

Borough of Norwood  
Work Session Minutes  
May 24, 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 7:00 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
Councilwoman	Marianne Orecchio
Councilman	Thomas Brizzolara
Councilman	Joseph Ascolese
Councilman	John Rooney
Council President	Barry Scott

Also Present:

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
Borough Engineer	Evan Jacobs
Chief Financial Officer	Judith Curran
Chief of Police	Jeffrey Krapels
Construction Official	Paul Renaud
DPW Superintendent	Alan Schrader

Mayor Barsa pointed out the fire exits.

**Presentation of donated flags by Norwood American Legion Post 272**

At this time Mayor Barsa recognized Steve Minch of American Legion Post 272 who presented the Mayor and Council with five (5) American and five (5) POW flags. He reported that according to Grand Marshall Matt Traudt, everything is in order for the Memorial Day Parade to proceed. He asked all who participate to report at 10:45 AM for the 11:00 AM startup. The governing body thanked the Legion for their generous donation.

**Consent Agenda:**

Mayor Barsa reported that the Borough Attorney has a conflict with the following item and asked that it be removed and placed on the agenda for the Public Meeting scheduled for June 14, 2017:

17:95 Authorizing the signing of an Agreement between the Borough of Norwood and Verizon Wireless

Mr. Fede explained that he had prepared the agreement before he learned of this conflict, and asked the Clerk/Administrator to forward it to Mr. Regan, Conflict Attorney, for his review and comment.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion approving the Consent Agenda consisting of the following items:

17:96 Approving and authorizing the execution of a Developer's Agreement with Agron & Fatmir Dema and the Borough of Norwood

17:97 Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit

17:98 Authorizing inclusion in the Bergen County Community Development Program

17:99 Authorizing the execution of an Agreement with the County of Bergen to supersede the Cooperative Agreement Dated July 1, 2000 and amendments thereto establishing the Bergen County Community Development Program

Motion of approval was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

**Items for Discussion:**

Vacation of Mohawk Avenue – Mayor Barsa asked for the Council's thoughts on this on-going issue. Mr. Scott advised that after reviewing the site, he has reversed his opinion and believes it is in the best interest of the Borough to vacate Mohawk Avenue. Mr. Marino reported that the Fire Department determined that if the road were vacated, there would be access for entry and exit. Therefore, the department has no objection to the vacation. Chief Krapels reported that the Police Department never had a problem finding addresses adding that their vehicles are now equipped with smart maps. Mr. Schrader, DPW Superintendent, advised he had no issue with the vacation.

Mayor Barsa suggested that a deed restriction to run with the land be placed on the two affected properties to insure that the land cannot be subdivided if sold. Mr. Fede explained that once vacated no one could claim the right to use the frontage for subdivision. Mr. Raul Mederos, the property owner on Lancaster Road, stated that he would not object to a deed restriction, and that to his knowledge neither would the Muhlbergs.

Motion authorizing the vacation of Mohawk Avenue pending the legal requirements of a deed restriction by both parties was made by Mr. Ascolese and seconded by Mr. Rooney. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Fede reminded the vacation would have to be accomplished by ordinance, that all the property owners would have to be informed of the vacation adding that the two property owners directly affected would have to agree to absorbing all legal and engineering costs associated with the vacation. He further explained that the Borough Engineer would have to provide a description of the land to be vacated and do a utility survey.

Environmental Commission review of Tree Rules & Regulations Ordinance – Mayor Barsa advised this would be discussed at the next Work Session (June 28, 2017).

Public Hearing of Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Application for 2017 – the Borough Engineer presented a diagram and conceptual plans for the installation of pedestrian lighting around the Kennedy Field walking path. Mr. Evans further explained that the \$315,000.00 plan would include the LED lights, conduits, utility handhelds and power. There could be a timer at Borough Hall and it will be investigated if timing could be coordinated with Musco Lighting, the company operating the field lights.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open this portion of the meeting to the public for discussion of this application. The motion was made by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio with all Council members present voting in the affirmative. No member of the public wishing to be heard, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Motion to approve the submission of this application was made by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Rooney. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Review 2017 Non-Union Salary Ordinance – Since no objections were voiced regarding the proposed ordinance, Mayor Barsa advised it would be introduced at the June 14, 2017 Public Meeting.

Review 2016 Municipal Audit and signing of Group Affidavit – Mr. Rooney reported that there were no significant recommendations or comments noting that there was no exit conference. He continued that for two or three years running there has been recommendation to close out the outstanding balances on older capital ordinances. He voiced his opinion that this could be more readily accomplished if the Chief Financial Officer had a more active role in the preparation of the budget. He recommended that there be an exit conference for next year and volunteered to be a participant.

Review Corrective Action Plan by CFO – the governing body had no questions or comments regarding the plan.

Borough Attorney Report – Mr. Fede explained that earlier the governing body approved the execution of the Agron & Fatmire Dema Developer’s Agreement. He explained that this two-lot subdivision at 820 Blanche Avenue required a Developer’s Agreement since there are improvements that had to be bonded. Mr. Fede continued that there are two more agreements that will require governing body approval for execution; 234 Tapan Road (Jones property) and 461 Livingston Street. He reported having the Oak Street easement matter to discuss in Closed Session.

Borough Engineer Report – Mr. Evans advised he had nothing further to report. (Monthly Report-Attachment “A”)

Administrator’s Report – In the absence of the Borough Clerk, Mayor Barsa reported as follows:

Applications were received for outdoor cafes from Callahan’s, Ragazzi, Dunkin Donuts and King’s Bagels. Since all requirements were met, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion approving Resolution 17:101 authorizing the Clerk to issue licenses to these establishments. The motion was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Rooney and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Field permit applications were received from Control Group for a company picnic on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 from 12 Noon to 4 PM; Norwood Soccer hosting Red Bulls Camp at Kennedy Field from August 28 to September 1, 2017; Bergen County Charity Classic for the baseball field from May 26 to May 29, 2017, beginning at 8 AM and ending at 10 PM. Mayor Barsa noted that Control Group would be the only applicant required to pay a fee and asked that it be waived in view of this company’s generous contribution to Norwood Day. Motion approving these applications as well as waiving the fee for Control Group was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Brizzolara. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

### **Open to the Public for Comment**

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

### **Closed Session**

At 7:50 PM motion to approve Resolution 17:100 authorizing the Governing Body to convene into closed session to discuss the Oak Street Easement, personnel and pending litigation was made by Mr. Ascolese, seconded by Mr. Scott and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present. Formal action may be taken upon returning to open session.

Mayor Barsa reconvened the meeting at 8:12 pm. It was the consensus of the Council that the Borough advertise for full-time as well as full-time seasonal employees for the Department of Public Works with the understanding that one full-time and two full-time seasonal would be hired. The motion was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Asocolese and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

At this time Mayor Barsa informed the Council that he received an e-mail from a Simon Yung regarding an Eagle Scout project he would like the Council to consider which would be a fitness park at Kennedy Field. It was the consensus of the Council that he be invited to the next Council meeting to be held on June 14, 2017 to present his project.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 8:20 PM was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rooney. All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC  
Administrator/Clerk