

Borough of Norwood  
Work Session Minutes  
December 27, 2017

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 7:03 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
Councilwoman	Marianne Orecchio
Councilman	Thomas Brizzolara
Councilman	Joseph Ascolese
Council President	Barry Scott

Also Present:

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
Borough Engineer	Evan Jacobs
Chief Financial Officer	Judith Curran
Chief of Police	Jeffrey Krapels
Council-Elect	Paul Haberman

Absent:

Councilman	John Rooney
------------	-------------

Mayor Barsa pointed out the fire exits.

**Public Hearing of Ordinance 17:18**

Mayor Barsa stated he had before him an ordinance for Council action entitled:

An Ordinance Authorizing the Naming of Jones Court

It was moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Brizzolara to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion.

There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio to close the meeting to the public. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

It was moved by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Ascolese to approve Ordinance 17:18.  
On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Marino, Orecchio, Brizzolara, Ascolese and Scott  
Nays: None  
Absent: Rooney

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 17:18 was approved and will take effect upon publication.

**Public Hearing of Ordinance 17:19**

Mayor Barsa stated he had before him an ordinance for Council action entitled:

Authorizing the Sale of Real Property known as Block 145, Lot 3  
in the Borough of Norwood

It was moved by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion.

There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio to close the meeting to the public. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

On the question, Mr. Scott questioned the amount of incidental fees that would be involved with the purchase of this property. Mr. Fede reminded that there was the \$800.00 appraisal fee, closing costs and legal fees. He advised that he sent a letter to the interested homeowner on December 7, but has not heard from her.

It was moved by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio to approve Ordinance 17:19.  
On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Marino, Orecchio, Brizzolara, Ascolese and Scott  
Nays: None  
Absent: Rooney

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 17:18 was approved and will take effect upon publication.

**Items for Discussion:**

Donation of Fire Equipment no longer used to the 911 Fund – Mr. Marino explained that the Fire Department would like to donate equipment/apparatus that is no longer in use or does not meet present standards and cannot be used. He continued that this organization provides this equipment to third-world countries. Mr. Fede advised that New Jersey law prohibits municipalities from making donations to any group including not-for-profits since public property cannot be given away. Following discussion, Mayor Barsa recommended that the Fire Department catalogue the items along with the monetary value.

Borough Attorney Report – Mr. Fede reminded that the ordinance regulating pools is a stand-alone chapter with denials to be heard by the Mayor and Council. It is his recommendation as well as the Borough Engineer that this chapter be incorporated into the zoning ordinance as was previously done with fences. There is currently an applicant who purchased a house because he was informed by the previous Construction Official that a pool could be installed but was later told that this was not the case. Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that this matter be heard at a future Work Session and that the ordinance be amended. It was confirmed that the appropriate non-refundable fees be collected and held in escrow.

Borough Engineer Report – Mr. Evans referred to his year-end report (Attachment “A”). There was discussion that the Tappan Road bus shelter is presently not commuter friendly. Mrs. McMackin reported that NJ Transit was to have completed the reconstruction of this shelter months ago. She advised that NJ Transit will be contacted and that the DPW will be asked to put one of the spare Livingston Street benches at this location.

Borough Administrator Report – Mrs. McMackin advised that she had personnel matters to discuss in Closed Session.

At this time, Mrs. Orecchio voiced concern that the Atria, presently under construction on Tappan Road, will add 9-1-1 calls for response by emergency services. Although the Council recognized her apprehension, the residents of this facility would be entitled to the same services as all Borough residents.

**Public Comment:**

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion 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, motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Scott with all Council Members present voting in the affirmative.

At this time, Mrs. McMackin asked that the Tax Collector provide the governing body with a report regarding the recent flow of residents prepaying their taxes. Mrs. Curran reminded that with the new tax reform a \$10,000.00 maximum was set for state and local property tax deductions. Additionally, Governor Christie issued a ruling that municipalities accept 2018 property taxes (at least the first and second quarters) as long as they are received and accepted by December 31, 2017. Since December 31 is a Sunday and the offices are closed on Monday, residents are being instructed to mail their payments for postmark before or on December 31, 2017. At Mrs. McMackin's suggestion, tape will cover the drop off box in the front door vestibule of Borough Hall and a note posted to mail the payment.

**Closed Session:**

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion approving Resolution 17:190 authorizing the governing body to convene into closed session to discuss Professional Appointments and CFO, Tax Collector and DPW positions. The motion was made by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio. All Council Members present voted in the affirmative.

**Adjournment:**

Mayor Barsa reconvened the meeting at 8:54 PM and asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mr. Ascolese, seconded by Mr. Scott and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC  
Administrator/Clerk