

Borough of Norwood
Work Session Minutes
April 25, 2018

The Work/Executive Session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Norwood was held on the above date.

Mayor Barsa called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

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 Barsa
Councilman	Paul Haberman
Councilman	Thomas Brizzolara
Council President	Joseph Ascolese
Councilman	John Rooney
Council	Barry Scott

Absent:

Councilman	Frank Marino
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Also Present:

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
Borough Engineers	Evan Jacobs
	Michael Neglia
Borough Tax Assessor	John Guercio
Assistant to the Tax Assessor	Robert Brescia

Mayor Barsa pointed out the fire exits.

Rockland Electric Presentation on the Installation of Data Collectors in conjunction with their Smart Meter Project:

Mayor Barsa invited Messrs. Mike Pinto and Andrew Howard and Ms. Siobhan Degroat from Rockland Electric Company to address the governing body on their request to install Data Collectors to be located on utility poles at 153 Tappan Road and 121 Piermont Road. Mr. Pinto provided the Mayor and Council with a handout, Attachment "A". He explained the purpose of the program is to install smart meters in the homes of all of the customers that are served by Rockland Electric. The two access points that are being requested are in areas of poor cellular coverage. The access points collect and transmit data. The benefits of the smart meters to the customer is that it will provide customers with energy management tools and features like high bill alerts, tips and weekly reports and will help the company to pinpoint power outages.

Rockland Electric Presentation Continued:

After an informative presentation, and several questions/concerns being addressed, it was the consensus of the governing body to move forward with this project. It was moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. Scott to permit the installation of the Data Collectors on utility poles at 153 Tappan Road and 121 Piermont Road and to authorize the Borough Attorney to prepare the agreement. On the roll call vote all Council Members voted for the motion with the exception of Mr. Brizzolara who abstained due to a conflict. Mrs. McMackin requested that the Company provide her office with the promotional information for posting on the Borough website.

Mayor Barsa acknowledged the Attorney, Mr. Robert Maloof and Engineer, Mr. Christopher Statile representing ZZ&T Realty LLC developers for 214 and 234 Tappan Road formerly the Jones property. Mayor Barsa requested that Mr. Fede update the governing body regarding the status of the developer's agreement. Mr. Fede informed that the one outstanding issue is maintenance of the stormwater detention facilities. Presently the plan calls for one of the facilities to lie in the Borough right-of-way. Mr. Fede has been working with Mr. Evans and the attorney and engineer for the project to find a viable solution for who will be responsible for the maintenance. One possible solution is to form a Home Owners Association that would be the responsible party. Mr. Fede's concern is if the Borough takes over the maintenance of the facilities do they have the right to go on private property. After a lengthy discussion on how to move forward, Mayor Barsa called for a motion to open the meeting to the public to address this issue only. It was moved by Mr. Haberman, seconded by Mr. Ascolese to open the meeting to the public. The motion carried on the affirmative vote of the members of the governing body.

Mr. Robert Maloof, attorney for the developer addressed some of his client's frustrations with the project, along with a brief synopsis of the project's history. Mr. Jacobs explained why the issues being addressed at this time are important in order for the project to move forward. Mr. Christopher Statile, engineer for the project suggested that the Borough consider a special needs assessment for the property owners. It was his opinion that with the special assessment, money would be left in escrow and the Borough would be the responsible party to maintain the two facilities. The governing body discussed the pros and cons of this concept. Following the discussion, Mr. Fede stated that some of the ideas presented seemed plausible but he would need to research whether the Borough could impose a special assessment on the property owners. He said he would be like to discuss this further with the governing body when they convene into closed session. Mr. Maloof asked if his clients could return following the closed session. Mayor Barsa informed that the meeting would be open to the public following the closed session but that a decision on the matter would not be made until further research was completed. There being no additional comments on this matter it was moved by Mr. Ascolese, seconded by Mr. Brizzolara to close the meeting to the public. On the roll call vote, all council members voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was closed to the public.

Items for Discussion

Requests for Clear Cutting at 64 Dearborn Road - Following discussion on the application it was moved by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Brizzolara to approve the application for clear cutting. On the roll call vote, all council members voted for the motion.

