

Borough of Norwood
Work Session
February 26, 2014

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.

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 Star Ledger.

Present at Roll Call:

Mayor	James P. Barsa
Councilman	Thomas Brizzolara
Councilman	Frank Marino
Councilwoman	Marianne Orecchio
Council President	Barry Scott
Councilman	Allen Rapaport
Councilman	Joseph Ascolese

Also Present:

Borough Attorney	Andrew Fede
Borough Engineer	Daniel Kaufman
Chief Financial Officer	Kunjesh Trivedi

Presentation:

AED Demonstration by Mr. Lee Wallin – Mr. Lee Wallin, President of GPG Enterprises, recommended to the governing body that three Cardiac Science AED's be purchased for the Borough's use—one for Borough Hall, one for the Community Center and one for use at Kennedy Field. He provided statistics as to how CPR and the use of an AED greatly improves the survival rate for those in cardiac arrest. Mr. Wallin demonstrated how simple the AED is to use with clear prompts telling you exactly what to do. Additionally, these AED's analyze each patient and provide a customized shock increasing the level if needed.

Mr. Wallin explained that the cost per AED is \$1,490.00 or a total of \$4,470.00 for the three recommended. The cost for a weather resistant wall-mounted case to be placed at Kennedy Field is \$299.00. He also explained that CPR training would be essential and recommended it be offered to staff members. CPR training with certification and with an AED purchase would be \$45.00 per person.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that although the cost for the AED's was affordable, the CPR training cost would have to be further investigated as it is unknown at this time how many individuals should be included. Mayor Barsa recommended that the JIF be contacted to determine if they have a CPR training program and that there be further discussion at the April 2, 2014 Work Session.

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Barsa advised that Resolution 14:66, "Authorizing a Person-to-Person Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0241-33-003-006", would be removed from the Consent Agenda. He asked if any member of the Council wished to remove an item for further discussion. No Council Member wishing to be heard, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following items:

- 14:64 Authorizing the purchase of a 2015 Ford Mason Dump Truck under State Contract No. A79113-T2789
- 14:65 Authorizing the submission of a strategic plan for the Norwood Municipal Alliance Grant for Fiscal Year 2014

The motion was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Items for Discussion:

Review of Annual Financial and Debt Statement – The Chief Financial Officer reviewed the Annual Financial and Debt Statement and pointed out the following:

- the total debt amount is \$8,063,286.56 for Municipal/County General Obligations
- the surplus balance is \$1,118,858.34
- \$50,626.42 was received and used in grant monies
- the tax collection rate is 98%
- revenues exceeded \$21,000 more than what was budgeted

2014 Municipal Budget Review – Mr. Scott referred to the Housing Liaison Officer line item of \$10,000.00 and questioned the reason for inclusion in the budget. He voiced his understanding that the previous employee did not receive compensation and the County of Bergen provides most of the service. Both Messrs. Brizzolara and Rapaport explained that the Personnel Committee addressed this matter and took into consideration that the Borough had a liability issue since the affordable housing units were not being assigned according to State law and regulations. The Borough Attorney advised that the County of Bergen does not have a role in the rental and sale of the Borough's affordable units. Mr. Fede continued that according to the Borough's ordinance and State law the Affordable Housing Officer has to be a trained and certified individual and that the Affordable Housing Board has to meet and decide upon who can rent or buy a unit. He explained that the Housing Officer is also required to file an annual report of the trust funds which is another State mandate. In conclusion, Mayor Barsa recommended

that the Budget Committee provide a synopsis of the duties of the Housing Officer for further consideration.

Mr. Rapaport referred to the sewer fees charged the Borough of Northvale. He voiced his opinion that their fee should probably be increased since the Borough's flow rate fee has increased. It was the consensus of the Council that the Chief Financial Officer research this matter to determine whether Northvale's fee should be increased and whether there are any homes in Rockleigh that connect to the Borough's sewer system. It was also decided that the Council review the Budget at a Special Budget Meeting scheduled to begin at 5:30 PM before the Public Meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

Review of 2014 Yard Waste Pick-up and Disposal Proposals – A proposal was received from Miele Sanitation for the pickup of yard waste once a week curbside for a cost of \$3,200/month. After a brief discussion, the motion was made by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Brizzolara that a resolution awarding this contract be prepared for approval at the March 12, 2014 Public Meeting. The motion was carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Engineer's Report – Mr. Kaufman reported on the following projects:

Livingston Street Phase I – Final payment voucher to be submitted by the contractor.

Livingston Street Phase II – A preconstruction meeting was held and weather permitting, work will begin April 1, 2014.

Jay Street/Carter Street/Parking Lot – A preconstruction meeting was held on February 6 and an April 1 startup date is anticipated.

Broadway Sidewalks – A preconstruction meeting was held on February 6 and the contractor would like to begin work on March 17, weather permitting.

Ballfield Backstop – with baseball season fast approaching, motion was made by Mr. Rapaport to approve Resolution No. 14:66, "Accepting the plans and specifications prepared by Neglia Engineering for the installation of new dugouts and backstop at the Knickerbocker Baseball Field at Kenney Park and authorizing the Clerk to advertise for the receipt of bids". The motion was seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Other – Mayor Barsa referred to the numerous and large pot holes throughout the Borough as a result of the bad weather and suggested that a hot box be purchased by the Borough or jointly with other towns. Mr. Kaufman confirmed that the Borough cannot fill pot holes on the County roads.

Borough Attorney's Report – Mr. Fede reported that the Bocchino property easement has been signed. The only one remaining is the Ferguson property and the tenant is in favor of it. Mayor Barsa added that the easements for the Benaquista and Shell Station properties can now be pursued.

Administrator's Report – Mrs. McMackin advised that the Miele Solid Waste Contract is up for renewal and asked if the governing body wished to use the option to renew for another year. It was the consensus of the Council that a resolution authorizing the one-year extension be prepared for approval at the March 12, 2014 Public Meeting. She reported that departments submitted their budget requests and for those who did not, their budgets remained the same as last year's.

At this time, Mayor Barsa thanked the Finance Committee, the Administrator and Chief Financial Officer for their hard work in preparing the 2014 Budget.

General Public Comment:

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was made by Mr. Brizzolara, seconded by Mr. Scott and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Lisa Kurtz, Fox Hill Manor, referred to the several snow storms and the fire hydrants being covered with snow and ice. She voiced her concern that not only can they not be seen, but are also inaccessible. Michael Congiusti, Captain of the Fire Department, advised that the department is also concerned and will discuss this matter at their March 27, 2014 meeting.

Mrs. Kurtz also referred to the trains blowing their whistle at 5:00 AM and questioned what happened to the "silent crossings" initiative. Mr. Rapaport advised that the Council cannot do anything since the railroad falls under federal authority and does not seem to care about the concerns and well-being of local residents.

No other member of the public wishing to be heard, motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

At this time, Mrs. Orecchio referred to the recent death of a restaurant manager at a Long Island mall due to carbon monoxide poisoning and questioned whether the State of New Jersey requires carbon monoxide detectors in food establishments. Mayor Barsa advised that the Fire Official will be questioned regarding this matter.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM was made by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Scott. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC
Administrator/Clerk