

Borough of Norwood
Work Session Meeting
May 16, 2007

CALL TO ORDER AT 8:05 PM

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mayor	James Barsa
Councilman	Tom Brizzolara
Councilman	Michael Knigin
Council President	Barry Scott
Councilman	Edward Condoleo

ABSENT:

Councilman	Anthony Guercio
Councilwoman	Dolores Senatore

ALSO PRESENT:

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
Borough Engineer	Christopher Taverna
Chief of Police	Jeffrey Krapels

Mayor Barsa convened the meeting at 8:05 PM and asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Knigin and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Mr. Mitch Rosenthal, 50 Adams Street, introduced Mr. Bill Evans a Harrington Park resident, who previously was a forty-year resident of Norwood and who was very active on the senior housing committee for Fox Hill.

Mr. Bill Evans, explained that he is still active in the Norwood community and that it took nine and one-half years for Fox Hill to open and house Norwood seniors. He noted that any efforts to construct another senior housing unit must be a bi-partisan one in order to succeed and offered his help.

Mayor Barsa thanked Messrs. Rosenthal and Evans, advised he would gladly accept Mr. Evans' help and would form a senior housing committee in the near future.

Phyllis Key, 401 D'Ercole Court, advised that the majority of people living in Fox Hill are not originally from Norwood.

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

Approval of resolution 07:04 Rejection Bids for the 2006 CDBG Handicap Ramp Improvements Contract and Authorizing Re-bidding:

Motion to approve Resolution 07:04 was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Knigin.

Before roll call vote, Mr. Brizzolara asked the Borough Attorney to explain the reason for the rejection. Mr. Fede advised that the three lowest bidders did not submit the financial statements required by the specifications. The fourth bidder did not submit a certified financial statement and the bid amount was over the approved amount. Both Messrs. Condoleo and Knigin questioned whether the specifications could be changed to delete this requirement, and Mr. Fede voiced his opinion that it could but will discuss it with the Borough Engineer. On the roll call:

Ayes: Brizzolara, Knigin, Scott and Condoleo
Nays: None
Absent: Guercio and Senatore

Items for Discussion:

Neglia Proposal for Summit Street Traffic Calming Evaluation – Mayor Barsa expressed his feelings that the cost was too high (\$13,000.00) and Mr. Brian Intidola of Neglia Engineering Associates, explained the labor intensiveness of the study, i.e., collection and compilation of data; preparation of a design to show existing conditions and what is hoped to be achieved; consultation with the NJDOT. He advised that the project could be funded from the capital budget or from discretionary aid.

Motion to approve the project was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Knigin.

Before roll call vote, the Borough Administrator/Clerk explained that the funding could come from the road improvement program only if the intersections were raised. She will also check with Bond Counsel to determine whether the surveying of Fox Hill could be put into the capital budget. Mrs. McMackin also offered to take \$7,500 from the Administration budget to help cover the cost. Mr. Brizzolara suggested that this project be funded from the Police Department budget.

Mr. Scott amended his motion authorizing the project contingent upon the availability of funds. The amended motion was seconded by Mr. Knigin and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Review of 2007 Road Improvement Program and Engineering Estimates - since there was discrepancy concerning the engineering estimates for Dwars Kill Lane, Ridge Road, White Court, Park Court, and Chaffee Circle and numbers for the Riverside Cooperative road program will not be received until after the bid date, this item will be discussed at the next Work Session to be held on May 30, 2007.

Tappan and Hudson Avenue Development – Conditions of Planning Board Approval – Mr. Fede explained that the terms of the Developer's Agreement run with the land; therefore, the new contractor is held to this agreement. He advised that the Borough is well within its rights to enforce the conditions of the Developer's Agreement and he recommended that he be authorized to send a strong letter to the Developer advising that legal action will be taken if the conditions are not remedied. Motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Knigin authorizing the Borough Attorney to do so.

