

Borough of Norwood  
Work Session Meeting  
May 30, 2007

CALL TO ORDER AT 8:06 PM

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:**

Mayor	James Barsa
Councilman	Tom Brizzolara
Council President	Barry Scott
Councilman	Anthony Guercio
Councilman	Edward Condoleo

**ABSENT:**

Councilwoman	Dolores Senatore
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**ALSO PRESENT:**

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
Borough Engineer	Michael J. Neglia
	Christopher Taverna
	Matt Knowles

Mayor Barsa convened the meeting at 8:06 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. Brizzolara and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

No one wishing to be heard, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Scott. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

**Items for Discussion:**

Subdivision Approval of Tappan Road Associates, Block 121, Lots 1.01, 1.02, 1.03 and 1.04, Norwood, N.J. re letter from Andrew Fede dated ay 21, 2007 – Chris Taverna, Borough Engineer advised that the revised grading plan with calculations and the revised curbing plans with catch basins will be reviewed by the end of the week. Mr. Fede reported that the Borough Engineer and the Developer's Engineer are now working together and that there is action in the right direction.

2007-2008 Snow Plowing Agreement with Bergen County – Mr. Scott confirmed with the Administrator/Clerk that this agreement is the same as in previous years. Motion to place a resolution authorizing the execution of this agreement was made by Mr. Condoleo, seconded by Mr. Guercio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Letter dated May 9, 2007 from Mark D. Madaio, Esq. re Acquisition of Property Located in Norwood and Old Tappan. 215 White Avenue, Old Tappan, New Jersey – Mr. Fede explained that the letter is unclear as to the reason for the request to purchase this parcel from the Borough. Mr. Scott noted that it is slated for conservation, and Mr. Guercio voiced his opinion that the Borough is not in the business of selling property. Mr. Fede further explained that the property would have to be appraised by a Borough appointed appraiser and that the cost would have to be absorbed by the prospective buyer. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that the Borough Attorney be authorized to contact Mr. Madaio to determine his client's plans for the property and to extend the invitation to discuss the matter at the June 13, 2007 Work Session.

Discussion on Resolution 07:88 requesting NJ transit to Provide Bus Service - Mr. Condoleo suggested that this resolution also include support of light rail service, and the Administrator/Clerk recommended a separate Resolution be prepared.

Review of the following Proposed Ordinances:

1. Amending Chapter 222 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood Regulating Vehicles and Traffic to modify the Stop Intersection at Meadow Lane and Garnett Place – It was the consensus of the Council that this ordinance be introduced at the June 6, 2007 Public Meeting.
2. Amending Chapter 222 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood Regulating Vehicles and Traffic to Regulate Left Turns on or Near Summit Street – Mr. Scott again voiced his opinion that the phrase “while children are present” is too vague and asked that this ordinance remain as is. Mayor Barsa recommended that the ordinance be tabled until the Board of Education Liaison, Mr. Knigin, has a chance to speak with them.
3. Amending Chapter 168 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood Establishing Fees for Recreational Programs - Following a brief discussion regarding the increase of the fee to use a municipal field from \$50.00 per day to \$75.00 per day, it was the consensus of the Council that this ordinance be introduced at the June 6, 2007 Public Meeting.

Discussion regarding the Compost Facility and commercial dumping of wood chips - Mayor Barsa explained that a landscaping company was found dumping grass clippings at the compost facility and that since it was the company of a Borough employee, the employee was suspended for one day for this action. He also explained that it was reported that tree companies are also dumping wood chips. Mrs. McMackin reported that the DPW permits tree services to dump since the chips are ground into mulch by the DPW to give to residents free-of-charge and the mulch is sold to landscaping companies. However, there is a question as to whether the amount of chips stored at the facility is exceeding the limits of the DEP permit. There was discussion as to whether the tree services should be charged for dumping and whether the man-hours expended to grind the chips merits the monetary return for the sale of mulch. Mr. Guercio will discuss this matter with the DPW Superintendent.

