

**BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
OF MARCH 21, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER AT 7:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

MAYOR BARSА STATED:

Adequate notice of this meeting was given to the press and posted as required. Date and time of this meeting was legally given as required by the "Open Public Meetings Act". This notice is on file with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the bulletin board. Minutes of this meeting will be made available to the public upon completion of typing and proofreading by the Municipal Clerk.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mayor	James Barsa
Councilman	Tom Brizzolara
Council President	Barry Scott
Councilman	Anthony Guercio
Councilwoman	Dolores Senatore
Councilman	Ed Condoleo (Arrived 7:55p.m.)

ABSENT:

Councilman	Michael Knigin
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ALSO PRESENT:

CFO/Treasurer	Maureen Neville
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CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2007

Mayor Barsa explained that the Budget does not have to provide for the 5% down payment since there are sufficient funds in the capital improvement fund to cover down payment required for bonding purposes. Mayor Barsa informed the Council that he and Council President Scott along with Mr. DiRese, Superintendent DPW inspected the Borough roads and recommended that Dwars Kill Lane and Ridge Road, Chaffee

Page 2

Special Budget Meeting-Mayor and Council- March 21, 2007

Circle, White Court, Maple and Chestnut Streets and Hudson Avenue be paved in this year's road program. Maple and Chestnut Streets join to form a horseshoe and only that section will be paved. The entrance to both streets is newly paved. Hudson Avenue will be paved to Westy Storage which is approximately 350'. Based upon the engineering estimates supplied by Neglia Engineering, the Council agreed to fund \$800,000 in this year's capital budget for the road program. The Borough will discuss with the Borough Engineer as to which streets, if any will be done as part of the Riverside Cooperative Program. A discussion took place regarding the speed humps on Summit Street. It was the consensus of the Council to put \$27,000 in the capital budget for this purpose. After a lengthy discussion the following items were placed in the Capital Budget:

1. 2007 Road Program - \$800,000
2. Flag Football Field - \$47,500
3. Summit Street (traffic bumps/lights) - \$27,000
4. FD/EMS Equipment - \$68,500
5. DPW Equipment - \$68,000
6. War Memorial - \$125,000
7. Court Security and Securing Municipal Buildings will be taken from last year's capital ordinance

Mayor Barsa informed that it was the recommendation of Mr. Steven Wielkocz, Borough Auditor, that the Council use 1 Million of surplus money instead of the 1.1 Million proposed by the Finance Committee. Mayor Barsa explained Mr. Wielkocz reasons. A discussion ensued regarding the increase in revenues from new construction and the impact it has on the Borough's surplus. Ms. Neville explained that the added assessments cannot be anticipated and automatically roll into surplus. Councilman Brizzolara suggested that only \$900,000 be used and that items in the budget be cut to reduce spending. After discussion, the Council agreed to review possibly changing the amount of surplus to be used in the 2007 budget. Councilman Brizzolara requested that the Council review the budget for areas of spending that could be decreased so that less surplus could be used. Ms. Neville said that she felt the budget was already tight and that no further cuts could be taken.

Salary Increase Review:

Councilman Condoleo reviewed the proposed salary increases. The full time employees will receive a 3% increase and the part-time employees a 1.5% increase. A 1% merit raise will be offered with Mayor and Council approval. Councilman Scott compared the State Employees recent contract with the Borough Hall staff. A discussion took place regarding the salary of state workers vs. local employees. Ms. Neville explained that the cost of an additional 1% increase would be \$8,000. Councilman Brizzolara asked the Council to consider the increase to 4% for the municipal employees to show appreciation for their hard work and dedication. A discussion took place regarding how the merit raise would be distributed. Councilman Guercio recommended that all employees receive a 3% raise and 1% in a cash bonus. Councilman Guercio explained that the 1% would not be part of the base pay and would not compound yearly. Councilman Scott said he would like to see the employees contribute to their medical benefits like the state employees do. The consensus of the Council was to give the employees the 3% and 1.5% increases.

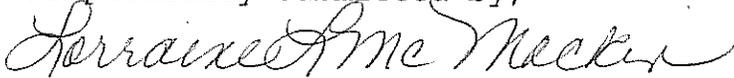
Mayor Barsa asked the Council if there were any other items in the budget that they would like to address. Councilman Brizzolara questioned the Police Budget and whether promotions are reflected in the budget. He was informed that the Chief had made provisions for 2 additional Sergeants. A discussion took place regarding the promotion process and testing procedures. Councilman Guercio said that he had spoken with the Chief prior to the meeting regarding the police overtime spent in 2006. Councilman Guercio informed that Chief Krapels told him that much of the overtime was due to utility work done by outside vendors. The Council discussed ways to anticipate overtime by outside vendors and came to no viable conclusion. Councilman Guercio reviewed the Police Departments O/E requests for 2007 with explanations regarding the increases. Councilman Brizzolara asked if the Police Department's budget could be cut to reduce taxes. After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Senatore was asked to discuss the department's budget with Chief Krapels and

Page 4

Special Budget Meeting-Mayor and Council- March 21, 2007

report back to the Council. Mayor Barsa asked the Council if there were any other areas in the budget that they wanted to address. The Council had no other questions. Mayor Barsa informed the Council that the budget would be introduced Wednesday, March 28th with the budget hearing set for Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. There being no additional business, it was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Scott to adjourn the meeting. All Council Members present were in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Lorraine McMackin, RMC, CMC
Municipal Clerk