

MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING & WORK SESSION  
September 27, 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      | Absent  |
|            | Council Condoleo           | Present |
|            | Councilman Foschino        | Present |
|            | Council President Hausmann | Present |
|            | Councilman Kim             | Present |

MAYOR’S OPENING REMARKS:

The Environmental Commission is hosting a community cleanup of the Foxhill Woods on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, from 10am-12pm. The staging area will be in the cul-de-sac of McClellan Street.

On Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting our 3<sup>rd</sup> blood drive with the American Red Cross. Appointments are available from 2pm-7pm or stop by the community

center as a walk in to donate blood and help replenish the supply which is critically low. All who donate will receive a \$15.00 Amazon gift card by email.

Mother Nature was not on our side this year and the decision was made to postpone Norwood Day. We have rescheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>, from 1pm-6pm. We will have the same great attractions that were planned for this past weekend, with two new additions – a costume contest and pumpkin painting. More information can be found on our website and Facebook page.

### 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:

September 13, 2023, Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2023:178 Resolution Refunding Escrow 43 Burlington

2023:179 Award of Contract for Livingston Pedestrian Safety

2023:180 Tax Sale Resolution

2023:181 Payment of Vouchers

2023:182 Resolution Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Council President Hausmann to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding Resolution 2023:180, and that the 09/13/2023 Mayor & Council Meeting minutes be approved for content and release. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Condoleo asked for clarification on Resolution 2023:180 and would like to hold the Resolution until the next meeting which will give him time to discuss it with the CFO.

### APPOINTMENTS- PLANNING BOARD

Mayor Barsa accepted a letter of resignation from Christofer Deschler, due to his moving from Norwood, which resulted in a vacancy on the Planning Board. Ms. Kate Cerbasi was moved to a full member to fill the unexpired term left by Mr. Deschler.

The remaining alternates were moved up one (1) level, with Mr. Kevin Fischer being appointed as the fourth alternate.

#### Class IV – 4 Year Term

|                    |                                                                                           |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kate Cerbasi       | Full Member, filling unexpired 4 term of Christofer Deschler, due to expire 12/31/26      |
| Paul Haberman      | Alternate 1 – filling unexpired 2 year term of Kate Cerbasi, due to expire 12/31/24       |
| Dominick Congiusti | Alternate 2 – filling unexpired 1 year term of Paul Haberman, due to expire 12/31/23      |
| Heather Garcia     | Alternate 3 – filling unexpired 2 year term of Dominick Congiusti, due to expire 12/31/23 |
| Kevin Fisher       | Alternate 4 – Appointment to a 2 year term, due to expire 12/31/25                        |

#### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

##### Diwali Festival

Ms. Kanika Chadha came before the governing body to present her proposal to host a Diwali Festival in Norwood. The proposed festival would take place at Kennedy Field on Saturday, October 14, from 1pm-8pm and would include food, a DJ, vendor tables, activity tables, and a lighting of a Diya.

Mayor Barsa informed Ms. Chadha that the menorah lighting and Christmas tree lighting take about one (1) hour for their celebration. He feels that the proposed event is a long time to use the fields. It is also possible that football or soccer games could be scheduled for that day.

Mayor Barsa asked how much room was needed for the festival, to which Ms. Chadha replied not much room. She would like to use the large parking lot and the lot behind Borough Hall. Mayor Barsa felt that would impose hardship on the residents who were at the field for another reason as they would have nowhere to park. It would also become a safety issue. Mayor Barsa suggested using the parking lot located to the left of Borough Hall.

Mayor Barsa asked Ms. Chadha how many people she expected to come to the event. Ms. Chadha said she was unsure since this was her first event, but she would like to see all of Norwood take part in the celebration, not just the Indian population.

Mayor Barsa also advised Ms. Chadha that the Borough only pays for one (1) hour of overtime for police or DPW and that she would be responsible for any cost incurred due to overtime after the first hour. Ms. Chadha said she understood.

Councilman Foschino suggested using the area on Hudson Street from the snack stand to the swim club. That area would give access to bathrooms as well as electricity for the DJ. He suggested Ms. Chadha contact Alpine Ocean, the last privately owned business on Hudson Street, to see if their parking lot could be used.

Council President Hausmann suggested that Ms. Chadha shorten the length of the event, possibly to an hour. Ms. Chadha said she would look into that.

Councilman Kim asked for a more concrete number of the number of people Ms. Chadha was expecting. Ms. Chadha said she was marketing to the fifty (50) Indian families but would like all of Norwood to come.

Mr. Corrison advised that a member of the DPW should be presenting at the swim club during the event. Mayor Barsa agreed and advised Ms. Chadha the Borough would pay for the first hour of overtime, but the remaining fees would have to be covered by the event planner.

Ms. Chadha told the Council that she would like to begin planning for next year to make it even bigger and asked how Diwali could become a line item in the budget. Mayor Barsa said that the Borough donates \$200.00 towards milk and cookies. Mr. Padovano advised that the Borough cannot write a check but can order directly from the computer.

Mayor Barsa asked if there was a rain date. Ms. Chadha said they would like to request Sunday, 10/15, as their rain date.

Councilman Ascolese made a motion to approve the Diwali Festival. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and all Council members voted in favor of the motion.

#### Recreation Committee Code of Conduct

Ms. Volpitta advised the governing body that the Recreation Committee voted to approve a Code of Conduct and that it become a standard part of the registration process for all recreation sports. The Code of Conduct outlines the penalties for violating the code.