Sale of Alcoholic Beverages on Sunday – Mrs. McMackin explained receiving a complaint that one of the liquor licensees is serving alcoholic beverages beginning at 11:00 AM at a brunch on Sunday. She further explained that the Borough ordinance states that alcohol can not be served before 12:15 PM and that she confirmed with the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control that the time set is strictly by local ordinance. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that the ordinance remain and that the Borough Clerk send a letter to all liquor licensees reminding them that it is prohibitive to serve, sell or dispense alcohol before 12:15 PM on Sundays.

Finalization of Capital Budget – It was decided that the Borough Clerk would provide a list of the items and projects to be included in the Capital Budget, i.e., making the road program \$960,000.00; \$70,000 for the ambulance, \$10,000.00 for turnout gear and \$5,000 for radios; \$125,000 for the war monument. The list will be reviewed by the governing body and then Bond Counsel will be asked to prepare the Bond Ordinance.

Borough Engineer Report:

Summit Street, High Street, Hudson Avenue and Rockland Avenue Traffic Analysis – Mr. Taverna reported that Borough approval is being awaited to analyze the data collected from the traffic surveys for these streets. Mayor Barsa advised that the Financial Committee will have to make a determination that funds are available for this project.

2007 Road Program – Mr. Taverna distributed estimates for Dwars Kill Lane and Ridge Road, Chaffee Circle and White Court.

Page 4

Mayor and Council Work Session Minutes – May 30, 2007

Kennedy Park War Memorial - Borough approval is being awaited for the engineering proposal submitted for this project.

Livingston Street Beautification – County approval is being awaited for the narrowing of the roadway.

Broad Street Beautification - the culvert was temporarily repaired and the County has been informed that further remediation is necessary.

CDBG Handicap Accessible Ramps – the project had to be re-bid since the specifications were not adhered to.

Central Woods Paper Streets – Neglia Engineering survey department suggested a precise metes and bounds description. Mr. Fede explained that he used a general description from the tax map when he prepared the ordinances to vacate these papers streets. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to stay with the general description.

At 9:00 P.M., Mayor Barsa declared a five-minute recess.

Mayor Barsa reconvened the meeting at 9:10 P.M.

Borough Engineer Report continued:

Blanche and Kensington Avenue Drainage - the various drainage complaints along Blanche and Kensington Avenue were investigated and recommendations were provided.

Borough Attorney Report:

Mr. Fede reported that the resolution regarding the in-rem tax foreclosures has been prepared for approval at the June 6, 2007 Public Meeting.

Borough Administrator Report:

Mrs. McMackin provided a synopsis regarding a seminar she attended concerning the pension system and state health benefits program.

Pension: Due to the shortfall in the PFRS, PERS and Teachers' Pensions, as of April 3, 2007, the State can no longer take a holiday from making payments into the pension system. This year there may be a 2% increase in assets from last year and the State has committed to adding \$1,000,000,000 into the system and will continue to do so until the liability is no longer greater than the assets.

Elected officials can no longer be enrolled in PERS; and certain appointed officials will no longer be enrolled in PERS.

Health

Benefits: Employers may negotiate a percentage or a flat rate that employees contribute to health benefits. For non-aligned employees, the employer may implement contributions at a flat rate or a percentage.

The State has advertised for Request for Proposals for a PPO. It is the plan to implement a PPO this year and discontinue with the Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield Traditional and New Jersey Plus plans.

Mrs. McMackin explained that there is a problem with "equal or better" and recommended that the Council begin discussions with the unions now to advise them what the state is planning.

Mrs. McMackin further explained that beginning in 2009 the State will require municipalities to demonstrate how they plan to fund retirees' health benefits by way of a savings plan. The municipalities will have to engage an actuary every two years to provide the actual numbers.

Mr. Condoleo asked that the Chief Financial Officer provide a report as to how the Borough will fund these benefits.

In conclusion, it was the consensus of the Council that policy changes regarding health benefits for both current employees and retirees will have to be addressed in the very near future.

At this time, Mayor Barsa asked if any Council Member wished to discuss any item.

Mr. Brizzolara referred to recommendation from the Planning Board that the following be deleted from the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 233-32B:

“All parking spaces provided for business uses in this section may be located on a lot within 200 feet of the premises of the building they are intended to serve.”

