

Borough of Norwood
Work Session
April 16, 2008

CALL TO ORDER AT 8:05 PM

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.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:

Mayor	James Barsa
Councilman	Tom Brizzolara (8:50 PM)
Councilman	Mike Knigin
Council President	Barry Scott
Councilman	Allen Rapaport
Councilman	Edward Condoleo

ALSO PRESENT:

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
Borough Engineer	Matthew Neuls
Chief Financial Officer	Maureen Neville (8:55 PM)

Approval of Resolution(s)

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion approving the following resolutions:

08:84 Authorizing the submission of a recycling tonnage grant application to NJ DEP

Motion was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

08:85 2008 Safe Routes to Schools Program Federal Application

Although Mr. Neuls advised that the deadline for submission of this application has been extended to May 2, 2008, he recommended that the resolution be approved this evening. Motion was made by Mr. Condoleo, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Items for discussion:

Norwood Historic Preservation Committee request to place a sign commemorating the Yorkview development area at the 14th Street Circle/Update on Haring Cemetery Fence

The following members of the Norwood Historic Preservation Committee were in attendance: Richard Williams, Kathy Mitchell, Judith Lamp, Dave Elling, Lee Williams, Ann Barnum and Marge Scott.

It was the consensus of the committee members present that the boundary lines of the cemetery have to be delineated by a fence or other means. During discussion it was made known that a Meadow Lane homeowner presented detailed plans to landscape the cemetery grounds; however, it is unknown where the graves are located and the plan does not conform to the survey. Additionally, this homeowner has expressed a desire to purchase the borough easement. Mayor Barsa advised that this property owner has requested to speak with the Mayor and Council and that discussion has been scheduled for the April 30, 2008 Work Session Agenda.

Following further discussion, the members of the committee were asked to report back to the Mayor and Council with the description of a fence to delineate the boundaries of the cemetery should a fence be their recommendation. Mr. Rapaport volunteered to raise money from the community to properly install a fence and commended the work of the committee members.

At this time, Mr. Williams explained the committee's request to place a sign commemorating the Yorkview development area at the 14th Street Circle. He advised that the committee envisioned a sign similar to the Central Woods sign but not as large. Mr. Scott reported that there are probably funds available from the Central Woods grant to purchase the sign. It was the consensus of the governing body that the committee design the sign, suggested they work with Brian Hamilton of H6 Innovations and report back when the design is complete.

Norwood Baseball & Softball League, Inc. request to place a 2'x8' sign attached to the existing scoreboard sign for Westy Storage

Mr. Guercio recommended that this request be honored since Westy Storage has been very supportive of Norwood Baseball by permitting their facility to be used for Halloween festivities and by donating the scoreboard. Therefore, motion approving this request was made by Mr. Guercio, seconded by Mr. Knigin and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Norwood Raider Football League request to erect a scoreboard sign on Kennedy Park Field

Mr. Guercio explained that this scoreboard could be used by all sports and motioned that this request be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Chief Krapels request for the use of the retired First Responder (#329)

Mayor Barsa explained that Chief Krapels made this request so that vehicle #329 could be used by specials rather than a police car without incurring additional expense. Motion to approve this request was made by Mr. Guercio, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Kennedy Park War Memorial Bid Up-date

Mr. Neuls recommended that the five bids received by the Borough on March 26, 2008 be rejected as all exceeded the engineer's estimate for this portion of the project and there would be insufficient funds for the monument itself. He explained that the specifications would be changed to eliminate the concrete under the pavers.

Therefore, motion approving Resolution 08:86 rejecting the bids received at the bid opening held on March 26, 2008 for the Kennedy Park War Memorial and authorizing advertisement for re-bid was made by Mr. Rapaport. The motion was seconded by Mr. Guercio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Request to construct a pool and pool apron on a Borough Sanitary Easement

Mr. Neuls suggested that this request to construct a pool and pool apron on a sanitary easement be approved only if there is agreement by the property owner that the Borough be held harmless for any damage should it need to access the sewer line. Mr. Scott recommended that the Borough Attorney be authorized to prepare such an agreement.

Therefore, motion was made by Mr. Rapaport that the Borough Attorney be authorized to prepare an agreement whereby the homeowner would be liable for any damage caused by the Borough should there be a need to access the sewer line and that the property owner be responsible for the Borough Attorney's billing on this matter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Guercio with all Council Members present voting aye.

Drainage issues re: Batting Cage

Mr. Neuls provided an estimate of \$33,000 to correct the drainage problems of the batting cage and football shed along with repairs to the walking path. He reported that there are monies remaining in the 2004 and 2005 Road Improvement Bond Ordinances to cover this amount that could be done by a Change Order with Smith Soudy. Since there was discussion as to the legality of accomplishing this, the ordinances will be provided to Mr. Fede for his review and opinion.

