

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2022
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSА

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOSCHINO	COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN
COUNCILMAN KIM	COUNCILMAN SULJIC

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 Suljic	Present

Mayor Barsa announced that Norwood’s recreation soccer and football teams had a stellar year on the field. Three of the soccer teams made it to the finals and finished the season as runner up in their respective divisions. All three of Norwood Raiders football teams advanced to the playoffs with the Seniors taking home the championship wins against the Northern Valley Eagles. The NVOT Golden Knights continued the winning streak bringing the first State Championship win to the school. Mayor Barsa offered congratulations to all on a season of excellence.

Mayor Barsa stated that Norwood’s annual rabies clinic will be held in the community center on January 31st from 5:30pm-7pm. Pet license applications for the new year will be mailed to all the pet owners we have on file. There will also be license applications available on the borough website and in the Clerk’s office at Borough Hall.

Norwood's next Mayors Wellness event will be a month-long community weight loss challenge beginning on January 1st. More information will be available on the borough website and the Borough Facebook pages in the coming days.

Mayor Barsa announced that the Winter Festival is scheduled to take place at Heroes Pond on Saturday, January 21st, from 4pm-8pm. As part of the Winter Festival, we will be holding our first annual Great Norwood Cookie Bake Off. More information will be posted soon.

Mayor Barsa stated that Santa Clause took time out of his very busy schedule to make two special trips to Norwood. First, he made an appearance at our annual tree lighting which was a great success. He thanked the Norwood Girl Scouts for serving hot chocolate and donuts and to the Norwood Public School Chorus for proving us with beautiful music. This past Saturday, the Norwood Fire Department and Santa Clause joined forces to spread holiday cheer. Thank you to Norwood's fire department for keeping this tradition alive.

Norwood's annual Menorah lighting will be held on Sunday, December 18th at 6pm on the front lawn of Borough Hall. Hot chocolate, donuts and goody bags will be provided. The mayor wished all celebrating a happy and healthy Hanukkah.

Mayor Barsa wished all a very merry Christmas.

To all members of our community, Mayor Barsa wished each of you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.

CORRESPONDENCE

Building Department November Fee Log
Norwood Police Department November Report
Norwood Fire Department November Report

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2022:10 An Ordinance Amending Article VI Titled "Business Zones" in Chapter 233 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve Ordinance 2022:10.

On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Council President Foschino, and Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Hausmann, Kim, and Suljic

Absent: None

Nays: None

There being six (6) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2022:10 was approved

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2022:11 An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition by a Gift of Property Known as Block 74, Lot 3 in the Borough of Norwood

Public Hearing for Ordinance 2022:11 will be on January 25, 2023

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilwoman Hausmann, that Ordinance 2022:11 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on January 25, 2023.

Roll Call

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

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:

October 26, 2022, Mayor & Council Meeting

November 9, 2022, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2022:188 Approving Junior Member Appointment to Norwood Fire Co. No. 1
Alex Orecchio
2022:189 Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement between the Borough of Norwood
and the Borough of Old Tappan for Motor Vehicle Repair Services
2022:190 Refund of Temporary Food License Fee to Christina Hernandez
2022:191 Authorizing the Cancellation of Small Balances by the Tax Collector
2022:192 Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 1 – Replacement of the
Blanch Ave Culvert over Dwars Kill
2022:193 Authorizing Requests for Qualifications
2022:194 Authorizing Budget Transfers for Calendar Year 2022
2022:195 Authorizing the Hiring of Andrew Cowley for the Norwood DPW
2022:196 Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Proposal to the NJ DCA FY23 Local
Recreational Improvement Grant Program
2022:197 Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 2 – Kennedy Park ADA
Restrooms
2022:198 Payment of Vouchers

Approval of Resolutions 2022:188 through 2022:198 and approval of the October 26th and November 9th, 2022, Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes was motioned by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Playground Equipment

Sharon Plescia, Julie Krcmaric, and Nancy Congiusti, who are members of the Kennedy playground equipment subcommittee gave a presentation to the Mayor and Council regarding their findings for new playground equipment. Councilman Suljic is also on the subcommittee.

The subcommittee described what a “playground for all” means. They described it as a “A universally designed, sensory inclusive environment for children to develop physically, socially, and emotionally. An engaging place that provides just-right level of challenge and offers opportunities to succeed. A place that goes beyond minimum accessibility to create play experiences that meet a variety of needs and interests.” Their vision is to have a playground at Kennedy field that any child and caretaker can easily access and participate in regardless of ability. They feel that it is important to have this playground because parents are willing to travel to towns all around to allow their children to experience a variety of playgrounds. No other playgrounds in the immediate

area are fully accessible. Unique playgrounds bring business to the town, as families will make a day of going to the playground. Important for all kids to socialize together as they all live in the community together.

The subcommittee went over the different design aspects of three different playground equipment companies. The different companies are Game Time, Kompan, and Landscape Structures. The committee does favor Game Time's design over all other designs. Game Time has the most comprehensive understanding of the subcommittee's vision and goals for the playground. It would require an extended footprint. There would be a Dual Zipline which is an extra \$55,600. Game Time has their own grant program, and the estimated cost of equipment is \$250,000.00.

The subcommittee then gave the council information on why they feel that a zipline is needed in the new park. The zipline will be a unique piece of equipment that no other playground in the area has. It is a great way for kids to build self-esteem. It builds upper body strength and coordination. It is inclusive, so any child, regardless of ability, will be included in this unique experience. It also provides vestibular input, allowing children the opportunity to learn how their body moves in space and helps build muscle tone.

Then the subcommittee mentioned eight key points to support that rubber surfacing is the better option for surfacing, rather than woodchips. They are aesthetic, durability, maintenance, designability, accessibility, surface temperature, cost, and safety.

Lastly the subcommittee mentioned facts about the footprint and grant opportunities.

Councilman Ascolese had a question regarding equipment material. Councilman Suljic specified that all pieces of equipment will be metal or plastic. Councilman Ascolese also had questions on the type of seat for the zipline. Councilman Suljic let him know that it is a bucket seat design. Councilwoman Hausmann added that the bucket seat adds no liability. Councilman Ascolese also asked if the installation cost is included in that initial price? The subcommittee agreed that the main price is including installation.

Councilman Kim wanted to know what the age levels for the structures are. The subcommittee explained that the main structure will be for 12-year-olds and under and the smaller structures will be for lower aged children.

Councilman Kim wanted to know how much the difference the price for woodchips would be versus the price for the rubber surfacing. The subcommittee explained that there is about a 10x increase in price from wood to rubber.

Councilwoman Hausmann stated that the reason that she was originally interested in a new ADA compliant playground was because she ran into a teacher who could not utilize the park with her students because it wasn't ADA compliant. The current playground has to be over 28 years old, and Councilwoman Hausmann feels that it is time to be replaced. Councilwoman Hausmann also stated that she is in favor of moving the playground closer to the parking lot to save money on some ground engineering work and it will create more room for activities. Also, Gametime is great to work with.

Council President Foschino asked Engineer Scott Loverich how much the price of the project will reduce if the footprint is moved towards the parking lot. Engineer Loverich stated that the price would reduce approximately \$100,000.

Mayor Barsa instructed Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano to arrange a meeting with the American Legion representatives to get their take on moving the playground closer to the monument.

Councilman Ascolese stated that this project needs to be completed. Councilman Ascolese wants to know how much this is going to cost the borough and how much we can offset with grants and fundraising. ‘

Mayor Barsa stated that this is a project that needs to get done, but a price point of 1.3 million is a big chunk of our capital budget. We really need to figure out the financial scope of this project and have CFO Battaglia get us some numbers.

Council President Foschino asked the subcommittee if the current footprint will fit a redesigned playground. The subcommittee state that it would fit inside the current footprint, except for the zipline.

Nancy Congiusti mentioned that if the playground is moved closer to the war memorial, the borough should ensure that the playground is closed during any services.

- Kennedy Park Barrier Free Restrooms Change Order

Council President Foschino feels that the architect and the contractor should have known this type of work would need to be done before they bid on the project. He does not feel that it is fair that the borough is getting hit with a change order for this work now.

Resolution 2022-199 - Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 1 – Kennedy Park ADA Restrooms

Approval of resolution 2022-199 was motioned by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Foschino. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

- Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano announced that the borough rabies clinic will be on January 31st, 2023, at the community center from 5:30pm through 7:00pm.

There will be another blood drive hosted on April 5th from 2pm to 7pm. The registration link is on the Red Cross's website and will be uploaded to the borough website on the 15th of December.

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano wished everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

- Borough Attorney Report

Borough Attorney Corrison reported that the ambulance corps contract is getting straightened out. They want the borough to pay for their generator maintenance, and in return, the borough not pay for the gas/electric bill.

The Jones Court lawsuit is being held off on doing anything. Hopefully they will work it out and continue to file extensions.

- Borough Engineer Report

Borough Engineer Loverich announced that the DPW completed the guardrail for the dog park. Neglia Engineering has no objection to opening the dog park. The paving of Walnut and other streets will take place in the spring. The basketball courts will be fixed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Hausman:

The Zoning Board did not have a meeting because there were no applications.

The Board of Health met on December 5th. The Bergen County health survey was reviewed and multimer summonses were issued. The Board of Health revisited the progress, and all issues were addressed. The Boards of Health from all the valley towns are doing great things. They are all looking to do more community outreach and education.

The Environmental Commission met and reviewed their budget. They spoke to Robert Tracy about a picnic table. A native plant workshop was discussed. Their reorganization meeting is scheduled for January 10th. The Environmental Commission's hope is to maintain their 4 plots within the community garden. Alexander Fruhling received her gold award from the Girl Scouts, and she is looking to hold a ceremony after the new year. Mayor Barsa agreed to have a ceremony.

Councilwoman Hausmann is working on a food pantry event this Saturday. The Norwood food pantry feeds between 6,000 to 8,000 people every year.

Councilman Suljic:

Councilman Suljic had nothing to report. He stated that he spoke with CFO Chris Battaglia regarding the closing out of jobs and receiving money from grants.

Councilman Ascolese:

Councilman Ascolese asked the Chief of Police to report on Sgt. Kuder's recent life save. Chief Krapels reported the achievement to the Mayor and Council. This is the 2nd life save from John Kuder.

Councilman Ascolese stated that the Norwood Seniors' Christmas luncheon went well. Mayor Barsa, Councilwoman Hausmann and Councilman Ascolese attended.

Councilman Kim:

Councilman Kim offered congratulations to Angie Alberti and Rahul Vaghasia for a well-run campaign and congratulated Ed Condoleo and Council President Foschino

for a successful win. Councilman Kim announced that NVOT purchased smart boards and are in the process of getting LED lighting installed.

Councilman Kim stated that a new custodian and teacher were hired at NPS. Also, the winter concert is December 14th and 15th.

Councilman Kim also stated that the Greenway Committee is working laboriously on outreach and social media.

Councilman Brizzolara:

Councilman Brizzolara stated that the Construction office is quiet for the holidays. The Grande's dentist and pharmacy are getting closer to an opening date. The liquor store wants to be open for the holidays.

Council President Foschino:

Council President Foschino announced that the new ambulance order may be changing. Chief Barron is working on that.

Council President Foschino stated that the Fire Department is tweaking some dispatch procedures due to manpower issues. They will be going to box alarms now which mean that certain calls will trigger an automatic response from other towns. This is a phenomenal effort to help combat the lack of volunteers. There is a big reliance on DPW workers due to the shortage of membership.

Council President Foschino thanked the DPW employees and administrative staff for their dedication to the borough and residents. Their involvement is crucial to borough operations and their responsibilities are endless.

He stated that past year we completed many upgrades and enhancements to our town facilities and buildings. At Kennedy Field, new dugouts and fencing were installed. The DPW saved the Borough upwards of \$40,000.00 by removing the existing concrete and reinstalling the concrete for the dugout pads. Improvements were also made to the Knickerbocker field to resolve drainage issues.

The roofs of the Triplex, Borough Hall, and field house, which were in major disrepair, were replaced.

A dog park was constructed in an area by the swim club. The DPW again saved the Borough money by keeping the building of the necessary guardrails in house.

The community garden, located at the library, was completely renovated by our employees. The old structure was removed and then rebuilt, including the eighteen plots, fully by the DPW. The plots were quickly filled, and it was a bountiful growing

season. Applications for the 2023 season will be accepted beginning January 1st and will be awarded by a lottery.

Norwood's contract with Harrington Park for the use of the dump was extended until 2026, with their financial obligation increasing by 2% each year.

Norwood held two very successful recycling events, called Project Clean & Green. At these events, residents had the opportunity to properly dispose of electronics, batteries, and cell phones, had access to complimentary yard waste bags and recycling containers, and free confidential shredding was also available.

Lastly, Council President Foschino congratulated two of our employees on special life events. Michael Congiusti, who is also our fire chief, welcomed a daughter and Matt Payraudeau got engaged. Council President Foschino looks forward to a productive 2023 working with this department and providing outstanding service for residents.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese. All councilmembers present voted in favor of the motion

Phil Maljevic – 192 Piermont Road

Mr. Maljevic stated that the playground project sounds awesome. Mr. Maljevic also offered assistance to Councilman Kim for help with publication for the Greenway. Mr. Maljevic also feels that the lifesaving efforts from Sergeant Kuder should go in the mayor's letter.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Foschino. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano

Borough Clerk