

**BOROUGH OF NORWOOD  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MINUTES  
PUBLIC MEETING, APRIL 6, 2010**

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 8:05 PM and led those in attendance in a salute to the American Flag and asked for a moment of silence.

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

Roll Call:

Mayor Barsa	Present
Councilman Marino	Present
Councilwoman Orecchio	Present
Councilman Scott	Present
Council President Condoleo	Present
Councilman Rapaport	Present
Councilman Nicolai	Present

Also Present:

Andrew T. Fede	Borough Attorney
John Speer	Borough Engineer

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

**Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:**

It was moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rapaport to open the meeting to the public for comment. All Council Members present voted for the motion.

Mrs. Phyllis Key, 401 D’Ercole Court complained about the garbage that she has cleaned up along McClellan Street and wondered who is responsible for the landscaping and maintenance of the roadway. Mayor Barsa informed that he would look into her concerns.

Mr. Greg Salerno, 401 D’Ercole Court suggested that license plates be taken down if someone sees a motorist throwing garbage out of their vehicle.

Mrs. Gina Stonitsch, 143 Kensington Court questioned how she could receive a copy of a letter that is listed under correspondence. Mayor Barsa informed that she could receive a copy of the letter from the Borough Clerk’s Office.

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Mr. Stuart Bran, 101 Aspen Court reminded that the Annual School Election is Tuesday, April 20, 2010.

There being no other member of the public wishing to be heard, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Condoleo, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

**Correspondence:**

Mayor Barsa read the following correspondence into the record:

1. Letter from Assemblyman Robert Schroeder acknowledging the efforts of the Norwood Police, EMS, Fire Department and DPW in handling the March 13<sup>th</sup> Storm.
2. Letter from Chief Richard Hess reporting on the members of the Norwood Fire Department who qualified for the L.O.S.A.P. incentive program for year 2009.
3. Letter from Assemblywoman Charlotte Vandervalk supporting legislation for arbitration reform.
4. Letter from Assemblywoman Charlotte Vandervalk supporting Assembly Bill #2499 calling for pension reform for non-government workers
5. Letter from Marianne Smith, Township Manager, Hardystown proposing a plan to petition the State to reinstate Highlands Water Protection Act Funding.

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

**Introduction of Ordinance 10:06:**

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

CALENDAR YEAR 2010 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO  
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

It was moved by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Condoleo to approve Ordinance 10:06 on its first reading. All Council Members present voted for the motion. Mayor Barsa announced that the public hearing on this ordinance will be Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Barsa said he would entertain a motion to approve Resolution 10:74 Providing for an Increase in Reserve for Uncollected Taxes Percentage. It was moved by Mr. Condoleo, seconded by Mr. Rapaport to approve resolution 10:74. On the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted for the motion.

**Introduction 2010 Municipal Budget**

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve Resolution 10:75 approving the 2010 Municipal Budget. The motion was made by Mr. Condoleo, seconded by Mr. Rapaport. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Marino, Orecchio, Scott, Condoleo, Rapaport and Nicolai  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

There being six (6) ayes and no nays, the 2010 Budget was introduced on first reading. The Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 8:00 PM, (Attachment "A")

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve Resolution 10:76 authorizing an application to the Local Finance Board for a Levy Cap Waiver. The motion was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve Resolution 10:77 cancelling certain reserves and requesting permission for the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to use the unencumbered reserves in the 2010 budget revenue. The motion was made by Mr. Condoleo, seconded by Mr. Scott and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

**Introduction of Ordinance 10:07:**

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

An Ordinance Amending the Schedule of Annual Fees for Alcoholic Beverage Licenses in the Code of the Borough of Norwood, Chapter 77

It was moved by Mr. Condoleo and seconded by Mr. Rapaport to approve Ordinance 10:07 on its first reading. All Council Members present voted for the motion with the exception of Mr. Nicolai who abstained. Mayor Barsa announced that the public hearing on this ordinance will be Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

**Introduction of Ordinance 10:08:**

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

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 50 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood Regarding the Police Department and the Fees Charged to Private Contractors for Police Services

It was moved by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Condoleo to approve Ordinance 10:08 on its first reading. All Council Members present voted for

the motion with the exception of Mr. Nicolai who abstained. Mayor Barsa announced that the public hearing on this ordinance will be Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

**Public Hearing of Ordinance 10:02:**

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

“An Ordinance to Fix Salaries, Wages and Compensation of Certain Officials, Officers and Employees of the Borough of Norwood, County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey” and Setting Forth the Method of Paying Salaries and any other Ordinances Amending Said Ordinance

It was moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio to open the meeting to the public for discussion on this ordinance.

Mr. Tom Brizzolara, 320 High Street asked if the non-union employees have been asked to take a furlough on top of the zero salary increase. Mayor Barsa informed that at this time furloughs have not been considered.

Mr. Greg Salerno, 401 D’Ercole Court asked if the other employees would be receiving no increase this year. Mayor Barsa informed that the Borough is presently in contract negotiations with the two unions.

There being no one else wishing to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Condoleo to close the meeting to the public. A motion to adopt Ordinance 10:02 was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rapaport. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Marino, Orecchio, Scott, Condoleo, Rapaport and Nicolai

Nays: None

There being six (6) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 10:02 was approved. Mayor Barsa announced that the ordinance was finally adopted and will take effect upon publication in the Press Journal.

**Public Hearing of Ordinance 10:03:**

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

“An Ordinance Amending Chapter 77 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood Entitled "Alcoholic Beverages"

It was moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio to open the meeting to the public for discussion on this ordinance.

There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Scott to close the meeting to the public. A motion to adopt Ordinance 10:03 was made by Mrs. Orecchio and seconded by Mr. Condoleo. On the roll call vote:

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Ayes: Marino, Orecchio, Scott, Condoleo, Rapaport and Nicolai  
Nays: None

There being six (6) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 10:03 was approved. Mayor Barsa announced that the ordinance was finally adopted and will take effect upon publication in the Press Journal.

**Public Hearing of Ordinance 10:04:**

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

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 85 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood  
Entitled "Animals"

It was moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rapaport to open the meeting to the public for discussion on this ordinance. 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. A motion to adopt Ordinance 10:03 was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rapaport. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Marino, Orecchio, Scott, and Rapaport  
Nays: Condoleo and Nicolai

There being four (4) ayes and two (2) no nays, Ordinance 10:04 was approved. Mayor Barsa announced that the ordinance was finally adopted and will take effect upon publication in the Press Journal.

**Public Hearing of Ordinance 10:05**

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

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 98 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood,  
Titled "Building Construction," Regarding the Fees to be Charged

It was moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Condoleo to open the meeting to the public for discussion on this ordinance. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Condoleo to close the meeting to the public. A motion to adopt Ordinance 10:04 was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Condoleo. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Orecchio, Scott, and Condoleo  
Nays: Marino, Rapaport and Nicolai

There being three (3) ayes and three (3) nays, Mayor Barsa was called upon to cast the deciding vote. Mayor Barsa voted for the motion and Ordinance 10:05 was approved. Mayor Barsa announced that the ordinance was finally adopted and will take effect upon publication in the Press Journal.

**Committee Reports:**

**Councilman Marino:**

Utilities:

Mr. Marino informed that he is preparing a letter to send to the BPU regarding United Water's 30% increase in fees that they are requesting. Mr. Marino also requested that the Council adopt a similar resolution as the one that Old Tappan passed opposing the rate increase. It was the consensus of the Council that the Clerk prepare a resolution for the April 14, 2010 work session.

Board of Health:

Mr. Marino announced that the Health Fair will be Saturday, April 10, 2010 from 9AM – 2PM. There will be a Blood Mobile and anyone wishing to register to give blood should call Ms. Julie Falkenstern at Borough Hall.

Recreation:

Mr. Marino informed that quotes were received for the repairs to the drainage on the Knickerbocker Field. The prices range from \$5,595 to \$19,325. It is the recommendation of the Borough Engineer that the Borough go with the lower quote and work should be scheduled around the baseball games.

**Councilwoman Orecchio:**

EMS:

Mrs. Orecchio had nothing to report at this time.

Board of Education:

The Board of Education has proposed a 6.8-6.9% increase in their budget for 2010-2011. The School Board Election is Tuesday, April 20, 2010 and Mrs. Orecchio urged everyone to go out to vote.

**Councilman Scott:**

Planning/Zoning/Building Department:

Mr. Scott reported that the Building Department collected \$2,626 in fees for the month.

**Council President Condoleo:**

Fire Department:

Mr. Condoleo read the Fire Department's February Monthly Report (Attachment "B")

Finance Department:

Mr. Condoleo informed that with the budget introduction this evening the Committee is faced with difficult decisions as to areas in the budget to cut.