At this time, Mayor Barsa asked when Dyer Court and Westwind Court would be repaved and Mr. Neuls advised that work would probably begin the beginning of May on Dyer Court. Mr. Rapaport requested confirmation in writing.

Noise Ordinance

Mayor Barsa explained he paid a visit to the kennel and voiced his opinion that it is clean and well-run. He reported that the dogs are taken outside two times a day for one-half hour each time and that there has been no change in the operation of the kennel. Mayor Barsa advised that he would also meet with the residents who made noise complaints.

Bus Shelter Agreement

There was Council consensus that the Borough Attorney review the proposed agreement for further discussion at the April 30, 2008 Work Session.

Borough Attorney Report

Martin O'Shea et als. Vs. Borough of Emerson et als.: Mr. Fede again provided his opinion that the Borough Clerk and Chief of Police responded in a timely manner to this O.P.R.A. request and that they cannot produce documents that are not available to them. Accordingly, Mr. Fede has requested the complaint be withdrawn, and since it has not, he recommended that the Borough counter-file. It was the consensus of the Council that he go forward with the counter-claim.

2008 Capital Budget

At this time, 8:55 PM, the Chief Financial Officer was asked to enter the meeting to review the Capital Budget. Mr. Rapaport reviewed the Department of Works list and advised that the \$160,000 for the garbage truck with Leach body/plow would be removed. Following a brief discussion, all Council liaisons were asked to revisit the capital budget with their department heads to see if further reductions could be made for report at the April 30, 2008 Work Session.

At this time, Mayor Barsa asked if any Council Member wish to discuss any item.

Mr. Knigin reported that EMS received the new first responder and was asked to extend their gratitude and thanks to the Mayor and Council. He also reported that they purchased a Suburban at a lower cost than anticipated.

Mr. Knigin provided the Mayor and Council with an update regarding the position in the Finance Officer. He reminded the Mayor and Council that Mrs. McMackin was authorized to negotiate a starting salary of between \$50,000 to \$55,000 with medical benefits only for the employee. However, it was later determined upon research by the Borough Attorney that family medical benefits would have to be extended to him since uniform coverage is a mandate of the State Health Benefits Plan.

Mr. Knigin also advised that the individual would like to be given the title of Deputy Treasurer since he is pursuing his CFO certification which requires two years as Deputy Treasurer. Ms. Neville disputed this as it is her understanding that pre-requisites call for an accounting degree or two years experience in the Finance Office. She also reminded the governing body that when she requested the title of Deputy Treasurer be given to the present full-time Finance Office employee, she was told there was no such title and that the Borough ordinance would have to be amended. Mr. Fede confirmed that the ordinance would have to be amended.

After further discussion, motion was made by Mr. Knigin that he be authorized in the Borough Administrator's absence, to negotiate a starting salary between \$50,000 and \$52,500 with family medical benefits and that the Borough ordinance be amended to include the titles, Deputy Treasurer, Deputy Tax Collector, Assistant Chief Financial Officer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

General Public Comment:

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

Jim Elling, 263 Summit Street, voiced displeasure with the manner in which the criteria was determined and the names selected for the Kennedy Park War Memorial. He advised that to his knowledge individuals are missing who probably should be included. Mr. Elling continued with his belief that there has been insufficient input from the governing body concerning the criteria and selection process especially since the Borough received grant money from the County of Bergen to undertake this project. Mayor Barsa voiced his understanding that the criteria was established by the American Legion and asked that Mr. Chubby Bocchino be invited to the April 30, 2008 Work Session to discuss this matter.

George Hertzberg, 24 Carter Street, advised that he has lived at this address for 30 years and that the kennel has had only two owners during this time. He attested that the noise being experienced from this facility under the present ownership is far greater than under the previous and that there should be further investigation.

Lisa Kurtz, 401 D'Ercole Court, referred to previous discussions regarding the Mayor and Council's intent to reduce medical benefit costs for its employees and questioned why family medical benefits without contribution were being offered to a new employee. The Borough Attorney explained that a stipulation of enrollment in the State Health Benefits Plan is that medical benefits have to be uniformly offered to all employees.

No other member of the public wishing to be heard, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Knigin, seconded by Mr. Brizzolara and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

At this time, Mr. Knigin explained that should the individual accept the job offer, a starting date had to be stated. It was the consensus of the Council that June 1st be considered. Mr. Knigin also advised that the salary ordinance would have to be amended. Therefore, motion was made by Mr. Knigin and seconded by Mr. Brizzolara that the Borough Attorney be authorized to amend the salary ordinance should the job offer be accepted. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 9:50 PM was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted,



Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC
Administrator/Clerk