Mr. Brizzolara explained that this recommendation arose from the application for a Livingston Street restaurant that planned to use parking spaces at Galaxy Real Estate and Cost Cutters. Although the application was withdrawn, he voiced his opinion that the Planning Board made this recommendation for the future protection of residential areas. Therefore, a motion to authorize the Borough Attorney to prepare an ordinance amending Chapter 233-32B for introduction at the June 6, 2007 Public Meeting was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Guercio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Mr. Brizzolara recommended that a joint Planning Board, Governing Body and Beautification Committee meeting be scheduled to discuss the downtown area. Mayor Barsa reminded that the Borough is still awaiting word from the County as to the narrowing of Livingston Street.

Mr. Neglia voiced his opinion that the previous action taken by the Council to amend Chapter 233-32B limits the downtown area to only businesses that can adhere to these strict parking regulations. He strongly advised that it be decided what businesses would be acceptable in the downtown area and then encourage or discourage their existence according to the zoning ordinance. He recommended that a committee be formed consisting of representatives from the Governing body, Planning Board, Zoning Board, resident population and Planner to achieve this.

Mr. Guercio noted that there are five autos at the Gulf Station that have for sale signs on them and asked that the Zoning Official make an investigation. There was also discussion regarding the Cumberland Farms application and those areas that are still unresolved, i.e. the columns. Mr. Neglia explained that the columns are not part of the bonded improvements. Mr. Fede advised that the Planning Board can not enforce its resolutions, that it is up to the governing body to do so and that the governing body then has to decide whether the Borough Attorney should be authorized to file suit.

After further discussion, Mr. Neglia offered to provide his Cumberland Farms file to the Borough Attorney. A motion authorizing the Borough Attorney to review the Planning Board Resolution and determine whether the Borough can file suit against the Developer for lack of compliance was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

General Public Comment:

A motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Condoleo and seconded by Mr. Guercio. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Murray Bass, 331 Piermont Road, referred to the need for repair of the walkway on Broadway from Northwoods to Piermont Road. Mr. Neglia explained that a “Safe Streets to School” grant was received but that the Borough had to give it up since the walkway designed had to be at least 8 ft. and three residents objected since trees were to be removed and a portion of their lawn areas would be lost. Mr. Bass asked if the pot holes could be filled and Mr. Guercio will discuss this with the DPW Superintendent. Mr. Neglia also recommended that the paving of this walking path be added as an Alternate to the 2007 Road Improvement Program.

Stuart Brandt, 101 Aspen Court, reported observing small pickup trucks entering the compost facility Sundays when it should be closed and voiced his understanding that it is opened from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM weekdays. Mrs. McMackin explained that Tobar sells topsoil and does not know if this is what was going on. Mayor Barsa asked that a meeting be arranged with Tobar and the DPW to review the rules and regulations for the operation of the compost facility.

Murray Bass, 331 Piermont Road, confirmed that the emergency services would be present at the June 6, 2007 Public Meeting at Fox Hill Manor to discuss the evacuation plan for the complex.

George Hertzberg, 24 Carter Street, commended the professional manner in which all reports were given this evening, especially the information that was provided by the Administrator/Clerk. He questioned whether it was possible for the State to contract out for actuary services rather than the individual municipalities paying for one. Mrs. McMackin explained that it was discussed to build the cost for an actuary into the annual Joint Insurance Fund contract.

Mr. Hertzberg asked for clarification concerning a presentation made by Mayor Barsa to the Norwood Senior Citizen Club. Mayor Barsa explained that he solicited the help of the members of the Senior Club in locating land for the construction of an additional senior complex. He advised that two lists are being kept in the Clerk's office—one for volunteers to serve on a Senior Housing Committee and the other for Norwood residents or the relatives of Norwood residents who are interested in senior housing.

Mr. Brizzolara suggested that a member of the Environmental Commission be included in the Senior Housing Committee to locate land suitable for construction of another senior complex.

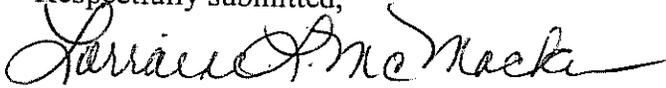
Mr. Hertzberg also noted that he found it very hard to follow the meeting due to the cross conversations at the table and asked the Council to consider the needs of the public.

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

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 10:10 PM was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Condoleo. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,



Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC  
Administrator/Clerk