

Borough of Norwood
Work Session
May 28, 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 7:08 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	Dan Kaufman
Chief of Police	Jeffrey Krapels
Superintendent of Public Works	Alan Schrader

Police Promotions:

Mayor Barsa advised that there has not been Police Department promotions since 2007. He explained the process was extremely competitive and that all the applicants performed very well. Mayor Barsa stated he was proud of the individuals he was swearing in this evening to their promotional positions and thanked the entire Department for their dedicated service to the Borough. The following Officers delivered their Oaths of Allegiance accompanied by their family members and were provided their new shields:

Captain Perry Buongiorno
Sergeant Salvatore Russino
Sergeant Christian Federici
Sergeant John Amatucci
Sergeant Paul Kapu

The audience offered a round of applause.

At the end of the ceremony, Chief Krapels thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of the Police Department.

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Barsa reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda and asked if any Council Member wished to remove an item. There being no request, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following items:

14:114 Awarding the Contract for the Repair of Engine 363, 1985 Hahn,
to Cliffside Body Corp. for the base bid of \$112,309.00

14:115 Authorizing the Tax Collector to prepare and mail estimated tax bills
in accordance with P.L. 1994 c. 72

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:

Fence Ordinance Revisions – The Borough Attorney explained that there had been previous Council discussion about transferring the fence ordinance from the Borough’s general ordinances into the land use ordinances. This would enable the Zoning Officer to enforce the ordinance and for variances to be heard by the Zoning Board of Adjustment and not the Mayor and Council. He further explained that he included in the draft ordinance the definition of a “living fence”.

Mr. Fede advised that the governing body can introduce the ordinance and refer it to the Planning Board for their comments and suggestions as required by the Municipal Land Use law before adoption.

Mr. Ascolese referred to the living fence and voiced his opinion that the ordinance should include where the fence can be planted as the owner of the fence may have to encroach on his neighbor’s property to maintain it. It was the consensus of the Council that they further review the proposed ordinance for further discussion at the June 25, 2014 Work Session.

Bids for Knickerbocker Backstop – Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mrs. Orecchio to reject the bids. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Mrs. McMackin advised that a resolution would be prepared for the June 11, 2014 Public Meeting.

Kennedy Park Basketball Court Re-surfacing - Mr. Kaufman reported that the basketball court was resurfaced in 2001 and that the Tennis Court People evaluated the court and found the base to be in good shape. There was discussion regarding whether to resurface it or patch it. Mr. Kaufman noted that the quality of the new asphalt will not provide the same lifespan and that the court could be patched, coated immediately and could be played on within twenty-four hours. Mrs. McMackin also reminded that the Borough now has a bid threshold of \$17,500.00. The motion was made by Mr. Scott to prepare specifications for the patching and coating of the basketball court. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members with the exception of Mr. Marino.

Engineer's Report

Livingston Street – Mr. Kaufman reported that the west side is almost complete and the contractor is continuing on the east side and working on the handicap ramps. The lights are on order and are four weeks out from the twelve-week delivery schedule. The paver work is to be done all at once.

Mr. Marino referred to the traffic flow outside the Seven-Eleven strip mall voicing his opinion that it is a very dangerous situation and that signage should be placed on the north driveway indicating “entrance” and on the south driveway indicating “exit”. Mr. Brizzolara pointed out that large trucks park on Livingston Street obstructing motorists’ view. Mayor Barsa pointed out that once the road is striped, the trucks will not be able to park and that the County should be contacted for temporary signage. The DPW will also look into temporary signage.

Jay Street – Mr. Kaufman noted that the project is almost complete with the final paving to be scheduled after the poles are relocated.

Borough Attorney's Report

Mr. Fede advised he had nothing further to report.

Administrator's Report

DPW Building Reconstruction – Mrs. McMackin referred to the quote submitted by Neglia Engineering for the DPW Storage Building. She explained that due to the uncertainty of the costs for DEP permits, she does not have sufficient information to be included in a bond. Mr. Kaufman noted that after an initial meeting with the

DEP, there will be a better understanding as to whether the size of the building will have to be reduced.

Mrs. McMackin reminded that the Borough does not have an adopted Municipal Budget and will not be until the bond ordinance is adopted. She suggested that the bond just cover the demolition of the existing building and the DEP permits so it can be introduced at the June 11, 2014 Public Meeting. Otherwise, it may be best to introduce a general improvement bond in the area of \$1.8M to cover the construction of the new building. She voiced her opinion that there are still too many questions regarding the proposed new construction. However, she will attempt to gather more information and will e-mail the governing body.

Personnel – Mrs. McMackin requested a Personnel Committee meeting and one was scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 5:30 PM.

General Public Comment:

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

Lisa Kurtz, 401 D'Ercole Court, advised of her understanding that the DPW building and equipment destroyed by fire would be replaced with insurance funds. It was explained that although money would be received from insurance, the cost of a 1999 vehicle would not cover the cost of a 2014 one. Additionally, the DPW building was really a lien-to structure that was not up to current code.

Ms. Kurtz explained that she and her husband recently visited the Norwood Public Library and described it as “awesome and gorgeous”. She referred to the Memorial Day Parade and suggested neighboring towns consolidate for better attendance. Although her suggestion was deemed worthwhile by the governing body, she was advised that the American Legion is the organizer of this parade.

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

Page 5

Mayor and Council Work Session Meeting – May 28, 2014

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM was made by Mr. Rapaport and seconded by Mr. Scott. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion and Mayor Barsa adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine L. McMackin, RMC, CMC
Administrator/Clerk