**Committee Reports Continued:**

**Councilman Rapaport:**

Planning Board:

Since the Planning Board has not met, Mr. Rapaport had nothing to report.

Beautification Committee:

The committee is waiting to hear from the County and is hopeful that they will be able to move forward this summer. The committee will meet shortly to discuss light fixtures, pavers and benches.

Personnel:

Mr. Rapaport reported that contract negotiations are moving forward with the DPW, but that the Police have chosen to file for arbitration.

Police Department: Mr. Rapaport referenced the Police Department's Monthly Report (Attachment "C"). Sadly, Mr. Rapaport reported that Norwood had a fatal pedestrian accident on the corner of Broadway and Tappan Road. This was the first fatal accident in the Borough since September 27, 1967

**Councilman Nicolai:**

DPW:

Mr. Nicolai said the committee is looking into how the money from the Recycling Tonnage Grant may be spent and if some capital items could be purchased with that money.

Poster/Essay Contest:

Mr. Nicolai informed that the contest ended on March 26, 2010 and the committee would be reviewing the entrants and selecting a winner to be presented on Norwood's Earth Day Celebration on Sunday, April 25, 2010.

FEMA:

Mr. Nicolai informed that residents who suffered damage from the recent wind storm may be eligible for FEMA money. They must submit an application and estimates.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Tom Brizzolara, 320 High Street expressed his disappointment with the way that the budget was presented and requested an explanation on the 2010 Budget. Mr. Steve Wielkocz, Borough Auditor explained that the proposed 2010 Budget reflects 4.84% increase in spending due to an increase in pension costs of \$236,000 as well as an 19% increase in the cost of health benefits. The amount to be raised by taxation is 12.86% over the 4% cap. This is due mainly to the loss of \$521,215 in state aid. The actual appropriation side of the budget that is controlled by the Mayor and Council decreased by \$3,000. Mr. Wielkocz went on to explain that the Borough will be seeking a tax cap levy waiver from the State, but they will have to find other ways to make the tax increase more manageable. Mr. Brizzolara

**Public Comment Continued:**

questioned the amount of surplus that was used to offset the appropriations. Mr. Wielkocz informed that it was \$338,000. Mr. Condoleo said that the Finance Committee would be looking at furloughs or reduction in personnel to help trim the budget.

Ms. Gina Stonitsch, 143 Kensington Avenue asked if contract negotiations were open to the public. She was informed that they were not. She questioned the apportionment of taxes and Mayor Barsa explained how tax bills read and exactly what the municipal share of the total tax bill is.

Mr. Stuart Bran, 101 Aspen Court asked Mr. Marino what residents could do to voice their objection to the proposed rate increase by United Water. Mr. Marino invited Mr. Bran to attend the meeting in the County on April 15<sup>th</sup> at which time objections will be heard.

Ms. Lisa Kurtz, 401 D'Ercole Court asked for a status report regarding sharing of services with other towns. Mr. Rapaport reported that talks with Northvale and Harrington Park regarding sharing Building Departments became very political, but Norwood is continuing to talk with Harrington Park and hopefully an agreement will be reached. Ms. Kurtz suggested that with the obesity problem in children the Council should endorse having children walk to school. Mr. Scott informed even if the Council agreed with her the decision rests with the parent.

Mr. Stuart Bran, 101 Aspen Court, commented on the meeting between P&K Top Soil and the residents of Northwoods and questioned when the Council will come to a decision regarding the compost facility. Mayor Barsa informed that it will be discussed at the April 14 work session.

Ms. Gina Stonitsch, 143 Kensington Court questioned the process that takes place if the school budget is defeated. Mayor Barsa explained the process.

Mr. Greg Salerno, 401 D'Ercole Court stated that he moved to Norwood 36 years ago because of the excellent school system in the Northern Valley.

Mr. George Hertzberg, 24 Carter Street, suggested that the problem with the budget was that too much surplus was used in the past instead of saving it for use in the future. He was pleased to hear that the Mayor and Council are dedicated to doing all they can to control the line on taxes

There being no other member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rapaport to close the meeting to the public. On the roll call vote, all Council Members voted for the motion.

**Closed Session:**

It was moved by Mr. Rapaport, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio to approve Resolution 10:78 authorizing the Mayor and Council to convene into closed session to discuss personnel.

**Adjournment:**

It was moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio to adjourn. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion and the meeting was adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 10:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC  
Administrator/Clerk