

Borough of Norwood  
Work Session  
September 29, 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 7:05 PM at the Haring Cemetery, Meadow Lane, Norwood, New Jersey.

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:

Councilwoman	Marianne Orecchio
Councilman	Barry Scott
Council President	Ed Condoleo
Councilman	Allen Rapaport
Councilman	John Nicolai (7:15 PM)

Absent:

Councilman	Frank Marino
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Also Present:

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
Borough Engineer	John Speer

Mayor Barsa explained that the meeting was beginning at the Haring Cemetery so that all members of the governing body could see first-hand what is being proposed for the demarcation of the cemetery and the impact it would have on the area residents. He further explained that the Borough had taken ownership of the cemetery at the suggestion of the Historic Preservation Committee. It is now the Committee's recommendation that in order to restore the cemetery to its historic condition, four "H" (Haring) corner markers be installed, a stone wall 18" to 24" be erected either on the property line or 1 ft. off the property line and that the area within the wall be landscaped. Mr. Rapaport interjected that grant money has been awarded by the Bergen County Open Space Fund to restore the cemetery.

Messrs. Rapaport, Scott and Condoleo all voiced agreement that the boundaries of the cemetery should be delineated; however, the rights of the property owners should also be protected and a compromise is needed. Along this line, Mr. Scott recommended that the wall be constructed 5 ft. off the property line on the west and east sides; 10 ft. off the property line on the north side and 3 ft. off the property line on the south side. It was also recommended that the property owners be permitted to landscape up to the wall.

At this time, Mayor Barsa opened the meeting to the public for comment.

Dr. Shyong, 4 Meadow Court, explained that he purchased his home in 2006 before the gravestones were made upright and voiced disapproval with the construction of the stone wall. He suggested landscaping with trees to delineate the area and to provide more privacy to the neighboring property owners.

Ken DeGraff, 1 Meadow Court, voiced his opinion that the magnitude of the project proposed is not in keeping with the size of the cemetery and would have a detrimental effect on the neighboring property values.

Rich Williams, 324 Tappan Road, questioned why Borough officials would be willing to give residents Borough land without compensation. He continued that the cemetery existed prior to 1785 and that the homes were built with knowledge of its existence. Mr. Williams advised that it is still the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Committee and the Historic Society that the stone wall be constructed on the property line or 1 ft. off the property line with the placement of four “H” markers on all four corners.

Robert Garner, 8 Meadow Lane, reminded that when the homes were originally constructed, the Borough did not own the cemetery and the builder was required to plant trees that shielded it. He said that the area was beautiful when he purchased his home; however, unfortunately, the trees died with no recourse from the builder. He voiced his opinion that the Historic Preservation Committee and the Historic Society have made improvements to the cemetery, but that they have been detrimental to the homeowners. Mr. Garner voiced agreement with the compromise proposed.

Joseph Steele, 9 Meadow Lane, advised that he opposes the construction of the stone wall as it would be detrimental to the area property values.

Judith Lamp, 120 Summit Street, explained the history of the cemetery dating back to a 1785 deed. She further explained that there may be more individuals interned in the cemetery other than those represented by the stones that have been elevated.

Mr. Scott once again voiced his opinion that the recommended compromise is fair to all. Mr. Rapaport voiced dismay with the animosity between Norwood residents that this issue has raised and asked all to move ahead to work together constructively.

At 7:48 PM, Mayor Barsa adjourned the meeting explaining that it would reconvene in Council Chambers at Borough Hall.

Mayor Barsa resumed the meeting at 8:15 PM at Borough Hall with the flag salute and a moment of silence.

Roll Call was once again taken by the Borough Clerk.

Present:

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
Chief Financial Officer	Maureen Neville
Tax Collector	Kunjesh Trivedi

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

**Items for Discussion:**

Interborough Regional Communications Network – Mayor Barsa explained that the Boroughs of Alpine, Closter, Haworth, Harrington Park, Norwood, Northvale and Rockleigh comprise the Interboro Regional Police Communications Network that is housed in Closter and provides 9-1-1 dispatching services. The County of Bergen has

established a state-of-the-art Public Safety Communications Center in Mahwah that is capable of providing dispatching services to all Bergen County municipalities. The proposed contract would be for a five-year period costing approximately \$53,500 per year. The current Interboro cost is approximately \$107,000 per year; therefore the Borough would realize a savings of one-quarter million dollars over the five-year period.

Mayor Barsa continued that the Boroughs of Alpine, Harrington Park and Rockleigh have already adopted resolutions authorizing entrance into an agreement with the County of Bergen. Additionally, at the last meeting of the Northern Valley Mayors' Association, the Borough of Closter stated that they no longer wish to house the Interboro system. Mayor Barsa advised that there will be a panel of Fire Chiefs and EMS personnel to work on a protocol to meet all their needs and that Chief Krapels has recommended that the Borough enter into the agreement with the County.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Rapaport that a resolution authorizing the agreement be placed on the October 5, 2010 Public Meeting agenda. On the question, Mr. Condoleo advised that the Fire Chief has concerns regarding the quality of the service. Mayor Barsa explained that the County is slated to open the operation October 1, 2010 and that emergency services will be able to negotiate the services they want. Mr. Condoleo seconded the motion.

On the roll call vote all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion and the resolution will be placed on the October 5, 2010 Public Meeting Agenda.

2010 Municipal Budget – Mayor Barsa asked Mr. Condoleo to provide an update regarding the Borough Auditor's recommendations for the 2010 Municipal Budget made at the September 28, 2010 meeting attended by the Administrator/Clerk, Tax Collector, Chief Financial Officer and himself.

Mr. Condoleo explained that in spite of the cuts and hard personnel decisions made, the Borough was denied State transitional aid. It has now become apparent that due to the \$140,000 cut from the 2010 Budget, the Borough may not have sufficient funds to meet its obligations to the end of the year. Additionally, with police arbitration looming, and in anticipation of an arbitration award, along with \$104,000 in tax appeals, it is the Auditor's opinion that the fiscally prudent action would be to restore the \$140,000. Mr. Condoleo continued that the restoration of the \$140,000 would translate into roughly a \$70 increase for the remaining quarter for the average home assessed at \$713,000.

The Chief Financial Officer, Maureen Neville, strongly requested that the Council follow the Borough Auditor's advice and restore the \$140,000. The Administrator/Clerk, Lorraine McMackin, explained that the Auditor would receive the figures to prepare the Budget amendment for introduction at the October 5, 2010 Public Meeting to be followed by the adoption of the Budget. She continued that once the budget is adopted and sent to the County, a tax rate can be calculated and the tax bills can be sent out within the next two weeks.

The motion was made by Mr. Condoleo to restore the \$140,000 to the 2010 Municipal Budget and was seconded by Mr. Rapaport. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Riverside Cooperative Shared Services Agreement – Infra Red Asphalt Truck - Mrs. McMackin explained that as a result of a survey taken two years ago of all the Departments of Public Works in the Riverside Cooperative, Bergen County agreed to purchase an infra red asphalt truck that will be housed in Dumont, the lead agency for this venture. She further explained that the Borough needs to enter into a shared services agreement with the County of Bergen and a resolution is needed authorizing the Mayor to sign such agreement at the October 5, 2010 Public Meeting. After confirmation that there would be no cost to the Borough, the motion was made by Mr. Rapaport that a resolution authorizing this shared services agreement between the Borough of Norwood, as a member of the Riverside Cooperative, and the County of Bergen be prepared for approval at the October 5, 2010 Public Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nicolai with all Council Members present voting in favor of the motion.

County Grant for Municipal Law Enforcement Consolidation Studies – Mayor Barsa explained that he, Chief Krapels and Mrs. McMackin attended a meeting hosted by Mr. John Molinelli, Bergen County Prosecutor, regarding a county grant program for municipalities to study consolidation of Police Departments. He further explained that the Borough has a referendum question on the November 3, 2010 General Election Ballot regarding consolidation of police services and voiced his opinion that no action should be taken until it is known how the voters feel about this issue. Since municipalities have until June of 2011 to apply for this grant, it was the consensus of the Council that no action be taken at this time.

DPW Salary Ordinance – Since the contract has been ratified, Mrs. McMackin recommended that the DPW salary ordinance be introduced at the October 5, 2010 Public Meeting, adopted at the November 3, 2010 Public Meeting and retroactive checks for the year 2009 issued in December. She reminded that the contract called for a 2.5% increase for 2009, 0% for 2010 and 0% for 2011. It was the consensus of the Council that the introduction of the ordinance be placed on the Agenda for the October 5, 2010 Public Meeting.

Guardians of the Pink Ribbon Proclamation – Mrs. McMackin explained that the mission statement for the Guardians of the Pink Ribbon is for men to support women across the country who have been stricken with cancer by wearing pink t-shirts on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. She advised that she had order forms and the cost was \$20 for adults and \$16 for children. Mrs. McMackin also explained that the Guardians requested that the Mayor and Council endorse a Proclamation declaring October 25<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup> as “Cares Enough to Wear Pink Days”. The motion was made by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Condoleo that such a Proclamation be prepared for the October 5, 2010 Public Meeting Agenda with all Council Members voting in favor.

Change of November 24 Work Session to December 1, 2010 - Mayor Barsa recommended that the Tuesday, November 23, 2010 Work Session be changed to December 1, 2010 in light of the Thanksgiving Holiday. He also voiced his opinion that the staff who work late Wednesday evenings be permitted to leave at 4:00 PM rather than 7:30 PM. No objections were voiced and the Clerk/Administrator will advertise the meeting.

Engineer’s Monthly Report – Mr. Speer referred to the monthly report (Attachment “A”).

Attorney’s Report – Mr. Fede reported reviewing the specifications for solid waste and recyclables collection and noted that state mandated clauses have to be used and modified the specifications accordingly.

Administrator Report – Mrs. McMackin referred to a request made by an Alpine resident for permission to place signs on Borough property advertising an international car show to be held on October 10, 2010. Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that they be permitted to post a sign on Piermont Road and on the corner of Blanch Avenue and Livingston Street.

Mrs. McMackin explained that the Woman’s Club of Norwood-Northvale is sponsoring an Adopt a Soldier Program and has placed a collection box in front of her office with a shopping list of suggested food, toiletry and other items.

At this time, Mayor Barsa referred to the Norwood Day Sponsor Sign and advised that the Borough Auditor, Steve Wielkocz’s name was not posted as a Gold Sponsor. He explained that Norwood Day was a tremendous success and thanked Mrs. McMackin for her organizational and leadership skills that made the day so wonderful.

**General Public Comment:**

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

Rich Williams, 327 Tappan Road, Chairman of the Norwood Historic Preservation Committee, reminded that it is the committee's recommendation that the wall delineating the cemetery be placed on the property line or 1 ft. off the line and that corner "H" concrete markers be placed following a formal survey.

George Hertzberg, 24 Carter Street, noted that he and his wife, Fran, are challenging the Republican seats of Messrs. Rapaport and Condoleo in the upcoming election. He voiced agreement with Mr. Rapaport's comments regarding the contentious manner in which neighbors are treating one another over the delineation of the Haring Cemetery. Mr. Hertzberg also voiced agreement with Mr. Condoleo's remarks regarding increasing the 2010 Municipal Budget voicing his opinion that cut services will eventually have to be replaced and will cost more than the initial cuts.

Kathy Mitchell, 91 Summit Street, read a passage regarding respect for the dead.

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

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn at 9:20 PM was made by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mr. Condoleo with all Council Members present voting in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC  
Administrator/Clerk