

Work Session
Mayor and Council
November 21, 2011

A Work Session of the Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Mayor Barra who announced that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act were met by the required posting and notice to publications.

The following individuals answered roll call: Council members LaMonica, Schoepflin, Strauch, White, Wilczynski and Mayor Barra. Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Bole were also present.

Public Comments

Mr. Barra opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Ms. Meghan Shute was present on behalf of the Relay for Life which is scheduled for September 28th and 29th of 2012. The Relay for Life is a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society. Proceeds from the event will be used for research and patient care.

Ms. Shute requested that the Council allow banners to be put up in town beginning in April, 2012. The banners will be the same size as the banners that were put up in the downtown area to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Fire Department. They will be installed by members of the Fire Department and taken down two days after the event is over. The banners will help to publicize the Relay for Life.

When there were no questions from the Council, Mayor Barra said the Council would pass a resolution authorizing the banners to be installed.

Mr. John Cromie said he was in attendance as the President of the Holiday Observers. Mrs. Wilczynski had contacted the Holiday Observers to inform them that the Council is considering a construction project near the baseball grandstand. He asked the amount of the project which is scheduled to be awarded this evening and the breakdown of what that amount includes.

Mrs. Wilczynski responded the amount is \$79,000. The scope of work includes all of the fencing in front of the grandstand, all of the fencing that surrounds the dugout and the backstops, fencing along the first and third baseline and the two batter's warm up cages. Most of the cost of the project will be covered by a Bergen County Open Space Grant from 2009.

Mr. Cromie said the Holiday Observers support the effort being made to upgrade the facilities near the baseball grandstand. The Holiday Observers tent has always been located adjacent to the backstop and field near the parking lot for the July 4th activities. It is also a command center for the Police and Public Safety activities. They are concerned that the improvements will create a space conflict with the tent/command center.

Mr. Barra said Mrs. Wilczynski has already spoken with the fence company which made a suggestion which appears to meet everyone's concerns.

Mrs. Wilczynski has asked the fencing company if they could put in sleeves in the ground or hinge the fencing. The contractor, Quality Fence, said that plan could absolutely be done.

Mayor Barra further explained that there are two sections of fencing that could be taken out of the sleeve and put against the backstop or the contractor could put these sections of fence on a hinge that would allow the sections of fence be attached to the backstop fence.

Mr. Cromie said the Holiday Observers would like to have further input on this project. He would like one of their members to attend the preconstruction meeting. Mr. Barra said a representative would be welcome to attend.

Mr. Barra said the worst case scenario is that the on-deck batter's box would not get put in at this time.

Mr. Cromie thanked Mr. Schoepflin for his service on the Council during the past fifteen years and said it was a pleasure to service with him for nine years as a fellow Council member.

Mr. Rich Wilczynski said he didn't realize all the current fencing at the ball field was coming down. He asked when the fence comes down if the Holiday Observers could paint the wood behind it. He noted it shouldn't be time consuming and the result will greatly improve the area. Mr. Wilczynski volunteered to provide paint and rollers.

Mr. Dave Duffy said he ran Parks and Recreation for the fifteen years he was on the Council. He is concerned that there are not any drawings available for this project. He asked for a vote on this issue to be held until a member of the Council attends a meeting of the Holiday Observers.

Mr. Barra said the only issue that is a concern is the batter's box which amounts to approximately \$1000 of the \$79,000 total project. He doesn't want to hold off on the vote because it could put the larger portion of the grant at risk. He reiterated that if an issue occurs as a result of the preconstruction meeting, the portion of the grant under discussion will not be done at this time. The Council is trying to get the fencing done before the onset of a frost. Mr. Barra said the Council could remove this item from the agenda if that is their choice.

Mr. Mark Lurch said he is the ARC Commissioner of Baseball. Every year at the beginning of spring they battle to get the Recreation Programs underway. Even the delay of a week would make that time even more difficult. Once the use of one field is lost, the impact of that action will affect all the other fields.

Mr. Rich Mohr the President of Allendale Travel Baseball said he thinks it is important to complete the fencing project. He has seen countless children run into the road to retrieve balls, and sooner or later there could be a problem. The area under discussion is a baseball field and the batter's box belongs there. He is happy if both groups can work out this issue to accommodate the Holiday Observers, but the primary use of the space is for a baseball field.

Mayor Barra said the proposed solution should easily accommodate everyone's interests.

Mr. Paul Thomasset said he didn't realize this project was grant sponsored or that there was a timeline. He agrees that the fencing needs to be upgraded and stated there is no way that the Holiday Observers want to interfere with that process. He asked if the bid would be invalidated if a change was made to it.

Mr. Barra said a change order can allow for changes up to 20% of the original bid amount.

Mr. Thomasset thanked the Council for working with the Holiday Observers.

Administration

Mayor's Report

Mr. Barra said there are several resolutions circulating that the Council might want to consider passing in the future. One is in opposition to the United Water rate increase. Another is a fair school funding resolution that has been put by Senate and Assembly members. Certain districts get special funding from the State such as Camden, Newark and Garfield. This resolution supports per pupil funding as opposed to providing special funding to certain districts. There is fairly strong support for this bill in Northern New Jersey.

Mr. Barra also noted that the Haworth area residents asking towns to pass a resolution asking for a refund of one month's utility bills due to power outages associated with the October snow storm.

Mayor Barra said he has been approached by individuals who want to have a Menorah next to the Christmas tree in the New Jersey Transit parking lot. A group will be in to speak to him on Wednesday, and he invited Mr. Cromie of the Holiday Observers to join him at that meeting.

Mrs. White said there is a Menorah in the Borough Hall every holiday season.

The Council voted unanimously to adjourn to the Regular Session of the Mayor and Council at the end of the Work Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen McCarthy
Municipal Clerk