Before Roll Call Vote, Mr. Brizzolara asked that an effected resident Mr. Ludwig, address the Council. Mr. Ludwig explained that even though three additional seepage pits were installed, his backyard as well as that of his neighbor, Mr. Keating, experienced severe flooding. On the roll call:

Ayes: Brizzolara, Knigin, Scott and Condoleo

Nays: None

Absent: Guercio and Senatore

At this time, Mr. Taverna reported that during the paving and milling of Broad Street a huge hole was uncovered above the culvert alongside grating and that the culvert itself is in need of repair. He distributed pictures explaining that a 4x 8 metal plate was used to cover the hole and was secured by paving around the edges. Mr. Taverna advised that the County will be contacted to make an inspection and speculated that the culvert may have been modified by the County. He will keep the Council informed.

Preliminary Engineering Agreement for the installation of Wayside Horns at Blanche Avenue and Broadway from CSX Railroad - Mr. Taverna referred to the agreement requiring \$22,500 in order for CSX to proceed. There was discussion concerning the fact that only \$100,000 has been bonded to cover the installation of the horns at the two intersections. Mr. Knigin suggested that the \$22,500 be taken from the \$100,000 and that additional money can then be bonded for the actual installation next year and no objections were voiced. Therefore, motion was made by Mr. Knigin that the Agreement with CSX be executed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brizzolara with all Council Members present voting aye. Mr. Fede was authorized to prepare a formal Resolution authorizing the execution of this Agreement for the June 6, 2007 Public Meeting.

Flooding Problems – Kensington and Meadow Lane – Mayor Barsa explained that he and Mr. Neglia made an inspection of this area and that the drainage easement runs the length of 5 Meadow Lane. He advised that Mr. Neglia will provide his recommendations regarding the flooding problems experienced at Kensington Avenue, Blanche Avenue, Meadow Lane, Piermont Road and Mohawk Avenue for further discussion at the May 30, 2007 Work Session. He will also ask that Mr. Neglia revisit the flooding at Hudson Avenue and Livingston Street.

Review and Approval of Central Woods Trail Sign – Mr. Scott asked whether a revised estimate was prepared and Mr. Brian Hamilton of H6 Innovations explained that in order to lower the cost, the quality of the sign would have to be reduced. Mr. Scott noted that the \$600.00 installation cost could be eliminated from the estimate since the DPW could install the sign as well as the \$299 tax amount as the Borough is tax exempt. Motion to accept the proposal minus the \$899.00 was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Knigin and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Complaint from Norwood Public School regarding “No Left Turns” during school hours re: 4/27/2007 letter from Chief Krapels - Chief Krapels reported that there was dissatisfaction with the new ordinance by school officials and that in the spirit of compromise, he recommends that the ordinance be amended to read “when children are present”. After a brief discussion, Mayor Barsa asked that Mr. Knigin invite a representative from the Board of Education to address the governing body regarding this matter.

Chief Krapels' Request to Remove Stop Sign on Garnett Place – Chief Krapels provided the Mayor and Council with the history of this request to remove the stop sign on Meadow Lane eastbound and install a stop sign on Garnett Place where it intersects with Meadow Lane. He explained that this action would permit Meadow Lane to be a through street from both directions and that the “right-of-way” would be removed from Garnett Place. After a brief discussion, the motion was made by Mr. Condoleo and seconded by Mr. Knigin that the Borough Attorney be authorized to prepare an ordinance according to Chief Krapels' request for review at the May 30, 2007 Work Session. The motion was declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

At 9:35 PM, Mayor Barsa declared a five-minute recess. Mayor Barsa reconvened the meeting at 9:40 PM.

Tree City USA Application – Christine Hageman advised that all requirements of the application have been met with the exception of the annual budget of at least \$2.00 per capita or \$13,000.00. She noted that the Borough already has a budget for the cutting and trimming of trees, and the Borough Administrator reminded that this line item is for \$4,500.00. Mr. Scott voiced his opinion that the remainder of the funds could be documented in the DPW budget, i.e. purchase and upkeep of chain saws, manpower cost of brush pick-up, etc. Mrs. McMackin will ask the DPW Superintendent to provide these costs for discussion at the next Work Session.

