

**MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD  
SINE-DIE/REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 7, 2026  
7:00 PM**

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Norwood was held on the above date at Borough Hall and with Zoom access to the meeting.

Sarah Lucero sang the National Anthem, followed by the invocation by Father Dao.

Mayor Barsa stated that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Barsa acknowledged and thanked all dignitaries in the audience.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Matters listed below are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Council and one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member requests an item be removed for consideration.

2025:199 Resolution to Advertise for RFQ

2025:200 Resolution Authorizing Redemption of Tax Title Lien

2025:201 Resolution Authorizing Budget Transfers for Calendar Year 2025

2025:202 Payment of Vouchers

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the Consent Agenda. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

As we say goodbye to 2025 and welcome the New Year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has truly been a great year for our town. Together, we accomplished so much thanks to the dedication, teamwork, and pride that make our community such a special place to live.

None of this would be possible without our incredible volunteers. Your time, commitment, and willingness to step up for our town does not go unnoticed. You are the heart of our community, and I am deeply grateful for all that you do. Thank you

to all of our Board, Committee and Commission members, as well as the many volunteers in our recreation programs.

A special thank you to all our borough employees and volunteer first responders. I am proud to say that Norwood is one of the best towns around and that is because of our amazing staff, volunteers and professionals. You always support one another and work together for the good of our community.

Chief Chris Federici and the entire Norwood Police Department, thank you for your professionalism and dedication. Our Police Department is made up of officers who always go above and beyond for our residents. Due to their efforts we continue to have one of the safest towns in New Jersey.

Director Robert Tracy and the Public Works crew are always there when needed. They keep our roads safe for travel and our town immaculate.

Our Fire Chief Richard Hess and all members of our volunteer fire department had a very busy year, responding to 265 calls.

EMS Chief Chris Barron and the EMS volunteers responded to a record number of calls in Norwood and the surrounding communities.

Your commitment to the health and safety of our community does not go unnoticed.

Thank you to my administration staff, Jordan Padovano and Lindsay Volpitta, construction department personnel, Gino Tessaro, Laurie Engle and Chris Jackson, our finance office staff, Chris Battaglia, Lori Gonzales, and Joann Voccola, Municipal Court Judge Robert Travers and his staff Janet Gallagher, Annmarie Colwell, Laura Nunnink, and Lou DeAngelis, Board of Health secretary Debbie Whalen, and our tax assessor Robert Brescia.

Every day they go the extra mile to help our residents, and their dedication and care make our community a better place.

A successful municipality also relies on its professionals. Thank you to our borough attorney, Kevin Corrison, and our borough engineer Michael Neglia and Scott Loverich. They are all assets to our community.

Our Council is made up of a group of people who all want the same thing, the best possible Norwood for our residents.

Councilwoman Hausmann had a wonderful year working with the Environmental Commission bringing fun community nights at the garden to the Borough. Also, as Board of Health liaison, she brought valuable information back to our meetings.

Councilman Kim has been an important part of the Greenway Trail, Board of Education, and library. His enthusiasm for his positions shines through as he takes his liaison positions very seriously. He also volunteers his time to help with any project within the borough.

Councilman Foschino, as Council liaison to the Fire Department, has worked with the Chief and the Fire Truck Committee to make sure our new fire truck, which was delivered in November, has everything the department needs. Councilman Foschino is also our liaison to the Recreation Committee, working with the Committee members to enhance our recreation programs and offerings. The second annual Winterfest was a success with a great turn out. Our 3rd Winterfest is scheduled for January 17th.

Councilman Ascolese has begun his 8th term and will continue to be a sounding board for all of us. As part of our Planning Board, liaison to our Police Department and Seniors, and Chairman of the Personnel Committee his contributions are immeasurable.

Councilman Brizzolara has begun his 9th term. Working closely with our Construction Official he has been an essential part of the team, helping to have that department run in an efficient manner.

