

Borough of Norwood  
Work Session  
July 22, 2015

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 7:04 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 Star Ledger.

Present at Roll Call:

Mayor	James P. Barsa
Councilman	Tom Brizzolara
Councilwoman	Marianne Orecchio
Council President	Joseph Ascolese (7:35 PM)
Councilman	Allen Rapaport
Councilman	Barry Scott

Also Present:

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
Borough Engineer	Daniel Kaufman
DPW Superintendent	Alan Schrader
Chief Financial Officer	Judith Curran

Absent:

Councilman	Frank Marino
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At this time, Mrs. Orecchio advised that she read an article in the 201 Bergen magazine regarding Top Lawyers and Borough Attorney, Andrew T. Fede was listed as one of three from Archer & Greiner PC. She voiced her opinion that the Borough is very lucky to have him. The audience and Council offered a round of applause and congratulated him.

Mayor Barsa explained that due to the number of people in the audience he would deviate from the agenda and asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Scott and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

**General Public Comment:**

Mr. Charles Berta, 5 Windsor Court, addressed the Council as the spokesperson for the many area residents present this evening to discuss 6 Windsor Court. He reported that the condition of this property has been on a downward spiral for the past three plus years with no one living in it. Mr. Berta continued that the Police had been called since the back door was kicked in and the building was unsecure posing an unsafe environment for the neighborhood. He distributed a packet with pictures depicting the condition of the property voicing concern that the neighborhood property values are declining due to this structure. Mr. Berta explained that a landscaping service visited the property recently, July 17, 2015, but did not remove all the leaves and, in fact, blew them onto other lawns. He also noted that there is a discrepancy on the tax map that he just discussed with the Tax Assessor. In conclusion, Mr. Berta asked the governing body to intervene to get this property cleaned up.

Mayor Bara asked the DPW Superintendent to secure the building. He advised that he would contact the Property Maintenance Officer to inspect the property and issue any appropriate summonses and that the Police Department would be directed to pay extra attention to this house when making their rounds. Mr. Brizzolara complimented the residents for taking pride in their neighborhood and all Council Members agreed.

At this time Mayor Barsa recognized Dominick Congiusti, President of Norwood Fire Co. No. 1. Mr. Congiusti reported that at last evening's meeting of the Fire Department the decision was made that the Department would not be attending Norwood Day 2015. He continued that Mr. Brizzolara, Liaison to the Department was present at this meeting. Mr. Congiusti explained his understanding that since a merchant requested to sell hot dogs during Norwood Day, the Fire Department was asked to serve hamburgers rather than the usual hot dogs. Mayor Barsa advised that this was not his recollection of the conversation he had with a member of the Department.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Rapaport moved that the Mayor and Council endorse the Norwood Fire Department's giving away free hot dogs and soda on Norwood Day without regard to anyone else. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott with all Council Members present voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Congiusti explained that the First Department has two spokesmen, the President and the Chief. He voiced his opinion that members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Chair and attorney for an applicant have shown disrespect to them and have ignored their findings with recent applications, namely, the Daibes, D'Ercole Farms and 445 Livingston Street projects. He also complained about the 200 ft. notification process. Although the Fire Company owns the gas station and leases it to Cumberland Farms, according to the Tax Assessor, Cumberland Farms pays the taxes and is the property owner who receives the notification.

Following a lengthy dissertation by Mr. Congiusti concerning the actions of the Zoning Board of Adjustment toward the representatives of the Fire Department, Mayor Barsa advised that a meeting would be scheduled on August 6, 2015 at 6:30 PM before the regular Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting with its Chair and Vice Chair, Mrs. Orecchio, Liaison to the Board, Fire Department President and/or Chief and Mr. Brizzolara, Liaison to the Fire Department, to discuss the Fire Department's grievances with the Board.

Mr. Bill Sposa, 935 Broadway, explained that he attended some of the meetings and recommended that individuals with more background in the construction area be appointed to this Board.

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

**Adoption of Resolution 15:137 Approving Capital Budget Amendment** – Mayor Barsa stated he would entertain a motion to adopt Resolution 15:137. The motion was made by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Brizzolara. On the roll call vote:

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution 15:137 was adopted.

#### **Introduction of Bond Ordinance 15:10**

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

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORWOOD, IN THE 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 APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS

**Introduction of Bond Ordinance 15:10 (cont'd)**

Mayor Barsa stated he would entertain a motion to approve Resolution 15:138 authorizing introduction of Bond Ordinance 15:10. The motion was made by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Ascolese. On the roll call vote:

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays Bond Ordinance 15:10 was approved on first reading. The Public Hearing on this ordinance will be Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

**Approval of Resolution 15:139 Accepting the Retirement of Police Officer Thomas Russo and Terminal Leave Compensation Conditioned upon the Execution of a Retirement Agreement** – Mayor Barsa stated he would entertain a motion to approve Resolution 15:139. The motion was made by Mr. Rapaport, seconded by Mr. Ascolese and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

**Items for Discussion:**

Review proposed ordinance for a Zoning change regarding One-Family Detached Residences – Motion to introduce this ordinance at the August 12, 2015 Public Meeting was made by Mr. Brizzolara. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rapaport with all Council Members present voting in the affirmative.

Letter dated from Norwood Public Library requesting the use of Library grounds to hold a White Elephant Sale on Saturday, October 17, 2015 – Motion to approve this request was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Brizzolara and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Grant Applications – suggested projects – Mr. Scott once again recommended the construction of tennis courts across the street as well as the creation of an ice skating rink on a portion of the field during the winter months. He suggested that Haworth Councilman Volpe be contacted for guidance.

Proposal from Field Pro for the Little League field infield repair/sod & clay repair. Cost to be paid by Norwood Baseball. – It was noted that this letter was addressed to a member of the DPW and that the vendor should address it to Norwood Baseball before it is given consideration by the Council.

Fire Department request to conduct a training on Kennedy Field with the landing of a helicopter from Hackensack University Medical Center – Mr. Gaspari of the Fire Department explained this activity to the Council and it was the consensus of the Council to approve their request.

Borough Engineer's Report – Mr. Kaufman reported as follows:

Livingston Street Phase II – the DOT made two minor comments that have been addressed and approval should be received within the next week.

Jay Street – vegetation has died and will have to be replaced in the fall.

DPW Garage – the gas service along with the electrical service should be installed next week. As far as water service, United Water would not relent and forced the Borough to install a hot box. Mr. Rapaport questioned ramifications should the Borough exceed the 20% contingency on the Bond Ordinance. Mr. Fede advised since this is the first he has heard of this possibility he would speak with the Clerk/Administrator when she returns from vacation. Mr. Ascolese questioned the garage doors and was informed by Mr. Kaufman that bollards are in the original plan.

Borough Attorney's Report – Mr. Fede reported as follows:

Starting Anew, et.al. Developer's Agreement – request was made by the developer for the Borough to issue a letter to Rockland Electric Company confirming that the Borough will maintain and pay the utility charges for any lights poles installed by the developer conforming to the plan. Accordingly, he prepared a resolution for review and approval this evening (Resolution 15:140). With no objections voiced, motion to approve Resolution 15:140 authorizing the Borough Clerk to send a letter to Rockland Electric Company along with a copy of this resolution was made by Mr. Rapaport. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ascolese with all Council Members present voting aye.

**Closed Session:**

At 8:45 PM motion approving Resolution 15:141 authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session to discuss proposal for a contract and personnel issues concerning the Fireworks was made by Mrs. Orecchio. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott and declared carried by all Council Members present.

Mayor Barsa reconvened the meeting at 9:10 PM.

Motion was made by Mr. Brizzolara to hire James Carullo, Michael Gibaldi and Salvador Saavedra as part-time temporary laborers for the Department of Public Works at a salary of \$15.00 per hour for 25 hours per week beginning Monday, July 27, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rapaport with all Council Members present voting aye.

At this time Mr. Scott advised that before proceeding in Closed Session he had a discussion with Dominick Congiusti who agreed to revisit the Fire Department's participation in Norwood Day with the membership.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn at 9:15 PM was made by Mr. Ascolese, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted,



Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC  
Administrator/Clerk