Swim Club request to construct an extension to the Snack Hut - Mayor Barsa introduced Mr. Al Hess, trustee of the Norwood Swim Club. Mr. Hess showed a sketch of the proposed expansion to the snack bar advising that the Swim Club alone would be responsible to cover the cost of approximately \$80,000.00. It was explained that although the Swim Club leases the land from the Borough, permits would have to be taken out, but the fees would be waived. Upon the advice of the Borough Attorney, a Resolution approving the expansion and the waiving of permit fees will be prepared for the June 6, 2007 Public Meeting.

The Sinai School request to use Kennedy Park as a rest stop for riders during their first annual Sinai Bike-a-thon on Sunday, June 10, 2007 - Following a brief discussion, motion of approval was made by Mr. Condoleo and seconded by Mr. Scott. Before roll call vote, Chief Al Hess, expressed some safety concerns and was advised by the Administrator/ Clerk that he would be sent all pertinent contact information. On the motion, all Council Members present voted aye.

Request from Spartan Baseball Summer Camp to use the fields at Kenney Park -

Although it was recommended by the Recreation Committee that the fee charged be \$75.00 per day, the Borough Attorney agreed with the Administrator/Clerk that the current ordinance setting the fee at \$50.00 would have to be amended. Motion approving the request was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present. Motion authorizing the Borough Attorney to prepare an ordinance amending the fees for discussion at the May 30, 2007 Work Session was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Knigin and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Request from NVC Express to use baseball fields on 5/24 and/or 5/31 – Mrs. McMackin advised that she did not hear from the Recreation Director whether either of these dates was acceptable. Upon confirmation that this organization had previously used the fields and complied with all requirements, motion approving the request at \$50.00 per day, pending Recreation approval was made by Mr. Knigin. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Fire Department request to appoint Jason Sheppard as an Explorer – Motion authorizing the Resolution of appointment to be prepared and placed on the June 6, 2007 Public Meeting agenda was made by Mr. Knigin and seconded by Mr. Brizzolara with all Council Members present voting aye.

Borough Attorney Report - Mr. Fede advised that he would provide his report in the Executive Session.

Borough Administrator Report – Mrs. McMackin reminded that the Memorial Day Parade would be held on Monday, May 28, 2007 and that all should be at Norwood Public School at 10:30 AM with kick-off at 11:00 AM. She reported the Riverside Cooperative has gone out to bid for the road program and that she would report the results. Mrs. McMackin informed that she has had preliminary interviews for the replacement of the part-time Finance Clerk and that there are excellent candidates.

At this time, Mr. Knigin referred to the Tobar report regarding the compost facility operation and voiced his opinion that it is time to revisit this contract. Mrs. McMackin urged all members of the governing body to visit this operation.

Mr. Knigin informed that the Borough of Northvale is currently in the process of adopting a new ordinance regarding a Special Improvement District (SID) (Paris Avenue and Livingston Street) whereby property owners pay into the district to make improvements in return for services. He applauded this very aggressive maneuver to upgrade their commercial district and voiced his opinion that the governing body pay attention since this may be an avenue for Norwood to follow.

A motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Mr. Allen Rapaport, 844 Hemlock Court, voiced his agreement with Mr. Knigin that the Borough's contract with Tobar should be re-examined and that there should be investigation as to what others are offering and what other Boroughs are doing.

Mr. Al Hess, 905 Broadway, thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing Borough employees to respond to emergencies while they are on duty.

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

Motion to adopt Resolution 07:95 authorizing the Mayor and Council to convene into closed session to discuss March 29, 2007 letter from Norwood DPW Association regarding Grievance filed 12/18/2006 and subsequent Mayor and Council Resolution and Tax Appeals was made by Mr. Brizzolara. The motion was seconded by Mr. Condoleo with all Council Members present voting aye.

At 10:25 PM, Mayor Barsa declared a five-minute recess before proceeding in Closed Session.

Mayor Barsa reconvened the meeting at 11:06 PM and asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted,



Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC

Administrator/Clerk