

MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING  
FEBRUARY 9, 2022  
7:00 PM  
MAYOR BARSA

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COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOSCHINO  
COUNCILMAN KIM

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COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA  
COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN  
COUNCILMAN ROONEY

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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: | Mayor Barsa                | Present |
|            | Council President Ascolese | Present |
|            | Councilman Brizzolara      | Present |
|            | Councilman Foschino        | Present |
|            | Councilwoman Hausmann      | Present |
|            | Councilman Kim             | Present |
|            | Councilman Rooney          | Present |

Mayor Barsa let residents know that February 10<sup>th</sup> is the last day to pay taxes.

Mayor Barsa reminded residents that dog and cat license applications are due by February 28<sup>th</sup>.

The mayor explained that February is American Heart month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. Taking important self-care steps can help keep your blood pressure in a healthy range, prevent a stroke, and lower your risk of heart disease.

Mayor Barsa welcomed Brian Cellary and the staff of Psyclarity Health New Jersey to our wonderful town. Psyclarity Health, located at 830 Broadway, is a state-of-the-art private addiction treatment center that offers a range of comprehensive outpatient programs.

Lastly, Mayor Barsa wanted to wish Jordan Fuller and the Los Angeles Rams good luck at the Superbowl this weekend. Our very own Jordan Fuller, a safety for Los Angeles Rams, will be on the sidelines with an ankle injury he sustained in the final game of the season. Jordan grew up in Norwood and is a 2016 graduate of Old Tappan High School. Jordan started his football career as a Norwood Raider and later played for NVOT.

#### SPECIAL CEREMONY

The mayor swore in the following officers for new positions. The promotions will take place effective March 1, 2022:

Dan Sullivan as Sergeant

John Kuder as Sergeant  
Christopher Federici as Lieutenant  
Sal Russino as Captain

### CORRESPONDENCE

The mayor stated that there are several pieces of correspondence which are available at the Municipal Clerk's office.

### 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:

January 26, 2022, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2022:50 Appropriation Reserve Transfers for 2022

2022:51 Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayment for Block 7, Lot 15.17, CT304

2022:52 Appointment of Salvatore Russino to Captain of the Norwood Police  
Department

2022:53 Appointment of Christian Federici to Lieutenant of the Norwood Police  
Department

2022:54 Appointment of John Kuder to Sergeant of the Norwood Police Department

2022:55 Appointment of Daniel Sullivan to Sergeant of the Norwood Police  
Department

2022:56 Appointment of Robert Brescia as Tax Assessor for the Borough of  
Norwood

2022:57 Payment of Vouchers

2022:58 Purchase of Dugouts

2022:59 Appointment of Christopher Wesley to Norwood Board of Health as Alternate 2

It was moved by Council President Foschino and seconded by Councilman Rooney to approve the Consent Agenda and the minutes be approved for content and release. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor Barsa:

Council President Foschino reported on the Recreation Committee because he attended their meeting on 1-18-22 in Mayor Barsa's absence. The ordinance being introduced tonight is adjusting the fee schedule for field use.

### Football

Football registration will be open at the end of spring.

### Soccer

Soccer had a smooth start.

### Baseball/Softball

Baseball/Softball said they will not be joining Little League this year but will revisit it next year. Tri Town baseball has asked to join the league. Due to Old Tappan not being a part of the softball league, they are not in favor of having Tri Town join the baseball league. If Tri Town is allowed to join, a stipulation would be that the baseball program can be a part of the Norsemen travel program. This will be discussed more next week. The uniforms continue to be a high cost. Mr. Alberti is speaking with Louisville and Easton to try to get a package deal. The owner of Sport Time has retired so that is no longer an option. The goal is to open registration as soon as possible and in order to do that baseball/softball needs information on the borough accounts. The account will need to be connected to the registration so fees can be paid online. This includes Knickerbocker baseball.

### Basketball

Mr. Ramessar said basketball is up and running but has encountered an issue with securing gym time.

### DPW Rec Report

DPW Director Tracy stated the prep to improve the drainage of the fields has begun. He also advised the Committee that the lights currently being used in the batting cage are becoming discontinued. He has received a quote to replace all the lights with LED lights that will be good for at least ten (10) years. All teams noted that they are having a difficult time getting parents to volunteer to work the snack shed.

### Subcommittees

Mr. Huelster made several standing subcommittees. Mr. Huelster said he would like to see the recreation department become more than just youth sports. He would like to see activities the whole community could participate in. Council President Foschino agreed with that, adding Kennedy Park has been renovated and there are many opportunities for it to be used and enjoyed by the residents.

### INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 2022:01 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 168 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood to Establish a New Recreation Fee Schedule

(Public hearing will be held on February 23, 2022, at 7:00 PM)

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilwoman Hausmann, second by Council President Foschino, that Ordinance 2022:01 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on February 23, 2022.

Roll Call

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

Council President Foschino:

**EMS** – Capital budget requests are in. They are requesting upgrades to their radios and a replacement of their light tower. The Suburban is 15 years old but has no issues. The radio upgrade would be around \$20,000 and must be compliant with the County systems. EMS is requesting the borough pay rent for storing the trucks in their building, much like we pay the Fire Department rent. They are looking for \$1250.00 a month which is half of what we pay the Fire Department. They are also looking for \$12,000 as a clothing allowance every year for members who damage their clothes during an emergency. There is no monthly call volume report.

## **DPW**

### **Finances:**

All 2022 Capital requests have been submitted to Councilman Rooney and the CFO.

### **Streets & Roads:**

The County has been billed approximately \$6,000.00 for the month of January for the plowing of county roads.

Fabric filter screens that were placed to catch debris during the paving of Oak St. were removed from the basins of 97 & 100 Oak.

Two “Slow Children at Play” signs were installed on South Avenue.

### **Buildings & Grounds:**

Rebuilt the floor and vacuumed out the basin in the parking lot of the Valley Program.

The field house has been cleaned out and organized. All recreation programs, as well as the scouts, have storage space available to them.

Fredco has begun working to prepare our fields for the spring sports season. Kennedy Field has been core aerated, top dressed and reseeded to help with drainage issues. The same will be taking place at Trackside shortly.

Earlier today a meeting was held with a representative from the Borough contracted heating and cooling vendor to discuss replacing the unit on the roof over the west side of borough hall. This will be a part of the roof replacement bid.

### **Programs:**

The Borough is known for preserving our natural resources. I feel we should not only preserve them but add to them. This is a two-pronged approach. First, I have researched the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA and learned that the borough is not a part of this group. I have started the application process to have the borough be a part of the Tree City USA Community. The Tree City USA community is focused on preserving green space, planting and maintaining trees, combating climate change, and reducing energy costs. Second, I would like to see the borough plant at least 50 trees per year along the right-of-ways throughout our town. The trees would be 1 ½ in diameter so as not to interfere with power lines. I would also like to open this up to residents. Interested parties would fill out a tree request form and the borough would deliver a Crimson King Red Maple to their home. The placement and planting of the tree would be the homeowner's

responsibility, and a liability waiver would need to be signed, but the borough would purchase and deliver the tree.

On Monday I have a meeting with Charge Point to discuss having an electric vehicle charging station installed in the borough.

The first bench in our bench engraving program has arrived for the Gurunathan Family. We are still looking into the street recognition program. We feel we should identify 5 families in 2022 for the work they do for the town. The 5 families will be the Bocchino, Falkenstern, Krause, Cerbasi, and Benequista families. Looking to have memoriam signs added to our street signs, much like Harrington Park. We will not be renaming streets.

Mayor Barsa stated that he had a meeting with the high school to discuss the possibility of a shared use playground as well as setting a future meeting for the Kennedy Playground.

Councilman Brizzolara:

It was a busy month for the building department. 1.2 million dollars in new home improvements have been reported. The Dabies project is moving along with a couple stores open. The Grande is doing well. The electric is being put in at the Jones' property today. Gino Tessaro is optimistic that they should be selling the houses soon. Councilman Brizzolara requests of the mayor to place the grant writer discussion on the work session agenda as a discussion item.

Councilman Kim:

One of his meetings was canceled. Greenway meetings started again. They resumed their conversations with CSX. Their strategies going forward have been discussed. There is still some home among the group for positive action.

Councilwoman Hausmann:

The Zoning Board had their reorganization meeting on January 19th. Paul Haberman and Chris Deschler were sworn in as members, Lindsay Volpitta was appointed secretary again. Neglia Engineering was appointed as the engineering associate. It is a pleasure to sit as liaison. 3 stores on Livingston have been rented, 2 are open.

The Board of Health met on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Barbara Fanelli was nominated for President and Sam Park was appointed as a regular member. Thank you to Gloria Macaroni for her time and service as president. Mayor Barsa zoomed in to issue the oaths and goals and objectives were discussed. There was a discussion about having rapid covid testing in town for residents. Debbie Whalen is looking into it.

The Environmental Commission officers were established. The clear-cutting committee met and is getting close to making a presentation soon. Sustainable New Jersey grant deadline is in 2 days and we are hoping for an answer soon. Some bills need to be paid. Hikes are being well attended, some dates get more, some get less. We have about 15 hikes in the books and are always welcoming new families and participants. The composting workshop will be in the spring. Hopefully the Environmental Commission and Council President Foschino can work together on the electric

vehicle charging stations. The environmental commission is also looking to work with the schools to help celebrate Arbor Day.

We must move forward with certain projects soon and the budget must be taken into consideration. A grant writer should be discussed at the next work session. The mayor agreed but added that some project may not get done immediately. The dog park is an example of something that we are awaiting approval for from the DEP, and we cannot move forward without that approval.

Council President Foschino added that the dugouts need to get installed as soon as possible so they are ready for the season. The price of the dugouts will come out of the grant award. Discussion was held on the process of construction.

Councilman Rooney:

I received capital submissions and working with different department heads. Hope to review by February 23 work session. We have some buffer time as we do not have to submit until April. We need to have everything ironed out. Some projects will not be applicable to grant money, also recreation finances need to be discussed.

There was a house fire at 100 Broadway, and no one was injured or killed. Tremendous work was done by the fire department and the rest of the emergency responders. 361 fire truck needs numerous repairs.

Councilman Ascolese:

The Norwood seniors suspended their meetings because of COVID but recently started meeting again. The mayor and I met with Martha Kleinlaut. Once the roof construction is finished, the community center interior room can start to be improved. The door leading into that room should also be electronic and ADA compliant. The seniors are an active group and have already scheduled a year's worth of activities and trips.

The PD's report has been submitted for the previous month. A great job was done with the snow and ice accumulation in town. The reason we have the police promotions tonight is because of the retiring captain Perry Buongiorno. He has been with the Police Department for 38 years and we wish him well.

If we are going to discuss the grant writer at the next work session we need to make sure we have an in depth conversation and need to see all of the potential grant writers options.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

### Samantha Fruhling – 40 Cobblestone Crossing

Alexandra kept an extensive list of the different meetings and exchanges that went on regarding the dog park project. On June 10, 2020, the open air grant went from \$100,000 down to \$78,000, I wasn't aware that there was a time limit on these things. At the last meeting I was told that the DEP permits were coming in and ready to go, but that just seems like a common theme. I wanted to read a letter that I sent to Council President Foschino, who did make an attempt to call me back, but I was unable to answer the call.

Dear Councilman, Foschino,

I'm writing to you on behalf of Alexandra. We both left last week's Mayor and Council meeting a little confused and very disappointed.

As per the phone conversation that we had the week prior, on January 18th at 12:45pm, you unequivocally confirmed that the dog park project was a go. You had called me right before you were going into a meeting with Mayor Barsa and Mr. Neglia to discuss it.

You confirmed that there was money put aside for this project, albeit, maybe not enough to do everything planned, but definitely something. You were going to review the financials to make sure it got going right away. I asked if you could possibly send a copy of Neglia Engineering's budget so that Alexandra and I can go over each item line by line to see what we can eliminate to help keep costs down and you said you would. We both agreed that this project has been on hold long enough and you were eager to help move it along to completion.

