

**BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MINUTES
PUBLIC MEETING
MARCH 14, 2018**

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Norwood was held at Borough Hall on the above date.

Mayor Barsa called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM and led those in attendance in a salute to the American Flag and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance.

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, filing a copy in the Borough Clerk’s office and posting on the bulletin board.”

Roll Call:

Mayor Barsa	Present
Councilman Marino	Present
Councilman Haberman	Present
Councilman Brizzolara	Absent
Council President Ascolese	Present
Councilman Rooney	Present
Councilman Scott	Absent

Also Present:

Andrew Fede	Borough Attorney
Evan Jacobs	Borough Engineer
Jeffrey Krapels	Chief of Police
Lubna Muneer	Chief Financial Officer
Alan Schrader	DPW Superintendent
Steven Wielkotz	Auditor

Mayor Barsa pointed out the fire exits and requested that all cell phones be turned off or to vibrate.

Review of 2018 Municipal Budget

Mayor Barsa thanked the Finance Chair, Auditor, Administrator and Chief Financial Officer for the preparation of the proposed 2018 Municipal Budget.

Mr. Rooney, Finance Committee Chair, also commended the Administrator, Auditor, and Chief Financial Officer. He explained that expenses were kept at less than 2% except for those items which the governing body has no control i.e., pension and health insurance contributions, utilities and salary and wages governed by negotiated contracts. Mr. Rooney continued that although more surplus was used this year, the Borough remains in good shape.

Mr. Wielkotz, Borough Auditor, reiterated Mr. Rooney's comments adding that for the municipal portion of the 2018 budget, the average assessed home would see an increase of \$68.85. Appropriations decreased from 1.97% to 1.76% or \$30,000 less than last year noting that the department heads should be commended for keeping expenses down. Although \$900,000 is being used from surplus, the Borough still has a surplus of over \$2M. Mr. Wielkotz recommended that the governing body consider going to long-term bonds as the last payment for the current debt service is September 7, 2018. He explained that the Borough would have to be rated again, but due to its positive history, he is of the opinion that a downgrade would definitely not be forthcoming. The process of going to long-term debt should begin sometime in June and finalized the end of July. Mr. Wielkotz reminded that the budget would be introduced on March 28th with the Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Correspondence

Mayor Barsa read the following correspondence into the record:

1. DPW February Report
2. Police Department February Report
3. Building Department Fee Log for February
4. Letter dated February 21, 2018 from Diane Gutierrez-Saccetti, Acting Director for the Department of Transportation informing of the award of \$215,000 for the installation of sidewalks on McClellan Street
5. Fire Department Report for January
6. Resolution from the Township of Wyckoff opposing Senate Bill #5 that permits the Police and Firemen's Retirement System to control their pension account

Mayor Barsa informed that anyone wishing a copy of the correspondence could request it from the Borough Clerk.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Barsa reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda and asked if any Council Member wished to remove an item. Mr. Marino requested that Resolution 18:70 be removed. Mayor Barsa asked for a motion approving the Consent Agenda consisting of the following items.

Approval of the Minutes of February 14, 2018 Regular/Executive Meeting

Consent Agenda Continued:

Approval of the following resolutions:

- 18:66 Approving the payment of bills and vouchers in the amount of \$4,135,948.54
- 18:67 Awarding the contract for the purchase of a Fire Truck to Seagrave Fire Apparatus, LLC in the amount of \$769,350.00
- 18:68 Approving a Temporary Emergency Budget prior to the Adoption of the 2018 Municipal Budget as permitted by N.J.S.A. 40A-20
- 18:69 Approving a Person to Person Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License #0241-33-006-010 from VIP Party Planners to Paul Van Dyke
- 18:71 Certifying Members of Norwood EMS who successfully qualified for the L.O.S.A.P. Incentive Program for 2017
- 18:72 Endorsing the submission of a Recycling Tonnage Grant for 2017
- 18:73 Approving Swimming Pool Variance Under Norwood Code Chapter 207 to Kevin and Christine Schuck, 517 Summit Street
- 18:75 Approving Redemption of Tax Lien Certificate for Block 137, Lot 3

It was moved by Mr. Ascolese and seconded by Mr. Rooney to approve the Consent Agenda. On the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

- 18:70 Appointing Everett Falt as Deputy Clerk for a term of one year at an annual salary of \$65,000

Mr. Marino questioned Mr. Falt's qualifications and was assured by Messrs. Rooney and Ascolese that he has an excellent educational background and admirable work experience. Motion approving Resolution 18:70 was made by Mr. Rooney and seconded by Mr. Ascolese. On the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Public Hearing of Ordinance No. 18:01

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

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 207 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood titled "Swimming Pools"

It was moved by Mr. Ascolese and seconded by Mr. Rooney 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. Ascolese and seconded by Mr. Rooney to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Mr. Ascolese and seconded by Mr. Rooney to approve Ordinance 18:01. On the roll call vote:

Public Hearing of Ordinance No. 18:01 (cont'd)

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

There being four (4) ayes and no nays Ordinance 18:01 was approved and will take effect upon publication in the Record.

Public Hearing of Ordinance No. 18:02

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

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 233 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood titled "Zoning" to Regulate the Location of Swimming Pools and the Required Fencing for Swimming Pools

It was moved by Mr. Rooney and seconded by Mr. Ascolese 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. Rooney and seconded by Mr. Ascolese to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Mr. Rooney and seconded by Mr. Ascolese to approve Ordinance 18:02. On the roll call vote:

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

There being four (4) ayes and no nays Ordinance 18:02 was approved and will take effect upon publication in the Record.

Public Hearing of Ordinance No. 18:03

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

Fixing Salaries, Wages and Compensation of Certain Employees of the Police Department of the Borough of Norwood for the Years 2018-2021

It was moved by Mr. Rooney and seconded by Mr. Haberman 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. Ascolese and seconded by Mr. Rooney to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Mr. Rooney and seconded by Mr. Ascolese to approve Ordinance 18:03. On the roll call vote:

Public Hearing of Ordinance No. 18:03 (cont'd)

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

There being four (4) ayes and no nays Ordinance 18:03 was approved and will take effect upon publication in the Record.

At this time, Mr. Ascolese voiced his opinion that negotiations with the Police Department went extremely smoothly and thanked the Chief of Police for his positive input.

Introduction of Ordinance No. 18:04

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

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 231 the Code of the Borough of Norwood titled "Site Plan Review," to Update the Provisions Requiring Performance and Maintenance Guarantees.

It was moved by Mr. Rooney and seconded by Mr. Ascolese to approve Ordinance 18:04 on first reading. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Barsa announced that the public hearing on this ordinance will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Introduction of Ordinance No. 18:05

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

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 232 the Code of the Borough of Norwood titled "Subdivision of Land," to Update the Provisions Requiring Performance and Maintenance Guarantees.

It was moved by Mr. Ascolese and seconded by Mr. Rooney to approve Ordinance 18:05 on first reading. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Barsa announced that the public hearing on this ordinance will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Introduction of Ordinance No. 18:06

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

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 233 the Code of the Borough of Norwood titled "Zoning," to Update the Provisions Requiring Performance and Maintenance Guarantees.

Introduction of Ordinance No. 18:06 (cont'd)

It was moved by Mr. Rooney and seconded by Mr. Ascolese to approve Ordinance 18:06 on first reading. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Barsa announced that the public hearing on this ordinance will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Introduction of Ordinance 18:07

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

Authorizing the Sale of Property Known as Block 177, Lot 1.02, Ct 638,
638 D'Ercole Court in the Borough of Norwood

It was moved by Mr. Ascolese and seconded by Mr. Rooney to approve Ordinance 18:07 on first reading. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Barsa announced that the public hearing on this ordinance will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Committee Reports

Mayor Barsa stated that he had two field permit applications for Council consideration. Play at The Plate New Jersey has requested the use of the Kennedy Park baseball field on designated Sundays from 9 AM to 12 PM. Certificate of Insurance and Hold Harmless Agreement have been submitted and dates have been cleared with the Recreation Director. The Northern Valley Soccer Club has requested the use of Trackside from April 2, 2018 through June 22, 2018 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for practice and on Sundays for games. Certificate of Insurance and Hold Harmless Agreement have been submitted and dates have been cleared with the Recreation Director. Motion approving these field permit applications was made by Mr. Ascolese and seconded by Mr. Rooney with all Council Members present voting in the affirmative.

Councilman Marino:

EMS

Mr. Marino advised he did not have a report from EMS.

Board of Health

Mr. Marino referred to the Board of Health monthly report that was distributed this evening (Attachment "A")

Councilman Haberman:

Environmental Commission

Mr. Haberman informed that the Commission met last evening with discussion regarding the need to elect new officers and to submit names for the appointment of new members.

