

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
April 24, 2024
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSА

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILMAN CONDOLEO	COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO
COUNCIL PRESIDENT HAUSMANN	COUNCILMAN KIM

CALL TO ORDER

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 7:02 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 OF THE COUNCIL

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

PRESENTATION – WHOLESUM FOOD PANTRY

Joann Scalpello gave a brief background on the food pantry and advised that the name has been changed to the Wholesum Food Pantry. The food pantry is open the first and third Saturdays of the month, from 10am-12pm. They have pop up Saturdays where they provide health and wellness related educational programs for the people who use the services of the food pantry. When the food pantry opened they were serving twenty five (25) families a month. That number has increased to

almost four hundred (400) families. Ms. Scalpello feels that the high cost of food is the number one reason for the increase in participants.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Barsa made a proclamation in honor of Arbor Day, which will be on April 26, 2024. The proclamation will be available in the Clerk's office.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Barsa noted that the Fire Department March report will be available for review in the Clerk's office.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2024:08 Amending Chapter 221 of the Revised General Ordinance of the Borough of Norwood, County of Bergen, State of NJ for Tree Removal
Public Hearing for Ordinance 2024:06 will be on May 8, 2024

Mr. Corrison explained that the DEP is mandating all municipalities to adopt a tree ordinance that fits the criteria of their model ordinance. Councilman Brizzolara asked if Dep was permitted to mandate an ordinance. Mr. Corrison replied that the DEP can mandate certain regulations within their authority.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked in the Environmental Commission can be involved in the discussion regarding the ordinance and to see how their proposed ordinance fits in with the DEP criteria.

This ordinance will be tabled for further review and discussion.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE:

1. Ordinance 2024:06 Amending Chapter 28.16a, Section 2 of the Revised General Ordinance of the Borough of Norwood, County of Bergen, State of NJ to increase the rate of compensation to the borough.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Council President Condoleo to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion.

It was moved by Council President Condoleo and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Council President Condoleo and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve Ordinance 2024:06. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

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:

April 10, 2024, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2024:91 Refund of Escrow 6 Meadow Lane
2024:92 Refund of Escrow 14 Helen Court
2024:93 Refund of Escrow 14 Jay Street
2024:94 Refund of Escrow 49 Oak Street
2024:95 Refund of Escrow 104 Sherwood Road
2024:96 Refund of Escrow 120 Briarwood
2024:97 Refund of Escrow 351 Livingston Street
2024:98 Refund of Escrow 355 Summit Street
2024:99 Refund of Escrow 370 15th Street
2024:100 Refund of Escrow Eastern Allied Construction
2024:101 Refund of Escrow 445-461 Livingston St. Associates
2024:102 Police Chief Contract
2024:103 Payment of Vouchers
2024:104 Approving the Fertilization Service Perennial Solutions

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Council President Condoleo to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Resolution 2024:104, and that the April 10, 2024, Mayor & Council Meeting minutes be approved for content and release. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Brizzolara asked why the governing body would be voting on a contract when they are still investigating the vendor list and what is available to do in house. Councilman Foschino said this contract is to apply fertilizer, herbicide, and pesticide treatments and that the applications need to be done in a timely matter. Councilman Brizzolara asked how much was paid last year. Councilman Foschino advised that this contract cuts the payment in half. Mr. Tracy advised the Council that there is currently an employee in classes to obtain their pesticide license and next year the DPW could possibly take over all treatments. Councilman Foschino advised that the contractor would be working on high traffic areas, such as the fields, and the DPW would be working on less visible areas.

It was moved by Council President Condoleo and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve Resolution 2024:104, Approving the Fertilization Service Perennial Solutions. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion with the exception of Councilman Brizzolara who voted no.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Street Sign Dedication Program

Mayor Barsa informed the Council that the Bocchino family has responded to the offer to have their family name on a street sign. Mr. Padovano is waiting to hear back from the family as to where they would like the street sign placed.

Mr. Padovano explained to the governing body that the application and criteria need approval in order to move forward with new names. Mayor Barsa stated he felt a good starting point was to require the family to have twenty five (25) years of volunteer service in the town before they could be considered for a street sign. Councilwoman Hausmann suggested contacting other towns to see what their procedure is and to have the Historic Preservation Committee be involved in the process. Mayor Barsa said he felt this should be a Council decision. Councilman Foschino suggested that each liaison go to their respective departments and ask them for suggestions. Councilman Brizzolara agreed with Councilwoman Hausmann and said it should be a nonpolitical decision. Mr. Corrison said to combine the ideas by receiving nominations from departments but letting the governing body make the final decision. He also stated that there should be clear criteria on what would qualify someone to apply or be nominated.

Mayor Barsa stated this discussion will be relisted once more information on criteria has been reviewed. He instructed Mr. Padovano and contact other towns to compare their procedure.

Noise Ordinance

Mr. Corrison explained that the state has issued guidelines on a noise ordinance. A municipality is not required to have a noise ordinance, but if they do it must conform to the state requirements. Those requirements stipulate that the only person who could issue a summons for violation of the ordinance is a trained health officer. The officer would be a member of the Bergen County Health Department. Mr. Corrison explained that the police would respond to the initial call with a decibel reader and if warranted forward the report to the court health officer who would then respond, take a decibel reading, and issue a summons if necessary. Councilman Ascolese asked what would happen if the ordinance was left as is. Mr. Corrison replied that a judge could dismiss any summons due to the ordinance not being in compliance with the state requirements. Councilman Brizzolara stated that

having a police officer or zoning officer speak with the offender could help resolve the situation without a summons being issued.

Library Rent

Council President informed the governing body that after receiving a letter from the Library Board stating they do not agree or accept the rent increase, he, along with Councilman Ascolese, met with members of the Library Board to discuss the rent and budget. Mayor Barsa explained that the process for determining the BCCLS fees is antiquated as it involves the population and town assessments. Mayor Barsa feels that libraries are needed and he would like to research having a municipal library which would allow the town to control the budget and spending. Council President Condoleo advised the governing body that BCCLS does not want the library to pay rent and could remove them from the program if the rent payments continue. Councilman Foschino suggested forming a Northern Valley Library with the surrounding towns and only paying one (1) BCCLS fee. Mayor Barsa said to keep the library budget as it was introduced and to research a municipal library. There were no objections to his suggestion.

ENGINEER REPORT

Mr. Loverich stated Hemlock has been paved and the striping will take place within the next few weeks. The playground surfacing and equipment will be installed in the late summer or early fall. The pedestrian crossing ramps have been installed on Livingston Street by Dunkin Donuts. They have signage equipped with flashing lights. The county will be in charge of the striping.

Councilman Kim informed the governing body that on Tuesday, April 30th, members of a Korean police department will be visiting the Norwood Police Department to learn about American procedures.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Council President Condoleo. All council members present approved the motion.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Foschino. All council members present approved the motion.

CLOSED SESSION

2024:105 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to Proceed in Closed Session – Matters Relating to Litigation and Employment

Motion by Council President Condoleo, second by Councilman Brizzolara, and unanimously agreed that 2024:105 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Matters Relating to Litigation and Employment be approved. The meeting temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 8:34 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The meeting returned to open at 9:12pm

Motion by Councilman Ascolese, second by Councilman Foschino, to approve the request of the DPW Assistant Director to return to his job as a laborer, with the stipulation that the Borough continue to pay for his CPWM classes, to take effective on April 1, 2024. All council members present approved the motion, with the exception of Councilman Brizzolara who felt the Assistant Director was making a bad career choice.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Council President Condoleo. All council members present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk