

Borough of Norwood  
Work Session  
August 31, 2011

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:

Mayor	James P. Barsa
Councilman	Barry Scott
Council President	Marianne Orecchio
Councilman	Edward Condoleo
Councilman	Allen Rapaport

Also Present:

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
Borough Engineer	Dan Kaufman

Absent:

Councilman	John Nicolai
Councilman	Frank Marino

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Barsa reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda and asked if any Council Member wished to remove an item for discussion. No Council Member wishing to be heard, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following items:

- 11:167 Joining the National Moment of Remembrance of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>
- 11:168 Appointing Mr. John R Kuder, Jr. as a Class 1B Special Police Officer
- 11:169 Appointing Mr. Perry Duelfer as a Class 1B Special Police Officer
- 11:170 Appointing Mr. Richard Barlett as a Class 1B Special Police Officer
- 11:171 Reducing and Refunding 2010 Taxes for Block 79, Lot 2, 50 Maple St.

- 11:172 Reducing and Refunding 2010 Taxes for Block 79, Lot 8, 375 Chestnut St. and Block 79, Lot 9, 385 Chestnut Street
- 11:173 Reducing and Refunding 2010 Taxes for Block 7, Lot 15.16, 120 Rio Vista Drive
- 11:174 Reducing and Refunding 2010 Taxes for Block 79, Lot 3, 10 Maple St.
- 11:175 Reducing and Refunding 2010 Taxes for Block 5, Lot 9, 6 Tildon Place
- 11:176 Reducing and Refunding 2010 Taxes for Block 10, Lot 11, 75 Mohawk Ave.

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

Introduction of Ordinance 11:10

*CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE REPLACEMENT OF THE REAR DOOR AT THE NORWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH, APPROPRIATING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$25,000 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM A CONTRIBUTION FROM THE NORWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
(11:177 – Resolution of Introduction)*

Mr. Scott explained that the \$25,000 cost for the installation of the Norwood Public Library rear door will be paid for by library donations and not from the Borough’s budget. Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance 11:10 which was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio.

On the Roll Call Vote:

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

There being four (4) ayes and no nays, Mayor Barsa declared the ordinance introduced and advised the Public Hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2011.

Items for Discussion:

NJDOT Municipal Aid, Bikeway and Safe Streets to Transit Programs/Grant Application - Mrs. McMackin asked whether the Council had any recommendations for new or replacement sidewalks. Mr. Scott asked whether it would be possible to construct a bike/walking path in the railroad right-of-way along Railroad Avenue. Since the Mayor and Council felt that this was an excellent idea, the Borough Attorney was asked to contact CSX to determine the feasibility.

Mr. Condoleo reminded that Neglia Engineering had submitted an estimate in the amount of approximately \$100,000 to install sidewalks on Broadway to the High School with the inclusion of a cross walk. It was the opinion of the Mayor and Council that this should be re-examined for this grant application.

Open Space Trust Fund Grant Application – Life Trail/Functional Fitness for Older Active Adults – Mrs. McMackin referred to the materials she distributed regarding LifeTrail’s advanced wellness system for seniors, and individuals with disabilities and handicaps. She explained that the system is a series of work stations that can be installed around the walking path for a cost of \$33,000.00, although this figure would probably be higher since a concrete pad would be needed for each station. Mrs. McMackin further explained that this would be a 50-50 matching grant with the Borough’s portion paid from the open space tax. She asked for Council authorization to proceed with this grant application with the assistance of Neglia Engineering. Since the Mayor and Council were in agreement, authorization was given.

At this time, Mayor Barsa advised noticing stress cracks around the walking path and asked the Borough Engineer how to proceed before major repair work is required. Mr. Rapaport reported that the County has equipment that could possibly be used for this purpose and Mr. Kaufman advised he would inspect the path and contact the County Engineer.

Murburg request to purchase Borough property – price quotation for market value appraisal - Mr. Fede referred to the appraisal cost of \$1,750 received from McNerney Associates and reminded that should the Borough decide to sell this parcel, it has to be offered to the other contiguous property owners or put on the open market for public auction. Following a brief discussion, the motion was made by Mr. Rapaport that Mr. Fede contact Mr. Murburg asking that he submit a check in the amount of \$1,750.00 made payable to the Borough of Norwood to cover the cost of the appraisal with the understanding that should he be the successful bidder, the cost would be included in the sale price. Additionally, should the Borough decide not to sell, he would be reimbursed the cost. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott with all Council Members present voting aye.

Update on State Health Benefits Reform Law/Borough responsibility to provide Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) to employees - Mayor Barsa explained that the new law requires employers to offer employees Flexible Spending Accounts permitting them to set aside funds to pay for qualified medical expenses. Money deducted from the employee’s pay is not subject to payroll taxes and at the end of the year the employee loses any unused funds. Mrs. McMackin further explained that under Chapter 78, the State of New Jersey requires all employees to be enrolled in an FSA and then they can opt out. She advised she contacted the JIF to see if they had a preferred vendor and they confirmed that a third party vendor

would be the avenue to take to implement FSA's as there are administrative responsibilities to include issuance of benefit/debit cards. The program has to be in place by January 1, 2012. She explained that although the law permits employers to offer FSA's for dependents, she recommended that the Borough not pursue this until all employees are educated and enrolled.

