

Borough of Norwood  
Work Session  
June 25, 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	Anthony Kurus
Chief Financial Officer	Judith Curran

**Consent Agenda:**

Mayor Barsa asked if any Council Member wished to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. No one wishing to be heard, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following resolutions:

- 14:127 Appointment of Judith F. Curran as Tax Collector for the Borough of Norwood
- 14:128 Appointment of Judith F. Curran as Chief Financial Officer
- 14:129 Appointment of Judith F. Curran as Temporary Qualified Purchasing Agent
- 14:130 Appointment of Judith F. Curran as Treasurer
- 14:131 Confirming the appointment of Nicholas Moltzen as a Probationary Police Officer for the Norwood Police Department
- 14:132 Renewing Plenary Retail, Consumption and Club Licenses for the License Year 2014-2015
- 14:133 Authorizing a Place to Place Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License 0241-33-003-007

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

**Appointment:**

Judith F. Curran, Tax Collector, CFO, QPA and Treasurer

Mayor Barsa commended the Personnel Committee for their choice of Judith Curran as the Borough's Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer/Tax Collector/ QPA. At the request of Mr. Brizzolara, Ms. Curran provided the Council and public with a brief description of her educational background and work experience. Mayor Barsa issued the Oath of Office to Ms. Curran and welcomed her as a new addition to the Norwood staff. Ms. Curran's official starting date of employment is July 7, 2014.

**Introduction of Ordinance 14:09 entitled:**

*Authorizing the Sale of Property Known as Block 177, Lot 1.02, Ct. 612, 612 D'Ercole Court in the Borough of Norwood*

Mayor Barsa explained that this is the affordable housing unit that was purchased by the Borough and asked for a motion of introduction. The motion was made by Mrs. Orecchio and seconded by Mr. Brizzolara. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Barsa advised that the Public Hearing on this ordinance would be July 16, 2014

**Items for Discussion:**

Smoke Free Parks Initiative – Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open this portion of the meeting to the public. The motion was made by Mr. Rappaport, seconded by Mrs. Orecchio and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Mr. Albert Ferrara, Bergen-Hudson Chronic Disease Tobacco-Free Initiative Coordinator, Bergen County Department of Health Services and Karen Blumenfeld, Esq., Executive Director of GASP (Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy) both members of the Bergen County Integrated Municipal Advisory Council, addressed the Council regarding the benefits of adopting an ordinance that would make all Norwood parks and recreation areas 100% smokefree. They noted that twenty-nine Bergen County communities have adopted such an ordinance. Below are some of the reasons given to adopt this initiative:

- Reduces exposure to second-hand outdoor smoke which is considered to be just as hazardous as indoor smoke
- Provides an example to children that will reduce the likelihood of them beginning to smoke

- A non-smoking environment promotes non-smokers, thus reducing the burden on the health care system in treating the consequences of smoking
- Municipalities applying for Sustainable Jersey Certification can earn up to 10 points if they have adopted a 100% smokefree parks ordinance

Following their presentation, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. The motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Rapaport. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

At this time, Mayor Barsa asked the Council for their opinions. Mr. Marino informed that both the Board of Health and Environmental Commission are in favor of adoption of such an ordinance. He sees the issue of enforcement and government intervention as possible drawbacks. Mr. Rapaport voiced his opinion that Norwood should follow in the footsteps of the other twenty-nine Bergen municipalities and would like to see the Borough use the Borough of Tenafly's ordinance as its model. Mr. Scott reminded that there are approximately 450 acres of natural woodlands that comprise the agreement between the Borough and the Meadowlands Trust and any policy governing these designated areas would have to be with the agreement of the Trust. Mr. Ascolese advised that as a health care professional he would support this initiative. However, he does see a problem with enforcement and would like to see how other towns handle this issue. Mrs. Orecchio voiced her support adding that this would be a step in the right direction. Mr. Brizzolara voiced his opinion that the Council should be unanimous on this issue and suggested that making designated areas smoke-free would be a good compromise.

Mayor Barsa advised that he has been in attendance at numerous games and events without seeing anyone smoking. He suggested that Mr. Marino, and the members of the Public Health Committee review this initiative taking into account all comments and suggestions made this evening and return to the Council with recommendations. All Council Members present were in favor of this suggestion.

Review of proposed changes to fence ordinance – Mr. Ascolese explained that the fence ordinance was frequently discussed at the Planning Board. He voiced his opinion that the term living fence has to be defined with better language to make it enforceable. He suggested that the Borough of Alpine's ordinance be reviewed and a similar one be drafted for Norwood.

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

- Livingston Street Phase II - project began on March 31, 2014. The concrete work is complete and the light installation should be completed around June 27, 2014.
- Jay Street/Carter Street – project began April 7, 2014. Carter Street is complete and the Jay Street project is on hold until Orange and Rockland moves a utility pole.
- Broadway Sidewalk installation is complete.
- Kennedy Park Baseball Backstop Replacement - the four bids received were rejected and revised specifications will be prepared.
- Basketball Court – awaiting estimates for resurfacing.
- Pump Stations – contractor has completed the punch list items and final inspection will be made.

At this time, Mr. Marino voiced his concern regarding the traffic flow and parking situation at the Seven-Eleven strip mall. Mayor Barsa advised that this matter rests with the County and that the Council wait to see the plans with the new configuration.

Borough Attorney's Report – Mr. Fede informed that he has prepared the contract for the sale of 612 D'Ercole Court as well as the RFQ to appoint a planner for the Master Plan Re-examination.

Administrator's Report – Mrs. McMackin explained that she took advantage of a recent drop-in by Cynthia Randazzo of the DEP and showed her the DPW garage area. Ms. Randazzo advised that the Borough would not be able to increase the footprint of the building with the present law. She did say that she would set up a preliminary meeting with the DEP to be attended by the Engineer and the Clerk/Administrator. Mrs. McMackin has asked the DPW Superintendent to get estimates to replace the building. She stressed that these figures are needed to prepare the capital ordinance so that the budget can be adopted.

Mrs. McMackin referred to the field permit application submitted by the Cub Scouts for their annual rocket event to be held on July 23, 2014. Motion to approve the application was made by Mr. Ascolese, seconded by Mr. Rapaport and declared carried upon the affirmative vote of all Council Members present.

Mrs. McMackin informed that the Governor signed into law Assembly Bill No. 3424 that places the 2% CAP on arbitration. She requested and received approval to place on the next Public Meeting Agenda a resolution endorsing A900 regarding stream remediation. Mrs. McMackin recommended that the Council change the Public Meeting date from July 9 to July 16 and the Work Session to July 30, 2014 in order to give the new Chief Financial Officer time to enter another temporary budget and prepare a Bill List. All Council Members were in favor.

At this time, Mr. Rapaport referred to the comments made by Mr. Dean at the last Public Meeting. Mr. Fede explained that his letter was sent to the Joint Insurance Fund, a claim number was assigned, and he received an application to complete a Tort claim. Since he did not do so within the ninety-day time period, the JIF closed the claim.

**General Public Comment:**

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was made by Mr. Brizzolara and seconded by Mr. Rapaport. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Sal Rutigliano, 9 Tilden Place, advised he would like to see the fence ordinance beforehand as he lives in an area that has a deer problem. He also noted that he was in agreement with the smoke-free initiative.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn at 8:20 PM was made by Mr. Scott, 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