Councilman Ascolese made a motion to approve the Diwali Festival. Council President Hausmann seconded the motion and all Council members voted in favor of the motion.

#### Recreation Committee Enrichment Class with Flavor Labs

Ms. Volpitta informed the governing body that Flavor Labs, a cooking school located in Norwood, has offered to hold enrichment classes at the community classes at a discounted rate for children in the recreation program. The Recreation Committee would like to move forward with offering this as an option to Norwood children.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to approve the Diwali Festival. Councilman Condoleo seconded the motion and all Council members voted in favor of the motion.

#### Ethics Board Dissolvment

The Norwood Ethics Board had one matter come before them and that matter was transferred to the County Ethics Board due to a conflict. Once an ordinance dissolves the Ethics Board, all ethics complaints must be filed with the County Ethics Board.

Council President Hausmann made a motion to approve the dissolvment of the Ethics Board. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and all Council members voted in favor of the motion.

#### Pool Rentals

Mr. Corrison advised the governing body that guidance was needed on the amount of time they would like to use to define a short term rental.

Mayor Barsa stated that he would like the ordinance to ban all room rentals. He is fearful if room rentals are not banned outright the ordinance could allow for a boarding house.

Mr. Tessaro informed the Council that standard practice is to ban room rentals and to also define short term rentals as a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days.

Mayor Barsa also asked that specific language be added to the ordinance to include rentals of pools are strictly prohibited and to notify Swimply of the ordinance.

Councilman Foschino suggested adding a copy of the ordinance to the welcome packets that are given to new homeowners so they are aware of what they can and cannot do.

Mr. Corrison said he will make the updates and the ordinance can be introduced at the next meeting.

#### Land Vacation of 105 Oak St

Mayor Barsa advised the Council that the Borough received correspondence from Paul Haberman, attorney for 0609 LLC, who would like to purchase the land at 105 Oak Street. This piece of land sits between Flue Tech and Chodae Church. Mayor Barsa is for the vacation of the property, he feels this will ensure that the piece of land does not become developed as a roadway into the residential area.

Mr. Corrison said the first step is determining the size of the lot, as that will direct which way the vacation procedure will need to be handled.

Mayor Barsa instructed Mr. Loverich to have the Planner from Neglia Engineering determine the lot size of 105 Oak Street.

#### Court Administrator Shared Service Agreement

Councilman Ascolese informed the governing body that the Borough of Haworth would like to move forward with a shared service agreement for the Court Administrator position. Currently, the Court Administrator is receiving a salary of \$12,000.00 per year for seven (7) hours of work per week. With the shared service agreement, Norwood would have to match her hourly rate of \$38.71, which would bring her yearly salary to \$14,090.44. That would be an increase of \$2,000.00 but the Borough would also have access to her during her normal business hours in Haworth.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to approve the shared service agreement with the Borough of Haworth for the position of Court Administrator. Council President Hausmann seconded the motion and all Council members voted in favor of the motion.

#### Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Mr. Padovano advised the Council that he spoke with Mr. Battaglia regarding the community center rehabilitation and was told the best account to use for this project is the Capital account, which is currently being used, improvements to public property.

Mr. Padovano also informed the Council that mail in ballots were sent out on September 21<sup>st</sup> and the deadline to request a mail in ballot is October 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### Borough Engineer Report

Mr. Loverich informed the Council that the Northwoods sidewalk project has begun and will take a few more days of work before it is complete. The 2023 road program and Demarest Street drainage improvement project will be going out to bid. The contract has been awarded for the Livingston Street crosswalks and that project should start in a month or two. The basketball courts are due to be resurfaced in two (2) weeks. They will be done and ready before Norwood Day. The drainage plans for Millbrook Circle are complete and have been sent to DEP for permits.

Mayor Barsa advised the Council of a meeting he attended with Mr. Neglia and Mr. Loverich regarding the repaving of Mills. Mayor Barsa suggests moving the paving of Mills to 2024 to allow for the drainage work to be completed first and then the paving. If the paving is completed this year, it will need to be ripped up next year for the drainage improvements.

#### 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 Councilman Condoleo. All council members present approved the motion.

Mr. Allen Rapaport, 844 Hemlock Court, Norwood, NJ asked Mr. Loverich if he was aware of when the paving would begin in Northwoods. Mr. Loverich did not have a date at this time. Mr. Rapaport also said he heard that the money that was set aside for landscaping in Northwoods has been reallocated for another project. Mayor Barsa stated no money for the Northwoods project has been reallocated.

Mr. Rapaport applauded the governing body for allowing the Diwali Festival to take place and for their inclusivity of events throughout the year. He agreed with the Council that the Diwali event should be shortened to the hour time frame that both the Menorah lighting and Christmas tree lighting are held to. He also feels that the Borough should not be responsible for police or DPW overtime after the hour that is provided for similar events.

Lastly, Mr. Rapaport asked if it was possible for conduit to be placed under the sidewalk for lights in the future. Mayor Barsa agreed that was a great idea and asked Mr. Loverich to look into that.

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

#### CLOSED SESSION

2023:183 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to Proceed in  
Closed Session – Litigation & Lease

Motion by Councilman Ascolese, second by Councilman Condoleo, and unanimously agreed that 2023:183 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Litigation and Lease be approved. The meeting was temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 8:32PM.

RETURN TO OPEN

The meeting resumed in open session at 9:46 PM.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to instruct Mr. Corrison to prepare a new lease for the swim club. Council President Hausmann seconded the motion and all Council members voted in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 9:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano  
Borough Administrator/Clerk