agenda is a bond ordinance to authorize the replacement of the vehicles and equipment lost that requires a second reading. After adoption of the bond ordinance, the Mayor and Council may adopt the 2014 Budget. Mr. Wielkotz informed that he and the CFO had a conference call with Moody's Investment and that Moody's had taken away the Borough's negative outlook and given the Borough a solid double A rating. Mr. Wielkotz commended the governing body for creating structural balance in their budgets and increasing their revenue over the past few years. At this time, Mayor Barsa called for a motion to open the meeting to the public regarding the 2014 Municipal Budget. It was moved by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio to open the meeting to the public. On the motion, all Council Members present voted for the motion.

Mr. John Rooney, 223 Rockland Avenue questioned the impact on the budget due to the additional debt incurred because of the fire. Mr. Wielkotz explained that there will be no impact to this year's budget, but in the future

as the Borough begins to pay the interest on the Bond Anticipation Notes. He also

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Public Hearing of the 2014 Municipal Budget Continued:

explained that he is hopeful that most of the money will be returned to the Borough from the Insurance. Presently the interest rates municipalities are receiving for money borrowed is .5%. There being no other member of the public wishing to be heard, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Arbor Day Proclamation:

Mayor Barsa read the following proclamation for the record:

WHEREAS, In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

WHEREAS, this holiday, call Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

WHEREAS, trees in our town increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas and beautify our community, and

WHEREAS, trees wherever they are planted are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James P. Barsa, Mayor of the Borough of Norwood, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2014 as Arbor Day in the Borough of Norwood, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Correspondence:

Mayor Barsa read the following correspondence into the record:

1. CDBG Meeting Notice for Thursday, April 10, 2014 at the Dumont Senior Center
2. Norwood Public Library request to use the parking lot of the Norwood Public Library for a Touch-a-Truck event on Saturday, May 3, 2014
3. Letter from State of New Jersey Department of Transportation announcing the 2014 Safe Routes to School Program
4. Letter from State of New Jersey Department of Transportation announcing the 2014 Transportation Alternative Program

Mayor Barsa informed that anyone wishing a copy of the correspondence could request it from the Borough Clerk.

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Consent Agenda:

Mayor Barsa reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda and asked if any Council Member wished to remove an item. There being no request, Mayor Barsa called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following items:

Approval of the minutes of the February 26, 2014 Work/Executive Meeting, March 5, 2014 Special Meeting, March 12, 2014 Special Budget Meeting and March 12, 2014 Regular and Executive Meeting.

Approval of the following Resolutions:

- 14:83 Emergency Temporary Budget Authorization
- 14:84 Authorizing the payment of Bills and Vouchers in the amount of \$1,408,712.19
- 14:85 Authorizing Appropriation Reserve Transfers in the amount of \$48,605.48
- 14:86 Granting permission to Jewish Family Services to conduct Fourth Annual Wheels for Meals
- 14:87 Authorizing Change Order No.1 for Livingston Street Streetscape Phase II
- 14:88 Authorizing an Interlocal Services Agreement with the Borough of Harrington Park for Municipal Court Services
- 14:89 Approving a Construction Management Agreement for Livingston Street Streetscape Phase II
- 14:90 Approving an Agreement for Survey and Design of Municipal Complex Improvements
- 14:91 Authorizing the Borough Attorney to Prepare and the Borough Clerk to Advertise a Request for Proposals for a Professional Planning Consultant for the Preparation of a Master Plan
- 14:92 Authorizing the Execution of a Deed Notice for a Portion of the Property Known as 455 Broadway
- 14:93 Acceptance of Specifications and Authorization for Borough Clerk to Advertise for the Receipt of Bids for the Refurbishment of the Hahn Fire Truck
- 14:94 Establishing the 2014 Temporary Capital Budget
- 14:95 Project Acceptance for the Norwood Library Renovations to Lower Level
- 14:96 Finding an Emergency Exists and Authorizing the Purchase of Vehicles and Equipment for the DPW

It was moved by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Rapaport to approve the Consent Agenda. On the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted for the motion.

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Introduction of Ordinance 14:05

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

Authorizing the Acquisition of Construction and Sidewalk Easements on Property known as Block 91, Lot 12, in the Borough of Norwood and if necessary, authorizing the institution of eminent domain proceedings

It was moved by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio to approve on first reading Ordinance 14:05. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Barsa announced that the public hearing on this ordinance will be Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

Introduction of Ordinance 14:06

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

An Ordinance entitled “Fixing Salaries, Wages and Compensation of Certain Employees of the Department of Public Works of the Borough of Norwood” for the years 2012-2015

It was moved by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Rapaport to approve on first reading Ordinance 14:06. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Barsa announced that the public hearing on this ordinance will be Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

Introduction of Bond Ordinance 14:07

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

Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Acquisition of New Additional or Replacement Equipment and Machinery and New Automotive Vehicles, Including Original Apparatus and Equipment to Replace Fire Damaged Items In, By and For the Borough of Norwood, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to Appropriate the Sum of \$500,000 to pay the cost thereof, to make a down payment, to authorize the issuance of Bonds to finance such appropriations and to provide for the issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in anticipation of the issuance of such Bonds.”

It was moved by Mr. Ascolese and seconded by Mr. Rapaport to approve on first reading Ordinance 14:07 (Resolution 14:97) All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Barsa announced that the public hearing on this ordinance will be Wednesday, April 30, 2014.

