

Minutes, Mayor and Council Work Session – August 22, 2018
Work Session Meeting Minutes

Borough of Norwood
Work Session Minutes
August 22, 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 7:00 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	Frank Marino
Councilman	Paul Haberman
Councilman	Thomas Brizzolara
Council President	Joseph Ascolese
Councilman	John Rooney
Councilman	Barry Scott

Also Present:

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
Borough Engineers	Evan Jacobs
Borough CFO	Lubna Muneer

Mayor Barsa pointed out the fire exits.

Mayor Barsa asked if any of the Council Members felt any of the items on the Consent Agenda should be removed for discussion. No Council Members spoke.

Consent Agenda:

Matters listed below are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Council and one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member requests an item be removed.

- Resolution # 18-148 Payment of Vouchers
- Application for Block Party for Racquel Piero, 15 Helen Court, on Sept 15 from 11:00 AM- Sundown

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Consent Agenda:

Mayor Barsa suggested dropping the blockades for the Block Party on the Friday prior to the event.

Mr. Brizzolara offered a motion, with Mr. Rooney seconding and the entire governing body voting in the affirmative.

Ayes: Marino, Haberman, Brizzolara, Ascolese, Rooney and Scott
Nays: None

Items for Discussion:

- Finance Department Update

Mayor Barsa informed the Council Members that the Borough received four (4) bids for the Bond. He said that Morgan Stanley submitted the lowest rate of 2.568% locked in for ten years. He further said that Moody's cited the Borough's AA2 bond rating and sound fiscal shape for the low rate.

Mayor Barsa requested Councilman Rooney and the CFO/Treasurer to speak about the audit report. Ms. Muneer indicated a Power Point presentation was provided to the Council Members. Mayor Barsa indicated that copies of the presentation were available for public inspection.

Mr. Rooney informed on the audit report. He said the two areas the audit showed the Borough needed to focus on were: timely deposits and the split of developer's escrow interest in the construction department.

Ms. Muneer answered several questions asked by the Governing Body. Mayor Barsa praised the CFO/Treasurer on the thoroughness of her report. Finally the CFO indicated that moving forward a Bill List will be passed twice a month as a best practice to ensure our bills are paid in a timely fashion. All the Council Members present thought it was a good idea. Mr. Rooney suggested the Council Members come into the Borough Hall intermittently to sign vouchers, so they could focus on business at meetings. Mayor Barsa thanked Ms. Muneer for her hard work.

Mayor Barsa informed the Council Members about a request by Norwood Public School to extend their Grass Cutting agreement an additional month so the public school would be able to have additional time to go to bid. Several of the Council Members suggested finishing the duration of the season which would end in October.

Mr. Ascolese offered a motion, with Mr. Haberman seconding and a majority of the members present voting in favor of extending the agreement until the end of the season.

Items for Discussion Continued:

Mayor Barsa informed the Council Members that the Borough has received over \$26,000 for the Norwood Day Celebration at the end of September. He further stated it was impressive how much civic pride the residents and local businesses have for their community. He requested that the Deputy Clerk, Everett Falt, distribute a list of the donors to the Council Members.

- Approval of National Maintenance as Janitorial Services

Mayor Barsa informed on the status of the Janitorial Services quote. Mr. Krapels questioned whether or not the individuals working for the company were bonded and had adequate background checks in order to enter the Police Headquarters. Mr. Ascolese suggested having a set number of individuals that were dedicated exclusively to maintaining the police headquarters for safety/security reasons. Mr. Fede spoke about the details of the contract drafted thus far. Mayor Barsa suggested getting additional information before taking action at the September 12 Public Meeting of the Governing Body.

- Cho Dae Church Sidewalk (Invite to meet at September Work Session)

Mayor Barsa informed the Council Members that the church declined the Borough's invitation to come before the Governing Body to discuss installing a sidewalk in the Right-of-way. Mr. Scott suggested that property owners adjacent to the proposal should be provided the opportunity to present concerns and/or support. Mayor Barsa informed the neighboring sites in Norwood are commercial lots. Further he stated all the residential properties near the site were on the Northvale side of the border.

- Government Opioids Cost Recovery Program (Cn. Haberman)

Mr. Haberman invited Joseph Ciaccio and Salvatore Badala, attorneys from the Government Opioids Cost Recovery Program to speak. Mr. Ciaccio discussed the national epidemic, the goal of his organization and the impact it could have for Norwood. He further informed that there were no hard costs associated with joining the law suit. Several of the Council Members asked questions about the organization's motivations. Chief Krapels informed that the Borough, luckily, does not have a big problem with Opioid Abuse. Mr. Fede further stated that the crisis is going to be addressed sooner or later. Mr. Ciaccio stated that many of the manufacturers/distributors had already been found "guilty" and fined. He further stated that it was only a matter of time before an award would be determined and it was a great opportunity moving forward. Mayor Barsa suggested that additional research into quantifying the cost/benefit of joining the suit.

- Borough Clerk Report-

Ms. Borchers stated she had nothing to report.

- Borough Attorney Report

Mr. Fede stated he had nothing to report in open session.

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Items for Discussion continued:

- Borough Engineer Report

Mr. Jacobs stated that the DOT Municipal Aid Program deadline is October 8th. He said the grant opportunity was for Bikeways, Bridge preservation and Quality of Life (QOL) initiatives. He further stated he would like to submit two applications but that one would have to be a primary.

Mr. Jacobs informed on the Oak Street site stating that the monitoring wells would need to be maintained in the right-of-way which is not ideal but that work being done on street would make the project problematic. Mr. Fede stated he would prepare an agreement.

Mayor Barsa requested a motion to open the meeting for Public Comment. Mr. Scott offered a motion, with Mr. Brizzolara seconding and an affirmative majority of the Council voting in favor.

Public Comment:

Marrienne Orrechio, 401 D'Ercole Court, spoke. She thanked the Council Members for working with Norwood Public Schools on the Grass Cutting needs. She stated she was speaking on behalf of Ed Cammarata, a Board of Education member.

Mayor Barsa requested a motion to go into Closed Session. Mr. Brizzolara offered a motion, with Mr. Scott seconding. The motion carried with the majority of the members present voting in favor.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Everett Falt, RMC
Deputy Borough Clerk