Requests for Clear Cutting at 376 Summit Street

Following discussion on the application it was moved by Mr. Ascolese, seconded by Mr. Brizzolara to approve the application for clear cutting. On the roll call vote, all council members voted for the motion.

Borough Engineer's Report – Mr. Jacobs discussed drainage issues that have created some minor flooding for a property owner in Northvale from the D'Ercole Farm Subdivision. Mr. Jacobs said he met with the developer and he is aware of the problem and has agreed to address it and make the necessary corrections. Mr. Evans stated that he had no further items to discuss in open session.

Borough Attorney's Report – Mr. Fede stated that the only matter he had for open session was the contract for the purchase of a new fire truck from Seagrave. Mr. Fede mailed a contract to the vendor on March 21 and received no response from the company. On April 19, 2018 Seagrave sent revisions to the original agreement that do not comply with the bid specifications. Mr. Fede will continue to work with the vendor to secure an agreement.

Administrator's Report – Mrs. McMackin reported that she filed a Declaration of Intent to apply for a Bergen County Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$100,000 for the demolition and reconstruction of the basketball court at Kennedy Field. The actual grant application is due June 18. The Borough is presently waiting to hear if they will receive the funding from last year's grant application for the lighting on the walking path. Mr. Jacobs said he would work with Mrs. McMackin on this application.

Mrs. McMackin reported that during the first quarter safety meeting attending by the Risk Manager and a representative from the JIF it was discussed that the Borough did not receive an award for 2017 because they failed to do motor vehicle checks on their employees and volunteers. Mrs. McMackin provided proof that the Borough did do the motor vehicle checks and the JIF awarded the Borough a Bronze Award.

Mrs. McMackin informed that she had an application for the annual New York Bike-A-Thon for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) that travels through Norwood and that Chief Krapels reviewed the application and has no objection to it being issued. The motion was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Rooney and declared carried on the affirmative vote of the majority of the Council Members to approve the Bike-A-thon. A resolution will be placed on the agenda for the May 8, 2018 Regular Meeting.

Ms. McMackin stated she had two field permit applications for Council approval.

Mr. Scott moved to approve the application for the Norwood Swim Club Softball Team, which was seconded by Mr. Brizzolara and carried by an affirmative vote of the Council Members.

Several council members requested additional information from the Northern Valley Knights, specifically the age range of the members, being unfamiliar with the organization. Mayor Barsa requested a motion to provisionally approve the North Valley Knights application, pending additional information being furnished to the Borough by the organization. Mr. Ascolese, seconded by Mr. Brizzolara to approve the application pending additional information. All Council Members present voted for the motion.

Public Discussion:

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the floor to the public. The motion was offered by Mr. Ascolese, seconded by Mr. Rooney with all Council Members voting aye.

Bob Urnst, from 12 Meadow Court, voiced his displeasure with a Borough sign ordinance that does not permit the placement of garage sale signs in the Borough right-of-way. Mayor Barsa explained that the governing body instituted this ordinance to keep the town clean. He said that many time signs are placed on the borough right-of-way and they remain there for months and they become unsightly. Mr. Urnst requested that the governing body reconsider the ordinance to permit the placement of garage sale signs.

Murry Bass, 331 Piermont Road, suggested the Borough create a section on the Borough website where residents could post flyers/advertisement for local events.

With no one else speaking, Mayor Bursa asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. Mr. Brizzolara offered the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ascolese and carried upon the affirmative majority of the Council.

Approval of Resolution 18:89 authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session to discuss tax appeals and contracts/developer's agreement and attorney client privilege.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve Resolution 18:89. The motion was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Ascolese and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Mayor Barsa reconvened the open session at 9:55 p.m.

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Approval of Resolution 18:90 authorizing settlement of the Tax Appeal of Eun Cho.

A motion was offered by Mr. Ascolese, being seconded by Mr. Brizzolara and carried by an affirmative vote of the Majority of the Council Members present.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 9:57 PM was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Brizzolara and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin
Administrator/Municipal Clerk