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Public Hearing of Ordinance 14:03:

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

An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of Jay Street in the Borough of Norwood

It was moved by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Rapaport to open the meeting to the public for discussion on this ordinance. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Scott to close the meeting to the public. The motion was declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 14:03 was made by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Brizzolara, Marino, Orecchio, Scott, Rapaport and Ascolese
Nays: None

There being six (6) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 14:03 was approved. Mayor Barsa announced that the ordinance was finally adopted and will take effect upon publication in the Record.

Public Hearing of Ordinance 14:04:

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

An Ordinance to amend an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to fix Salaries, Wages and Compensation of certain officials, officers and employees of the Borough of Norwood, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey and setting forth the method of paying salaries” and any other ordinances amending said ordinance.

It was moved by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Rapaport to open the meeting to the public for discussion on this ordinance. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio to close the meeting to the public. The motion was declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 14:04 was made by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Rapaport. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Brizzolara, Marino, Orecchio, Scott, Rapaport and Ascolese
Nays: None

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Public Hearing of Ordinance 14:04 Continued:

There being six (6) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 14:04 was approved. Mayor Barsa announced that the ordinance was finally adopted and will take effect upon publication in the Record.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Barsa

DPW Fire: Mayor Barsa informed that weekly meetings have been taking place since the fire to coordinate the clean-up and plan for moving forward.

Lighting Detection System: The system is operational and the Borough has adopted an ordinance that states that when the horn is sounded, all recreation fields and playgrounds must be evacuated. The police will be enforcing the ordinance and all towns that use the fields have received notification.

Livingston Street Beautification: Work on Phase II has begun and completion is anticipated within the next 3 months. Also, the Carter and Jay Street paving projects have begun.

Councilman Brizzolara

Fire Department:

Mr. Brizzolara read the Fire Department March Report (Attachment “A”). Mr. Brizzolara expressed his gratitude for the professional way in which the Fire Department responded to and quickly extinguished the recent fire at the DPW building.

Councilman Marino

Board of Health:

Mr. Marino read the Board of Health Report for the month of March (Attachment “B”). The Buckingham is a recipient of a Gold Star Award from Bergen County. Recently, the Public Health Nurse from the County has begun a monthly visit to the Norwood Public Library to meet with residents and to offer to have their blood pressure taken. The Board of Health is looking into creating an ordinance that would create a “Smoke Free Environment” at the recreation fields. This would make smoking at the parks illegal and punishable by a fine.

Environmental Commission:

The Environmental Commission will hold an Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Cultural Affairs:

A children's concert is scheduled for May and general concerts will be scheduled for the summer.

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Committee Reports Continued:

Councilwoman Orecchio

EMS:

Mrs. Orecchio reported being in receipt of the monthly report for March, Attachment "C".

Board of Education:

Mrs. Orecchio announced that NVOT has hired an interim superintendent and that Norwood Public School teachers are still working without a contract.

It was moved by Mrs. Orecchio to authorize the Borough Clerk to sign a Certificate of Business Registration for a driving academy that will be moving into one of the office buildings on Walnut. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rapaport and on the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted for the motion.

Councilman Scott

Construction Department:

The March Construction Fee Log was submitted for the record, Attachment "D".

Library:

Mr. Scott announced that invitations will be sent for the grand opening celebration of the lower level in the near future.

Councilman Rapaport:

Police Department:

Mr. Rapaport presented the Police Department Monthly Report for the record (Attachment "E"). Mr. Rapaport announced that Sgt. Thomas Eilinger recently retired from the police force and that the Chief has begun the process of looking for a replacement.

Planning Board:

Mr. Rapaport reported that the Planning Board is working on a RFQ for a planner to complete a Master Plan Revision.

Councilman Ascolese:

Department of Public Works:

Mr. Ascolese submitted the Road Department's monthly report for the record, Attachment "F". He commended the Department for continuing to complete their duties after the fire in which they lost more than ½ of their equipment. A conversation took place regarding the purchase of Mack "J" Hook Truck from HGAC, a national cooperative. Mr. Ascolese informed that after the price comparison was completed for the new Mack vs an International truck it was found that the Mack was \$1,400 cheaper. The rest of the equipment being ordered could be used on both vehicles. Mr. Alan Schrader, Superintendent, DPW addressed the governing body with his knowledge and experience regarding both of these brands. It was the consensus of the governing body to move forward with the purchase of the Mack.

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Committee Reports Continued:

Councilman Ascolese:

Department of Public Works:

It was moved by Mr. Ascolese, seconded by Mr. Rapaport to authorize Castleton Environmental to begin the clean-up from the fire. On the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted for the motion.

It was announced that there will be no "Mulch" delivery this year due to the fire, the DPW does not have the capability of making the mulch this year.

The Chipper Truck was not damaged in the fire and the DPW has been out chipping branches and brush.

Mr. Marino questioned the lack of progress on the construction at the old Cost Cutters site. Mayor Barsa explained that this is a private not public contract and is beyond the Borough's control.

General Public Comment:

It was moved by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Scott to open the meeting to the public for comment. All Council Members present voted for the motion.

Mrs. Phyllis Keyes, 401 D'Ercole Court complained about the trash that is being thrown from vehicles on McClellan Street. She also complained of the speeding on this road. She was informed that both complaints would be looked into and proper corrective measures would be taken.

Ms. Lisa Kurtz, 401 D'Ercole Court thanked the governing body for their time in researching the purchase of the new vehicle and equipment.

There being no other member of the public wishing to be heard, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Adjournment:

It was moved by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Rapaport to adjourn. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion and the meeting was adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk