

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
APRIL 13, 2022
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE
COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOSCHINO
COUNCILMAN KIM

COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN
COUNCILMAN ROONEY

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Norwood was held at Borough Hall on the above date.

Mayor Barsa called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and led those in attendance in a salute to the American Flag and asked for a moment of silence

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, filing a copy in the Borough Clerk’s office, and posting on the bulletin board.”

Roll Call:	Mayor Barsa	Present
	Councilman Ascolese	Present
	Councilman Brizzolara	Present
	Council President Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present
	Councilman Rooney	Present

Mayor Barsa put forth a proclamation recognizing April as Autism Acceptance month in Norwood. The mayor stated that as a community, Norwood will promote awareness, acceptance, and education of the developmental condition which is autism.

Mayor Barsa announced that the milling of Blanch Avenue will take place on Thursday and Friday followed by the paving on Monday and Tuesday. They will begin in Closter and work their way towards the Harrington Park border. He advised residents to please plan ahead with alternative routes for the next few days while the roadwork is taking place.

The mayor mentioned that Earth Day is a day to educate people on the importation of the negative effects of pollution. Pollution is more than just harmful chemicals or gases that make their way into our air and bodies of water. Pollution also includes trash and pet waste.

The mayor stated that this month our Mayors Wellness event will be held in conjunction with the Environmental Committee. In honor of Earth Day, we will be holding a community clean up event and will be picking up litter that was discarded along Broadway and left at Kennedy Field. Please join us at Kennedy Field at 10am on Sunday, April 24th. Gloves and garbage bags will be provided.

The mayor detailed the importance of Easter and Passover and wished all who celebrate a joyous Passover and a happy Easter.

CORRESPONDENCE

The mayor stated that there are several pieces of correspondence which are available at the Municipal Clerk's office including the following:

Field Usage Recommendation Letter
American Legion Memorial Day Parade Notice
Building Department March Fee Log

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Barsa announced the proclamation being made tonight to declare April as National Autism Awareness Month in Norwood

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.

Approval of the Following Minutes:

March 23, 2022, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2022:77 Resolution Providing for Self-Examination of the 2022 Municipal Budget
2022:78 Authorizing Bituminous Core Testing Proposal with KeyTech Laboratories
for the 2020 Road Program
2022:79 Authorizing Neglia Engineering Associates for the Advertisement for
Receipt of Bids for the Norwood Dog Park Project
2022:84 Federal Appropriations Resolution – Broad St. Bridge
2022:85 Federal Appropriations Resolution – Millbrook Circle Drainage
2022:86 Resolution Authorizing Participation in The Defense Logistics Agency, Law
Enforcement Support Office, 1033 Program

The following resolutions were removed from the consent agenda as requested by Councilman Brizzolara:

2022:80 Resolution of the Governing Body's Certification of Compliance with the U.S.
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
2022:81 Authorizing the Hiring of Glen Dottino as Part-Time Laborer for the
Norwood DPW

2022:82 Authorizing the Hiring of Joseph R. Pisano as Part-Time Laborer for the Norwood DPW

2022:83 Authorizing the Hiring of Andrew Cowley as Part-Time Laborer for the Norwood DPW

2022:87 Payment of Vouchers

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda and the minutes be approved for content and release. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Brizzolara did not feel comfortable signing his name to resolution 2022:80 and the subsequent documents, without reading the law first. It was agreed that the resolution is to be tabled until the next meeting in April.

Regarding resolutions 2022:81 through 2022:83 Councilman Brizzolara had some questions for DPW Director Robert Tracy. He asked how many full-time laborers are employed by the Borough, to which Director Tracy responded with 8 including himself. Councilman Brizzolara wanted specification when the new hires would start work. Director Tracy clarified that the new hires would hopefully start by April 18th. Councilman Brizzolara then asked what kind of work the new hires would be doing, to which Director Tracy gave a list of the different roles to be expected of them.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve resolutions 2022:81 through 2022:83. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Brizzolara wanted to know what certain items in the bill list were. The first item was in page three of the bill list which was titled BOROUGH OF NORWOOD.

The second item was in page three of the bill list which was titled PENGUIN MANAGEMENT.

Christopher Battaglia, Norwood's CFO, explained that the Borough of Norwood charge is for police outside duty. He also explained that Penguin Management is for software for our emergency services' dispatch.

Councilman Brizzolara also wanted more information about PERRENIAL SERVICES LLC. DPW Director Tracy explained that it is fertilizer for numerous locations in the Borough. This one charge is for the entire year.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve resolution 2022:87. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Rooney:

This budget was a culmination of input from the borough's department heads and professionals. We went into these discussions with the borough's needs on the forefront of our minds. We are very grateful for Neglia Engineering for their expertise. We are happy that we came out of these discussions with only a 2% increase for the average taxpayer, while allowing our surplus to remain flat. Very happy that we now have a grant writer to offset some expenses.

The mayor expressed his happiness with the budget and wanted to personally thank Councilman Rooney for all his hard work.

Christopher Battaglia, Norwood's CFO stated that even the borough had some large expenses that were out of the borough's control, the increase to the taxpayer is still minimal. Stated that we are around \$260,000 below CAP. The ordinance upcoming on this agenda will allow us to bank our CAP and carry it over from year to year. Great job all around.

Councilman Brizzolara wanted more information about the increase in the budget for Volunteer Ambulance, Vehicle Maintenance, Construction S&W, Recreation O/E, Public Works Expenses, and Buildings and Grounds.

Councilman Ascolese asked for more clarification on what the CAP Bank ordinance means for the Borough. Chris Battaglia explained in further detail what this means.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2022:04 Bond Ordinance to authorize the making of various public improvements and the acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery and new automotive vehicles, including original apparatus and equipment, in, by and for the Borough of Norwood, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to appropriate the sum of \$2,586,000 to pay the cost thereof, to make a down payment, to authorize the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation and to provide for the issuance of bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds.

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilwoman Hausmann, that Ordinance 2022:04 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on April 27, 2022.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Brizzolara, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim, Rooney

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

2. Ordinance 2022:05 An Ordinance to exceed the 2022 Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and Establish a Cap Bank.

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilman Ascolese, that Ordinance 2022:05 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on May 11, 2022.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Brizzolara, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim, Rooney

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Resolution 2022:88 Approving the Introduction of the 2022 Municipal Budget

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

The Borough Administrator / Clerk stated "Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was approved by the Council Members of the Borough of Norwood, County of Bergen, on April 13th, 2022. A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at Borough Hall, on May 11th, 2022, at 7:00 o'clock at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2022 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons."

COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED:

Council President Foschino:

Council President Foschino is looking to reach out to our local businesses and advise them of a program offered by the State that they might not be aware of. The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network is a free tool for businesses to learn how to save money and help the environment by purchasing cost-effective recycled products and how to reduce waste. Eric Schuck, the borough's recycling coordinator, can help by enrolling the interested businesses in the program and also advise them on their recycling needs.

Norwood has had a community garden in Norwood for many years. The plots have been maintained by residents and the DPW has assisted with the maintenance of the area. The garden, which was once a beautifully maintained location, is now not only an eyesore but unsafe. Part of the structure is decayed, there are trip hazards and some plots have been abandoned and are now overgrown and full of weeds. For the past year, Director Tracy has been in contact with tree companies to get quotes for the removal of dead trees from the library property that are in danger of falling, and potentially damaging the structure, as well as gathering pricing for a new shed, gardening equipment, enlarging the current area to include more plots, new fencing and purchasing new gardening tools to be part of the communal workspace. The garden will be overseen by the DPW as they have always, and will continue to be, involved in the maintenance. The governing body also needs to establish a budget line item, that will fall under the DPW buildings and grounds account. The DPW was approached by a long-time plot holder who would like to volunteer as a resident liaison. With the proper management, Norwood can have a community garden that other towns look to as an example.

Norwood is part of the Bergen County Clean Communities Program which is designed to help reduce litter. This program is offering mini grants to nonprofit organizations in participating municipalities. Council President Foschino thinks this would be a wonderful opportunity for the DPW to partner with the Scouts. The DPW would supply the necessary equipment, such as bags and gloves, and the scouts could choose a location they feel needs to be cleaned of litter. Norwood would then submit the grant application for them. Each grant that is awarded is for a minimum of \$300.00.

Norwood received the Tree City USA signs and have been advised that due to the borough's reapplication to the program, Norwood have been granted 10-year status. The prior Administrator had let the application lapse over five years ago. This is something Director Tracy and Council President Foschino will stay on top of as it is an honor for the Borough to be a part of. The signs will be placed on the roads coming into town shortly.

Norwood have begun accepting submissions for the Recycling poster contest. It is open to all Norwood children in 5th through 8th grade. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Information and requirements can be found on the Borough website, DPW Facebook page, and Borough Facebook page.

As you are all aware Norwood has a contract with Harrington Park which gives them permission to use the Norwood dump for their leaf compost and the grinding of their wood chips. They are requesting a five-year contract with a 2% increase in fees each year. That would bring the contract to 2026 and the yearly contract amount for that year would be \$25,393.86. Council President Foschino would like to list this as a discussion item on our agenda for the next meeting to get input from all Council members before responding to Harrington Park.

Council President Foschino and the Mayor visited some residents on Summit Street and review some drainage issues on that street. Neglia Engineering has a plan to fix the problem and will move forward with getting that problem remedied.

Councilman Brizzolara:

Councilman Brizzolara stated that the homeowners in the borough are investing heavily in their properties. The last two homes on Helen and Lamb courts are finishing up. The road is going in soon on the property at Livingston and Tappan. Engineer Michael Neglia added that the dugouts have been delivered and Plescia Roofing is donating the installation of those dugouts. Neglia also added that as far as the Knickerbocker field is concerned, there was no good time to take the field out of commission. It was easier to take it out now, then compared to soccer season. Michael Neglia and Mayor Barsa confirmed that the school was notified of the construction ahead of time.

Councilman Kim:

Councilman Kim asked Michael Neglia about the Blanch Ave bridge and Blanch Ave itself. Michael Neglia stated that Blanch Ave will be closed for milling and paving and will reopen next week.

Councilman Kim announced that Norwood Public Schools are no longer mandating masks and that the superintendent is hiring 2 principals. Northern Valley Regional High School had a resignation and added Laurie Ross to fill the vacant seat.

Councilman Kim announced that there is further action with the greenway project. On April 4th, the greenway committee had a zoom meeting with Assemblywoman Haider to help with their outreach and organization.

Councilman Kim stated that there are drainage issues at the library as well as safety issues. There is also a long-standing vehicle congestion issue at the library parking lot. Discussion was held with various ideas for drop-off, pickup, and traffic control. It was decided that any decisions regarding the parking issued during school start

and end should be decided by the Board of Education and then reported to the Mayor and Council.

Council President Foschino asked if Councilman Kim was approached as liaison by someone at the school regarding the Knickerbocker field construction. Councilwoman Hausmann stated that Mike Sprague reached out to her regarding that issue. Council President Foschino asked why the liaison wasn't reached out to for this question. Councilman Brizzolara stated that Mike Sprague didn't know which councilperson was the liaison. Councilwoman Hausmann stated that she immediately called Council President Foschino and DPW Director Tracy and notified the former of the question.

Councilwoman Hausmann:

There was one zoning application approved at the zoning board meeting. The Board of Health is now a member of the NJ Board of Health Association. The Board of Health President stopped by the senior club meeting and the County nurses will be in contract with the Board and seniors. The emergency preparedness plan was reviewed.

The Environmental Commission continue to host hikes with great turnout. The composting workshop was on April 3 & 9th and had an impressive turnout with over 40 registrants. The Environmental Commission felt that it was a great learning experience to see how they can run programing moving forward. They also utilized an event specific QR code. The EC is currently wrapping up a presentation at the boy scout troop. The tree ordinance subcommittee is working hard and remodeling Norwood's ordinance to fit our community. Closter issues a bright green permit for those who are removing trees. That will give the Police a good way to see if they have a permit during off hours. The EC think that is a great idea. The EC feels that by May, they should be ready to present to the governing body. The litter pickup is on April 24th at 10am. The meeting place is Kennedy Field and then there is a hike to follow.

Councilman Ascolese:

Councilman Ascolese feel that the Police Department do a great job and had the Chief of Police explain a recent life save by one of our officers at Impact Zone in town.

Councilman Ascolese stated that there was a lot accomplished at the meeting with the grant writer. The things that had a deadline of April took the main focus with other projects to be looked at later.

Mayor Barsa explained that the dog park is moving forward. The most recent consent agenda contained a resolution authorizing Norwood to advertise for bids. Michael Neglia explained the different alternate bids.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

Ed Condeleo – 81 Summit Street:

This was a very informative meeting and just had some comments in terms of the budget. There are significant increases in expenditures, and we have to ask what assumptions are being made. Just want to make sure we cover those increases.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

CLOSED SESSION

2022:89 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Contract Negotiations

Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilwoman Hausmann, and unanimously agreed that 2022:89 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Contract Negotiations be approved. The meeting temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 8:00 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN

The meeting resumed in open session at 8:27 PM.

Motion by Council President Foschino, second by Councilman Ascolese, and unanimously agreed that the Captain and Chief's contracts should match the percentage raise that is in the current PBA contract. All councilmembers present approved the motion via a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk