

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
MARCH 22, 2023
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

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

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 7:03 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 Condoleo	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Council President Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Absent

Mayor Barsa stated that last September, Norwood held a blood drive with the American Red Cross to help replenish their supply. Norwood had such a large number of donors, the Red Cross asked Norwood to hold another event. For those that would like to donate, the Red Cross will be at the community center on Wednesday, April 5th, from 2pm-7pm. Anyone can find the link to register for an available time slot on the borough website and Facebook page.

Mayor Barsa announced that April is National Autism Awareness Month and to raise awareness and promote education and acceptance, the Borough will be participating in the Autism 10,000 steps challenge. To participate in the challenge, participants must walk 10,000 or more steps for 8 days. Once the challenge is completed, please

email the Borough Clerk/Administrator, Jordan Padovano, and you will be recognized on the Facebook page and borough website. We will also hang a certificate in Borough Hall showcasing your accomplishment.

Mayor Barsa reminded residents that On Sunday, April 2nd, the Fire Department will hold their annual Easter egg hunt at Kennedy Field. The festivities begin at 1:30pm. Make sure to bring a basket to collect eggs.

Mayor Barsa stated that during Passover families come together to honor their history and celebrate the freedom of their ancestors. Also family and friends gather for Easter to rejoice in the spirit of renewal and rejuvenation. Both holidays bring with them the promise of spring, warmer weather, and longer days of sunlight.

Lastly, he wished all who celebrate a joyous Passover and a happy Easter.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2023:05 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 168, Section 14 Titled “Fees for Recreation Programs” of the Code of the Borough of Norwood

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Hausmann 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 Council President Hausmann to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Hausmann to approve Ordinance 2023:05

On the roll call vote:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

There being five (6) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2023:05 was approved.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2023:06 Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Acquisition Of A New Pumper Fire Engine, Including Original Apparatus And Equipment, In, By And For The Borough Of Norwood, In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey, To

Appropriate The Sum Of \$725,000 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 Ascolese, second by Councilman Condoleo, that Ordinance 2023:06 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on April 12, 2023.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Brizzolara, Condoleo, Foschino, Hausmann, and Kim

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2023:06 will be held on April 12, 2023

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 8, 2023, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2023:74 Authorizing the Establishment of the 2023 Temporary Capital Budget

2023:75 Approving Refund of Escrow Block 103 Lot 16 (439 High Street)

2023:76 Confirming the Appointment of Michael Neglia as Superintendent of
Norwood Department of Public Works

2023:77 Appointment of Representative to the County Public Safety Advisory
Board

2023:78 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement between the Borough of Norwood
and the Borough of Northvale to Provide Security for Chodae Community
Church and School

2023:79 Authorizing an Award of Contract for Turnout Gear for the Norwood Fire
Department

2023:80 Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 1 – Kennedy Park ADA
Restrooms

2023:81 Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 1 (placeholder for Neglia Engineering)

2023:82 Authorizing a Contract with Bruno Associates, Inc. for Grant Writing Services

2023:83 Payment of Vouchers

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano asked Mayor Barsa to remove 2023:81 from the consent agenda and table the resolution until Neglia Engineering can get the necessary documentation.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Condoleo to approve the Consent Agenda and that the 02/08/2023 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.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Eagle Scout Stone Carving and Plaque – Kennedy Field:

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano explained to the council that resident Lyndsay Lucious reached out to him and asked permission to take ownership of the stone carving and plaque that was carved by her husband Joe Lucious. The carving was for his cousin's eagle scout project. It was their idea to place the carving, with a plaque for Frank Bocchino. The carving and plaque are located in the Kennedy Recreational complex near the walking path.

None of the council members had issue with the request. A motion was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to grant the request. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Kennedy Field Use Requests:

New Jersey Thunder

Santos Baseball

Vipers

A motion was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to grant the three requests for the Thunder, Santos Baseball, and Vipers teams. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

OPRA Review and Reform Resolution:

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano explained that the NJ League of Municipalities recently passed a resolution calling for the creation of a study commission to review OPRA, which to-date, has been left negligently stagnant and, to-date the legislative approach to addressing the dangers of OPRA have been fragmented, haphazard and contradictory at best, leading to a dire need for streamlined overhaul and reform. The NJLM is asking municipalities to pass similar resolutions, which most are passing now.

A motion was moved by Council President Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Kim to have Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano create the resolution. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Diwali Celebration Funds Request:

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano explained that a resident is organizing a Diwali celebration at Kennedy Field and is looking to the Mayor and Council to help fund the event. Mayor Barsa would like to table this discussion until he can speak with Borough Attorney Corrison about funding.

DPW Assistant Director Position:

A motion was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Council President Hausmann to have Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano advertise for the position. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Deputy Clerk Position:

A motion was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Council President Hausmann to have Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano advertise for the position. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Demarest Street Drainage Improvements Proposal:

Resolution 2023:84 – Authorizing Surveying, Engineering Design, and Bidding Services Agreement with Neglia Engineering Associates for the Demarest Street Drainage Improvements

Mayor Barsa gave background on the Demarest Street drainage project. A motion was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve 2023:84. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

2023 Budget Update:

Councilman Condoleo handed out budget documents. Discussion was held regarding 3rd party billing for EMS services. Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano added that after looking into the process, most other Bergen County towns are already participating in this practice.

Councilman Condoleo mentioned that department heads were asked to apply downward pressure to their budgets in an effort to help manage inflation. Trying to change the culture of budgeting and have the departments come to the finance committee. Councilman Condoleo recommends a motion to implement the current operating budget worksheet. Councilman Brizzolara complimented Councilman Condoleo, CFO Battaglia, and Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano for their work during the budget process.

The mayor and council discussed the increase in the BCCLS price. Mayor Barsa stated that he will be organizing a meeting with the library board and library liaison Councilman Kim to discuss the rent and BCCLS.

The topic of the capital budget was brought up by Mayor Barsa. Councilman Foschino stated that we owe it to Norwood Residents to move forward with funding drainage projects. Council President Hausmann agrees that those projects are critical. Councilman Ascolese feels that the grant writer needs to be brought on board for a 5 year plan, so they can apply for grants that are vital at the time of applying.

A motion was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the proposed operating budget. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Report:

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano personally thanked Rick Buginsky for over 4 years of dedication to the Borough of Norwood. He helped welcome

me to the borough and was a great partner in the office. He wished him luck in his new position.

Borough Attorney Report:

Nothing to report in open session.

Borough Engineer Report:

The dog park and swim club projects are being mobilized and will be done by mid-April. The fire department parking lot and Walnut Street will be paved in April as well.

The crosswalk requests were submitted to the county.

Councilman Foschino mentioned that fields 1 & 2 at Kennedy Field have angled fencing and that fencing is being slowly pulled down and resting on backstops. The two proposals Norwood received exceed the bid threshold. Borough Engineer Loverich is preparing a bid package for the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Council President Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara. All council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Avinash Melkote – 36 Brookfield Road, Dumont NJ

Spoke before the Norwood Council with reference to considering the establishment of a Quiet Zone along the CSX River Subdivision. Mayor Barsa is in support of the Quiet Zone and mentioned that Norwood has worked on this for 20 years. Mayor Barsa also stated that he is trying to organize a meeting with the Northern Valley Mayors to discuss this.

Also had concerns that the OPRA reform would affect his ability to apply for documents that will help his efforts. Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano explained that this resolution would only help establish a study commission.

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

CLOSED SESSION

2023:85 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to Proceed in Closed Session – Employment Matters

Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Council President Hausmann, and unanimously agreed that 2023:85 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Employment Matters be approved. The meeting temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 8:47 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN

The meeting resumed in open session at 9:34 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded by Council President Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara. All council members present approved the motion.

Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 9:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk