

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Public Meeting
February 10, 2021

MAYOR BARSÀ

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ASCOLESE

COUNCILMAN ROONEY

COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN

COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA

COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO

COUNCILMAN KIM

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.

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

Roll call was taken. Councilman Kim arrived late; Councilman Rooney was absent.

Mayor Barsa advised in his opening remarks the upcoming dates for the drive-thru testing at Bergen Community College, he will be apart of a call with the Governor to discuss vaccine appointments, there is a call center available for NJ residents to schedule their vaccine appointment, the snow totals from the past storm totaled over 30 inches and there is a Healthy Norwood survey available on the borough website.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council President Ascolese seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Councilman Foschino made a motion to approve the introduction of ordinance 2021:01, Amend Chapter 199 to Establish Minimum Stormwater Management Requirements and Controls for Major Developments. Councilwoman Hausmann seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote. The public hearing will take place on February 24, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Borough Administrator Jordan Padovano informed the Council that the Grant Writing Committee had a successful meeting. They will be registering with a website that gives information of federal and state grants as well as reactivating the borough's sam.gov account.

Councilwoman Hausmann explained the purpose and usefulness of grant writing in the hopes of elevating any confusion on why one is beneficial to the borough.

Mayor Barsa advised the Council that Norwood Baseball & Softball, which is currently a separate entity, would like to come back under the umbrella of the borough's recreation programs.

Page Two

Mayor & Council Public Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2021

Councilman Brizzolara asked if the borough would have to fund the program. Mr. Corrison stated it would be treated the same as all other programs in the recreation program. Mr. Neglia said the programs have their own accounts that allow them to raise money and spend it freely without waiting for approval from the governing body. The borough would provide the insurance and supplement the program when needed. Mayor Barsa said he has already spoken to the CFO who will make sure all programs are in compliance with proper procedures.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to allow baseball and softball to return to the recreation program. Council President Ascolese seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Hausmann advised the Council that the Environmental Committee has joined the Compost Commission of New Jersey and will be holding an online seminar for residents to learn more about the process of composting. Councilwoman Hausmann has been working to bring a vaccination site to the northern valley area. She would like to coordinate with the surrounding towns to have a plan in place. The first step is securing a medical director, which they have.

Councilman Kim attended the public school Board of Education meeting. They are discussing the hiring of a new superintendent. The teachers would like to be involved in the hiring process. The Greenway Project now has a group, Friends of the Greenway Project, who are looking to raise funds and raise awareness.

Councilman Brizzolara said construction has slowed down for the winter but there are projects scheduled to start in the spring. Both projects on Livingston Street are continuing with work. The borough will need to hire a new electrical inspector as the current one has resigned.

Councilman Ascolese said he would also like to see a vaccination site close by. Once a plan is in place and a medical director is secured there is a very good likelihood that a hospital would allow a site in the area. The hold up would be the availability of the vaccine itself. Regarding the DPW contract negotiations, Mr. Padovano has received salary information from the surrounding towns which will be reviewed by the personnel committee. Councilman Ascolese said his neighbor approached him regarding an interaction she had with some police officers. She praised their actions as well as their demeanor. He would like to thank Sgt. Federici, Ptl. Kuder and Ptl. McMackin.

Councilman Foschino has received a quote for a new ambulance which he will be discussing at the next EMS meeting. He thanked Rob Tracy and the DPW staff for a fantastic job clearing the roads after the last snow storm. There were eleven DPW trucks out working as well as two trucks from a subcontractor.

Councilman Kim asked if we pay rent to the EMS or Fire Department. Councilman Foschino responded that both EMS and the Fire Department own their buildings and allow the borough to store the vehicles there. The Fire Department does receive rent in the amount of \$2,000.00 per month. The borough is looking into a similar agreement with EMS to help them offset their costs.

Page Three

Mayor & Council Public Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mr. Carlos Guzman, VP of the Norwood Public School Board of Education, stated that they tried to have one superintendent in the past and it did not work. The principal is there to run the day to day operations. The superintendent is there for the big picture, such as budgets, positions and future development.

Mr. Ermin Suljic asked if the county has been contacted regarding the accidents that occur at the intersection of Broadway and Tappan.

Chief Krapels said the most recent accident was due to a very large tractor trailer hitting the traffic signal post during a turn. The previous three accidents were due to operator error. Mr. Corrison advised that for a no turn on red sign to be posted the borough would need approval from the state. Mr. Neglia suggested writing a letter to the county asking them to reevaluate the intersection for widening and an overall upgrade. Mayor Barsa agreed and asked that the intersection of Blanch and Tappan be included in the letter as well.

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

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

Mayor Barsa thanked the Council and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Buginsky, Deputy Borough Clerk