Board of Education

Mr. Haberman reported that in light of the Parkland, Florida tragedy, additional safety measures are being discussed.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Mr. Haberman stated that the Dimora application has been approved and an update on the former Bocchino property is being pursued by the Zoning Board attorney.

Councilman Brizzolara:

In the absence of Mr. Brizzolara no report was given.

Councilman Ascolese:

Police

Mr. Ascolese referred to the Police Department monthly report (Attachment “B”) and commended Chief Krapels and his officers for their continued service to the community.

Councilman Scott:

In the absence of Mr. Scott no report was given.

At this time, Mr. Marino questioned Chief Krapels concerning safety measures being considered at the schools. Chief Krapels explained that different options have been discussed both with the Norwood Board of Education and the regional high school Board of Education. He advised that a meeting has been scheduled for March 26, 2018, and in his opinion much progress has been made in a short period of time.

Mr. Rooney reminded that there will be a prayer service for all students at Immaculate Conception Church on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 7 PM.

Public Comment

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

Mr. Ted L’Estrange, 8 Geoffrey Ct., Otisville, New York, distributed packets to the Council outlining China’s state-sanctioned organ harvesting and asked for a resolution condemning this practice. Mayor Barsa advised the Council would review the literature and take his comments under advisement.

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

2018 Capital Budget Reviews

Police Department – Chief Krapels:

Capital Request is for two SUV's purchased from the Cranford Cooperative at a cost of \$82,000.00 and 20 digital radios, to include installation and programming, at a cost of \$178,532.00 under state contract. Chief Krapels demonstrated the quality of call from the present analog system to the proposed digital system. He explained that the analog system transmits calls to Closter who in turn transmits them to Mahwah. Chief Krapels continued that the analog radios are seven years past their life and to repair would cost more than the expense to buy the digital system. Additionally, the analog system uses cooper lines and Verizon no longer supports copper wiring. Therefore, it is his strong recommendation that the Borough eliminate radios and go to digital.

DPW – Alan Schrader:

Mr. Schrader is requesting \$7,000 to replace all street signs; \$22,000 for an air compressor to be used for street repairs and \$47,500 for a four-door truck with plow, lift gate, safety lights and graphics to replace the 18 year old green pickup truck. There was discussion pertaining to the need for a four-door truck and Mr. Schrader explained the difference in cost between two-door and four-door is \$500.00.

EMS – John Kuder and Chris Barron:

Items requested are a 8' x 16' Tandem Axle Trailer for \$9,953.60; emergency lighting and logo to complete a fleet of 3 functioning ambulances at a cost of \$4,500; five new sets of turn out gear for a total of \$5,923.00.

Fire Department – Kevin McLaughlin

Mr. McLaughlin explained that there has been electrical problems with Vehicle 365 (Ambulance) and a four-door F350 with lift gate is being requested at a cost of \$44,000.00. If replaced the ambulance will be turned over to the Borough to be sold at auction. He continued that this vehicle would also be used to transport individuals to firefighter classes rather than the use of their personal vehicles and explained what the cost of reimbursement would be using federal guideline of \$0.545 per mile. In addition to the vehicle, 3 sets of turn out gear are requested for a cost of \$15,000.00. The \$20,000 listed for equipment for the new fire truck can be eliminated at this time.

Mayor Barsa thanked everyone for attending and noted that there would be further discussion of their requests at the next Work Session.

Closed Session

At 7:58 PM, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion approving Resolution 18:74 authorizing the governing body to convene into closed session to discuss a matter of potential litigation. Upon reconvening in open session, formal action may be taken. The motion was made by Mr. Rooney and seconded by Mr. Ascolese. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Barsa reconvened the meeting at 8:28 PM and asked for a motion, with roll call vote, approving the following resolution:

18:76 Declaring a Default of Developer's Agreement with CSH Norwood, LLC
(Capital Senior Housing) and Authorizing the Borough Attorney to File Pleadings

The motion was made by Mr. Rooney and seconded by Mr. Ascolese. On the roll call vote:

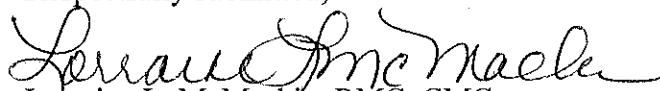
Ayes: Haberman, Marino, Ascolese and Rooney
Absent: Brizzolara and Scott
Nays; None

There being four (4) ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:29 PM was made by Mr. Ascolese, seconded by Mr. Rooney and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted,



Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC
Administrator/Clerk