As liaison to the finance department, Councilman Condoleo has been an integral part of helping to keep the borough financially responsible and fiscally sound. As EMS liaison, he worked closely with the Chief to make sure that EMS has everything they need to operate efficiently. He was also a valued member of the Personnel Committee.

Councilman Condoleo began his first term in 2006, taking my council seat when I became Mayor. A time came when he made the decision to take a break from politics to concentrate on his family. We were fortunate to have him back on the dais in 2023 for another term. Councilman Condoleo has delivered many successful budgets keeping our town financially sound. We will all greatly miss him and the vast financial knowledge that he provides. During an upcoming meeting we will present Councilman Condoleo with a plaque for his many years of dedicated service.

I would also like to congratulate newly elected Councilwoman Sue DeBiosa and welcome her to the Council. I look forward to working together and I wish her success in her new role.

We held our 19th Annual Norwood Day celebration this past September. Since 2007, this has been a special day for our residents, celebrating our Norwood pride, having fun with family and friends and meeting our new residents. It is fully funded by the generous donations of our residents and local businesses.

2025 was another year of great accomplishments.

In November we took possession of our new fire truck, replacing a truck that was 40 years old. The truck was meticulously maintained throughout its 40 years of service and reflects the pride of its operators in ensuring its longevity.

The grand opening for the all-inclusive playground was held in April.

Construction of the pickleball courts was completed in July and they have been used daily while weather allows.

Both of these projects were well worth the wait and are great additions to our Kennedy Field athletic complex.

We also improved upon our streets. The paving of Tilden Place, Frasco Avenue, Adams Street, and Burlington Street was completed in May. The roadway and drainage improvements to 14th Street were completed in September.

There are many projects already in the works for 2026. Roadway improvements to Mills Avenue will begin in the spring. We should be advertising for bids early in the year for the Summit Street improvement project. Plans have been submitted to the County for pedestrian safety improvements to Piermont Road and our Engineer continues to work with the NJDEP and NJDOT on the Broad Street bridge replacement project.

Our residents make Norwood the special community that it is. Because of you, Norwood continues to be a desirable place to live with strong public safety, financial stability, and passionate teachers that are dedicated to our children. We have a town that we can all be proud of. It is truly the people of this town that make Norwood stand out. I am honored and grateful to serve as your Mayor in this wonderful community filled with great people.

Tonight is my 20th consecutive reorganization meeting. Throughout my tenure as Mayor. Twenty years ago, I sat here with the same goal I have tonight, to ensure Norwood remains a place we are all proud to call home. Thank you for the continued trust you have placed in me. I look forward to everything we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

CLOSE MEETING SINE—DIE

The mayor adjourned the meeting SINE—DIE. Meeting closed at 7:16pm.

### CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano announced the receipt of the Certificates of Election for Councilman Foschino and Councilwoman DeBiasa.

Oath of Office was administered to Councilman Foschino by Mayor Barsa.

Oath of Office was administered to Councilwoman DeBiasa by Colleen McGowan, Notary Public.

Presentation by County Clerk John Hogan.

Presentation by Women Empowered Democratic Organization.

### Roll call of the 2026 Council

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Mayor Barsa           | Present |
| Councilman Ascolese   | Present |
| Councilman Brizzolara | Present |
| Councilwoman DeBiasa  | Present |
| Councilman Foschino   | Present |
| Councilwoman Hausmann | Present |
| Councilman Kim        | Present |

### SELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to elect Councilman Ascolese as Council President. Councilwoman Hausmann seconded the motion.

Mayor Barsa asked if there were any other nominations.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to elect Councilman Kim as Council President. Councilman Ascolese seconded the motion. The mayor asked the Borough Clerk for a roll call vote for Councilman Kim's nomination. The vote was as follows, with Mayor Barsa breaking the tie:

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Ascolese   | Aye |
| Councilman Brizzolara | Nay |
| Councilwoman DeBiasa  | Nay |
| Councilman Foschino   | Aye |
| Councilwoman Hausmann | Nay |
| Councilman Kim        | Aye |
| Mayor Barsa           | Aye |

With the majority vote, Councilman Kim was made Council President for 2026.

