

Borough of Norwood  
Work Session  
June 30, 2010

The Work/Executive Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Norwood was held on the above date.

Mayor Barsa called the meeting to order at 8:02 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:

Councilman	Frank Marino
Councilwoman	Marianne Orecchio
Councilman	Barry Scott
Council President	Ed Condoleo
Councilman	Allen Rapaport
Councilman	John Nicolai

Also Present:

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
Borough Engineer	John Speer

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

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

- 10:126 Authorizing Renewal of Liquor Licenses for the 2010 – 2011 License Term
- 10:127 Approving an Emergency Temporary Budget in the amount of \$7,061,623

**Items for Discussion:**

Library request for Referendum:

Mayor Barsa informed that he and Mr. Scott met with the Library Board regarding the Library's request that a public question be placed on the ballot in November to change the Library from a reading room to a municipal library. Ms. Jill Beer, 309 High Street, President of the Library Board informed that the Board took a vote and they are requesting that a resolution be placed on the public meeting agenda authorizing the referendum question. Mayor Barsa said that the resolution will be prepared by the municipal clerk for approval at the July 6, 2010 meeting.

Fox Hill Trail Grant:

Ms. Christine Hageman, 17 Garnett Place, Chairwoman of the Environmental Commission provided the Mayor and Council with handouts, Attachments A and B depicting different types of bridges that could be constructed in Fox Hill. Ms. Hageman explained the different phases planned for the area and informed that this grant is for phase one. The Council requested that Ms. Hageman obtain prices for the engineering, permitting and construction of the trails and submit it in time for review at the July 28, 2010 work session. Mr. Rapaport offered to donate some of his workers to help with the trails.

Police Consolidation Referendum Question:

Mayor Barsa informed that he met with council members from Harrington Park regarding merging both police departments to help reduce costs and better serve the public. Both towns were in agreement to place a non-binding question on the ballot in November to see if this is what the residents want.

Outdoor Seating Ordinance:

The Mayor and Council reviewed the outdoor seating ordinance prepared by Mr. Fede. Following discussion it was determined that the following changes be made to the ordinance prior to introduction on July 6, 2010:

1. The annual fee for the license should be \$200.00
2. Outdoor seating cafes will be limited to Livingston Street from Rockland Avenue south towards Broadway and on Broad Street from Blanch Avenue north towards Broadway.
3. Outdoor seating from April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Fede will make the corrections for the Council's review prior to the public meeting.

Borough Engineer's Report

Mr. Speer reviewed his monthly report, Attachment C. There was some discussion regarding the County paving project on Blanch Avenue. It was the consensus of the Council that Neglia Engineering prepare a proposal for construction management for the installation of four ADA accessible ramps that the County is requiring for this project. The Council discussed replacing the sidewalks on Blanch Avenue as well as the drainage problems. It was the opinion of the Engineer that the drainage problems should be alleviated with the new sidewalks. Mr. Speer also informed that the Borough could piggy-back on the County contract for the installation of the sidewalks. It was the consensus of the Council that Mr. Speer prepare a proposal for the construction management of the sidewalk replacement.

Borough Attorney's Report:

Mr. Fede said that he has a legal issue for discussion in closed session.

Borough Administrator's Report:

The Administrator informed the Mayor and Council that Birdsell Services Group/PMK Group recently conducted an EJIF inspection of the DPW building. The Borough scored a 99 losing one point because they do not have a waste water separator in the garage. The Administrator also informed that she is in the process of getting the oil separator tank registered with NJ DEP.

The Administrator asked the members of the governing body if they would be attending the League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City in November. It was reminded that all council members would be responsible for paying for the attendance at the convention. Mayor Barsa and Messrs. Rapaport and Nicolai said they would be going.

**General Public Comment:**

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

John Jost, 125 Glenn Avenue, wanted to know if Norwood would be having fireworks this year. Mayor Barsa informed that Norwood will be hosting a fireworks display on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> and that no tax dollars were spent for the fireworks. They are being paid for through generous donations from residents and businesses.

Mr. George Hertzberg, 24 Carter Street requested volunteers to help him run an art auction to benefit the library that will be held at Westy Storage.

Mr. Martin Lazar, 760 Blanch Avenue said that he was in support of the Library Referendum as well as the outdoor seating ordinance.

Police Chief Jeff Krapels said that though he supports the Library he is concerned for the impact it will have on the municipal budget if the referendum passes. Will additional cuts in services be necessary to offset the loss in revenue? He was informed that could be a possibility.

Mr. Jaye Hohman, 151 Kensington Avenue expressed concern for the cost of the Library and questioned the need since it is next to the public school that already has a library. Mayor Barsa informed that the increase to the Library should the referendum pass, is 65% since they will no longer be required to pay the Borough the \$207,000 in rent for the building. Mr. Hohman suggested that the people of Norwood be informed on the pros and cons of this ballot question.

Stephanie Adams, 51 Sherwood Road and Mr. Richard Lubitz, 29 Carter Street spoke in support of the Library Referendum.

Mr. Lubitz, 29 Carter Street asked that a pothole in front of 32 Carter Street be repaired. He explained that there is an underground spring on the property that is causing the run-off into the street and many years ago the Borough promised to install drainage in front of the house to alleviate the problem. Mayor Barsa requested that Mr. Nicolai, Liaison to the DPW contact the Superintendent to have him look into the problem.

Ms. Kathleen Cook, 394 Summit Street said she was in support of the Library Referendum question as well as allowing alcohol to be sold at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays.

Mr. Rich Williams, 327 Tappan Road said he believes in the municipal library and is in favor of lowering the time for alcohol consumption on Sundays.

Mr. Robert White, 515 Anderson Avenue, Cliffside Park, New Jersey introduced himself as the Executive Director of BCCLS and went on to explain how a municipal library is funded. He informed that presently the library appropriation is inside of the cap, but with a municipal library the

funding is outside of the cap. He said that the cost of funding for a municipal library must appear on a tax bill. Mr. White also explained what BCCLS does and how it operates.

A discussion took place on the difference between inside and outside of the cap and numerous residents commented on the process and the impact to the Borough.

Mr. Drew Nares, 140 Mohawk Avenue questioned what the town is planning to do about property values since property values have been dropping over the past few years. He was informed that the Borough is presently undertaking a re-assessment of all property to equalize the values. Mr. Nares said he felt the State should be able to help towns during these difficult times deal with dwindling property values. Mayor Barsa instructed the Borough Administrator to write a letter to Senator Cardinale regarding the declining property values.

Mr. George Hertzberg, 24 Carter Street commended the Mayor and Council for the sacrifices they have made for the town as well as the employees and paid professionals. He again asked for volunteers to help plan an art auction to benefit the Library. Mr. Scott thanked Mr. Hertzberg for his efforts on behalf of the Norwood Public Library.

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

At 10:30 PM a motion to approve Resolution 10:128 authorizing the Mayor and Council to proceed in Closed Session to discuss a tax appeal settlement was made by Mr. Rapaport, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present. The meeting was closed to the public after the announcement that formal action may be taken.

Mayor Barsa reconvened the meeting at 10:45 PM.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn at 10:45 PM was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC  
Administrator/Clerk