Mrs. McMackin requested authorization to move forward with finding a third party vendor for Flexible Spending Accounts. The motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Condoleo with all Council Members present voting aye.

Engineer's Report:

Livingston Street Drainage Project – Mr. Kaufman advised that a preconstruction meeting has been scheduled for next Tuesday, September 6, 2011 (10:00 AM).

Blanch Avenue Sidewalk Installation – Mr. Kaufman reported that a preconstruction meeting will be scheduled.

Pump Station Improvements – Mr. Kaufman explained that once DEP approval is received, a preconstruction meeting will be scheduled.

Mr. Condoleo confirmed that the County will be repaving Tappan Road. Mr. Rapaport asked that Mr. Kaufman e-mail the Borough Administrator with updates for forwarding to the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Condoleo noted that a patch by the Broad Street bridge is lifting and asked that it be examined by the Borough Engineer. Mrs. McMackin noted that it will have to be determined if there is a pipe underneath and whether the Riverside infrared vehicle can be used for the repair process.

Borough Attorney's Report:

Mr. Fede advised that he had a tax settlement item for Closed Session, after which time formal action may be taken.

Administrator's Report:

Mrs. McMackin advised that both Messrs. Kaufman and Fede examined the landscaping plan for the Haring Cemetery, determined that it was under the bid threshold and that solicitation of quotes would be needed. She advised that a Resolution (No. 11:179) has been prepared authorizing her to solicit quotations and recommended that she advertise in the Record and send notices to local landscapers. Therefore, motion approving Resolution 11:179 was made by

Mr. Rapaport, seconded by Mr. Condoleo and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Mrs. McMackin referred to the sample pay to play ordinances she distributed and asked for Council comment. It was the consensus of the Council Members present that the Borough of Westwood ordinance was the most favorable. However, Mr. Fede was asked to review them for report back to the governing body.

Mrs. McMackin asked that the governing body consider raising the Borough's filming fee from \$150.00 to \$500.00 and lowering the not-for-profit fee from \$150.00 to \$50.00 since this group consists mostly of college students. Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that Mrs. McMackin prepare a spread sheet of fees charged by other municipalities for review.

At this time, Mayor Barsa advised that he had updates on various items:

Fire Department 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – this celebration is being conducted in conjunction with the Borough of Harrington Park on Saturday, October 1, 2011. The Parade will start at Kennedy Field and end at the Harrington Park/Norwood border on Tappan Road. Mayor Bara graciously accepted the Fire Department's invitation to be the announcer. He explained that the Police Department will be called upon to close roads and the DPW to set up barricades. He asked whether there were any objections to the Borough staff being assigned these tasks and none were voiced. Mayor Barsa noted that Harrington Park personnel will be responsible for the cleanup. He invited members of the governing body to be at the Tappan Road grandstand at 1:00 PM. It was also decided that Mrs. McMackin order a plaque for the Fire Department in honor of their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Mayor Barsa explained that on Sunday, September 11, 2011 all area churches will be holding separate 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial services. He asked that the Borough also plan a service to be held at Kennedy Field on that date at 1:00 PM, and he will reach out to those Norwood families directly affected by this event. All were in agreement.

Mayor Barsa reminded all Council liaisons to see that their departments submit items for the newsletter by Friday, September 9, 2011. He also reminded that Norwood Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, 2011 with a rain date of Sunday, September 25, 2011. He thanked Mrs. McMackin for coordinating this huge undertaking and reported that to date, \$10,000 has been received in donations.

Mayor Barsa voiced his opinion that the Norwood Raiders will have a very successful year and that he will be presented with another championship trophy at the end of the season.

At this time, Mrs. Orecchio referred to an article that appeared in the magazine "New Jersey Monthly" listing the top 100 towns in New Jersey to live. She explained that 25 towns were in Bergen and Norwood ranked no. 76.

General Public Comment:

Motion to open 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. No one wishing to be heard, motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mrs. Orecchio, seconded by Mr. Scott and declared carried with all Council Members voting aye.

Approval of Resolution 11:178 Authorizing the Council to convene into closed session for the purpose of discussing a tax appeal settlement after which time formal action may be taken:

At 9:00 PM, motion to go into Closed Session was made by Mrs. Orecchio and seconded by Mr. Scott. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. .

Mayor Barsa reconvened the meeting at 9:30 PM.

Motion was made by Mr. Scott authorizing the settlement of a tax appeal for 2010 filed by Dong Hyun Lee and Hae Sung Whang for Block 7, Lot 15.12, 210 Wood Turtle Run with the stipulation that the 2011 tax appeal be withdrawn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Orecchio with all Council Members present voting in favor of the motion.

At this time, Chief Krapels explained the qualifications of Messrs Kuder, Duelfer and Barlett who were appointed Class 1B Special Police Officers earlier this evening. Mr. Scott voiced his understanding that the appointments are for part-time employees. He explained that although he had the utmost confidence in Chief Krapels, it is his opinion that all candidates for full-time positions should be interviewed by the Personnel Committee as well as the Department Heads.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 9:40 PM was made by Mr. Condoleo, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC  
Administrator/Clerk