## CONSENT AGENDA

All items are routine and will be enacted with a single motion; any items requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda; all Consent Agenda items will be reflected in full in the minutes.

- 26:01 Approving the Rules and By-Laws dated July 2, 1969, supplemented and approved for 2026
- 26:02 Approving the Rules of Order
- 26:03 Mayor and Council Meeting Annual Meeting Notice
- 26:04 Minutes of Meetings need not be read by the Borough Clerk at Council Meetings
- 26:05 Designation of Official Newspapers
- 26:06 2026 Official Holidays
- 26:07 Establishing a Cash Management Plan
- 26:08 Fixing the Rate of Interest and Year End Penalty for non-payment of taxes
- 26:09 Appointment of Lori Gonzalez as Assistant Treasurer for the year 2026
- 26:10 Appointment of Lindsay Volpitta as Deputy Borough Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector for the year 2026
- 26:11 Appointment of Jordan Padovano as Insurance Commissioner for the Bergen County Joint Insurance Fund for 2026
- 26:12 Appointment of Robert Brescia as Municipal Housing Liaison for the year 2026
- 26:13 Appointment of Janet Gallagher as Court Administrator
- 26:14 Appointment of Laura A. Nunnink, Esq. as Municipal Prosecutor for the year 2026
- 26:15 Appointment of Sgt. John Kuder as Emergency Management Coordinator for the year 2026
- 26:16 Appointing Kevin C. Corrison of Breslin & Breslin PA as Borough Attorney for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2026
- 26:17 Approval of 2026 Temporary Budget
- 26:18 Appointing Steven Wielkott of Wielkott and Company as Borough Auditor for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2026
- 26:19 Appointing Steve Rogut of Rogut, McCarthy, L.L.C. as Bond Counsel for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2026
- 26:20 Appointing Victor Fadini as Risk Manager for the Borough of Norwood for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2026
- 26:21 Appointing Dart Computer as IT Consultant for a one-year term to expire on 12/31/2026
- 26:22 Appointing Acari and Iovino Architects PC as Borough Architect for a one-year term to expire on 12/31/2026

- 26:23 Appointing Neglia Engineering as Borough Planner for Affordable Housing for a one-year term to expire on 12/31/2026
- 26:24 Appointing Andrew Fede, Esq. as Special Counsel for Tax Appeal Conflicts for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2026
- 26:25 Appointment of Andrew Fede to Serve as Special Counsel to the Borough of Norwood for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2026
- 26:26 Appointing Raymond Wiss as Labor Attorney for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2026
- 26:27 Appointment of the County of Bergen as its Animal Control Officer for 2026
- 26:28 Authorizing a Public Health Shared Services Agreement between the Borough of Norwood and the County of Bergen for Employees Assistance Program
- 26:29 Appointing Supporting Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force
- 26:30 Approving Inter-Boro Mutual Aid Group with Various Municipalities
- 26:31 Appointing Laurie Engel as TACO for the 2026
- 26:32 Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing (HGAC)
- 26:33 Confirming the appointment of Jordan Padovano as Public Agency Compliance Officer in accordance with the New Jersey Administrative Code's Requirements
- 26:34 Appointing Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officer (MHLEO)
- 26:35 Establishing Petty Cash for the Borough
- 26:36 Adopting A Form Required to Be Used for The Filing of Notices of Tort Claims
- 26:37 Appointment of Debbie Whalen as Board of Health Registrar
- 26:38 Resolution Appointing Chief Financial Officer
- 26:39 Resolution Appointing Professional Services as Planning Board Attorney
- 26:40 Appointment of William McGuire as Deputy Registrar
- 26:41 Resolution Authorizing Electronic Tax Sale
- 26:42 Appointment of Bergen County Department of Health as Bloodborne Pathogen Compliance Coordinator and Trainer
- 26:43 Resolution Appointing Elevator Inspector
- 26:44 Resolution Supporting the Continuing Efforts of the Proposed Northern Valley Greenway Project

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Resolution 2026:01. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Brizzolara suggested the governing body review the bylaws as they have not been updated in about 15 years.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve Resolution 2026:01. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

## **XVII. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS**

### **Board of Health:**

Shiela Conroy – 3 year term to expire 12/31/28

### **Recreation Committee:**

Gene Huelster – (At Large) 3 year term to expire 12/31/28

Stephen Whaley – (At Large) 3 year term to expire 12/31/28

Kevin Wilson – (At Large) 3 year term to expire 12/31/28

Sophia Macchiaroli – (Cheer) 3 year term to expire 12/31/28

### **Historic Preservation Committee: 1 Yr. Terms Expire 12/31/2026**

David Elling                      Marjorie Scott                      James Elling

Birgitha Tray                      Richard Williams

### **Green Team Committee: 1 Yr. Terms Expires 12/31/2025**

Mayor James Barsa                      David Hausmann

Annie Hausmann                      Christopher Barron (EMS representative)

Anthony Foschino                      Eric Schuck (DPW / Recycling representative)

Joanna Kao                      Michael Congiusti (FD representative)

Jonathan Zipper                      Sal Russino (PD representative)

Paul Haberman

### **Senior Citizen Advisory Committee: 1 Yr. Term, Expires 12/31/2026**

Mayor Barsa                      Janet D'Ercole

Councilman Ascolese                      Hedy Galow

Martha Kleinlaut                      Paul Elenio

### **Police Physician:**

Park Medical Group

### **Towing Services:**

D.T.R. Towing LLC

DeMauro Towing, Inc

Emerson Towing Inc

NorthStar Towing



Rich's Automotive

**Bureau of Fire Safety Inspectors:**

William McGuire Richard Hess

**Crossing Guards for 2026**

Full Time:

Paul Wiegartner

Tzuyi "Peter" Lin

Linda Dudzienski

Harry Ahn

Maura Canas

Robert Canas

Robert Kuenzler

Roger Girardin

Michael Cheringal

Karin Weissbach

Nicholas Karayanis

Dawn Scherba

Alternates:

William Della Fave

Marylin Vertullo

Phyllis Bernstein

On Leave:

Larry Grassi (on leave)

Rita Paton (on leave)

Councilman Ascolese made a motion to approve the Mayoral appointments to various boards and committees and the Council committee assignments. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

**XVII.I. COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Finance**

Brizzolara (Chair)

DeBiasa

Kim

**Personnel**

Ascolese (Chair)

DeBiasa

Foschino

**Property/Zoning**

DeBiasa (Chair)

Brizzolara (Construction)

Ascolese (Planning Board)

**Public Health**

Hausmann (Chair)

DeBiasa

Ascolese

**Public Safety**  
Ascolese (Police)  
Foschino (Fire)  
Kim (EMS)

**Public Utilities**  
Brizzolara (Chair)  
Hausmann  
Kim

**Public Works**  
Foschino (Chair)  
Hausmann  
Brizzolara

**Shared Services**  
Barsa (chair)  
Brizzolara  
Foschino

**Grant Writer**  
Hausmann (chair)  
Foschino  
Ascolese

Mayor Barsa offers the following appointments not subject to council approval:

**Planning Board:**

|                    |                           |            |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Chris Jackson      | Class II, Term Expires    | 12/31/2026 |
| Joseph Ascolese,   | Class III, Term Expires   | 12/31/2026 |
| Travis Harper      | Class IV, Term Expires    | 12/31/2028 |
| Paul Haberman      | Class IV, Term Expires    | 12/31/2028 |
| Dominick Congiusti | Alternate 1, Term Expires | 12/31/27   |
| Kevin Fischer      | Alternate 2, Term Expires | 12/31/27   |
| Bill Bochicchio    | Alternate 3, Term Expires | 12/31/28   |

**Environmental Commission:**

Michaela Redden – 3 year term to expire 12/31/2028  
Dierdre Kessler – 3 year term to expire 12/31/2028  
Walter Deptuch – 3 year term to expire 12/31/28  
Caroline Nagy – Alternate 2, 2 year term to expire 12/31/27

Mayor Barsa made his appointments to the Planning Board, Environmental Committee and Council liaison appointments.

Mayor Barsa to announce his Liaison Appointments for 2026:

Board of Education (Norwood Public) .....Foschino  
Board of Education (NVRHS) .....Kim  
Board of Health .....DeBiosa  
Community Development .....Hausmann  
Community Outreach/Food Pantry .....Hausmann  
Environmental Commission .....Hausmann

|                                         |            |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|
| Greenway Trail .....                    | Kim        |
| Historic Preservation .....             | Brizzolara |
| Library .....                           | Kim        |
| Recreation.....                         | Foschino   |
| Seniors .....                           | Ascolese   |
| Senior Advisory Board .....             | Ascolese   |
| Shade Tree.....                         | Brizzolara |
| Tax Assessor / Affordable Housing ..... | DeBiasa    |

## COMMENTS AND REMARKS

### Councilwoman Hausmann

Councilwoman Hausmann said she is beginning her 6<sup>th</sup> year on the council and that it is a rewarding experience, and she has learned a lot. Councilwoman Hausmann thanked Councilman Condoleo for his work in the finance department. She also congratulated Councilman Foschino on his reelection and Councilwoman DeBiasa on her newly elected position. Councilwoman Hausman advised that there is a recreation grant coming due in February and needs to be discussed prior to the next meeting.

### Council President Kim

Council President Kim said during his tenure on the Council he was able to bring Korean police officers and fire department personnel to Norwood. He is very fortunate to be living here and working for the town. He tries to do his best and will not take this opportunity for granted.

### Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese congratulated Councilman Foschino and Councilwoman DeBiasa. This is Councilman Ascolese's 21<sup>st</sup> year on the dais. Councilman Ascolese said he has learned so much from Councilman Condoleo and he has changed the way they do the budget.

### Councilman Foschino

Councilman Foschino thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He congratulated Councilwoman DeBiasa on her election to the Council and looks forward to working with her. Councilman Foschino said he is honored to serve the town for 24 years between Council and Board positions and he is very happy to raise his family here.

### Councilman Brizzolara

Councilman Brizzolara thanked Councilman Condoleo for his service to the governing body. He deserves a huge thank you from the governing body. Councilman Brizzolara congratulated Councilman Foschino and Councilwoman

DeBiasa on their election wins. He also congratulated Council President Kim on his selection to Council President.

#### Councilwoman DeBiasa

Councilwoman DeBiasa thanked the governing body and looks forward to working with everyone. She will work for the residents to the best of her ability.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilwoman Hausmann made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Councilman Brizzolara seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Jarrord Khoury, 24 Demarest Street, asked if the parking ordinance on Demarest Street could be discussed as he doesn't understand as the parking assignments were chosen.

Mayor Barsa said one side of the street parking was needed to due public safety and the need to get police and fire vehicles through the street.

Chief Federici said there was a problem fitting large emergency vehicles down the street. There are two fire hydrants on the east side of the street, with none on the west. After monitoring the street since the ordinance passed there has not been more than three vehicles parked on the road. The signs were originally posted to the wrong side of the street accidentally and were removed and placed on the correct side.

Mr. Loverich said the catch basins can be in the road as they have a weight rating for tractor trailers.

Mayor Barsa asked the Chief to review the parking ordinance with Mr. Loverich.

Councilwoman Hausmann said she received an email that there are two homes where the driveways are the entire length on the property and there is no room to park on that side of the street.

Allen Rapaport, 18 Park Avenue, Old Tappan, said after 32 years its very hard not to be a part of Norwood. He especially wanted to be here tonight to congratulate Councilwoman DeBiasa and carrying on the legacy of her father. He also questioned how Mayor Barsa chooses who would be a liaison to each department.

Councilwoman Hausmann made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Councilman Ascolese seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Hausmann seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.