However, at last week's meeting, when you re-capped Mr. Neglia's list of items in need of funding, the dog park was noticeably omitted. Alexandra and I were stunned at your statements when you asked if there was a plan B or anything else that she can do instead.

NO. She cannot. She has been working on this specific project for 2 years. She has put in hours of research, interviews, planning, and meetings. Her initial Girl Scout proposal was approved in March of 2021 by the National Girl Scout Committee, which is no small feat; and I am proud to say that she is one of very few girls in Norwood who has reached this level. The purpose of a Gold Award project is to find a meaningful passion to work on that is global enough to make a difference in the world and as a Girl Scout Gold Award candidate, she must develop a plan to create a sustainable, measurable impact on the community to make the world a better place. Her entire Girl Scout career has been leading up to this point, doing community service at local animal shelters and learning about pet care for the past 12 years. She cannot just pick something else.

She was originally told that she would be allotted the funds from the Fresh Air Grant in the amount of \$100,000 and was also told that Norwood would match that. The monetary amount has dwindled down to \$30,000 and the dog park has now taken a back seat to the Kennedy Field dugouts.

This project began Alexandra's freshman year at NVOT. Within the past 24 months, she has done all that was asked of her. She was given the task of making an itemized list of what was to be purchased for the enclosed area, she has been in contact with local vendors to see what materials they can supply, she met with Mr. Neglia to review the site, and has even suggested to dedicate the park to the Falkenstern family to honor all that they have done for the town. All of this was accomplished concurrently with her Girl Scout requirements and going to school. Now, as a junior in high school, she would like to add this to her college applications, however, once again, there is a delay.

We are looking to resolve this issue and do whatever we can to help move this process along. Alexandra is a team player and is ready to assist in any way.

Looking forward to hearing back from you.  
Samantha Fruhling

I understand that this is not a priority, but we were under the impression that it was ok.

Mayor Barsa stated that projects take time, and his intent is to move forward and we do want to help out and get Alexandra to her goal. Unfortunately, the DEP has a reputation for stalling projects and moving slow.

Council President Foschino stated that no one wants to see the dog park completed more than he does. His wife originally brought up the idea of the project. It is an important project. He does not want to see anyone disappointed. He understands this is frustrating. Council President Foschino reinstated that Alexandra does have his support. As of this moment, Norwood is not a go with this project because we do not have DEP permits and funding has not been decided on yet. This council has not yet voted on matching the funds from the grant. When Neglia gave their report, the dog park was not omitted by it was not labeled as a necessity. There was a meeting a few months ago with Evan Jacobs, Councilwoman Hausmann, the Mayor and I and we stated that there needs to be a plan B in case the DEP comes in with a negative response. Then we will have to reevaluate the location that may not need DEP approval. Council President Foschino wanted to say he supports and will vote for the dog park. No one wants to see you disappointed.

Councilman Brizzolara asked if Michael Neglia can provide any information regarding the process with DEP.

Michael Neglia explained that during this application process, COVID was happening which explains the slowness. We have had different elected officials call down to DEP and we still got nothing. A week ago, there was a notification from the DEP that they were moving on it. They wanted a \$500 dollar check and revisions which I provided both. I do believe they are forthcoming, and I am hoping the permit gets released anytime, but I cannot tell you when that is. There could be a throttling back in the expenditures later on.

U. Nkechi Nwachukwu – 11 West Prospect Ave, Mount Vernon New York

I am appearing to you in my capacity as VP of Public Policy for NAWBO NYC. At the National Association of Women Business Owners, we help establish the economic stability of women and women owned businesses. My goal is to increase business opportunities by connecting women business owners with their elected representatives. NAWBO launched a podcase to help this. The first episode launched on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and Councilman Rooney was our first guest. Thank you to Councilman Rooney, thank you to the council of Norwood, Deputy Clerk Buginsky, and Clerk Padovano. Councilman Rooney's advice to women starting their own businesses to "become recognizable." We are here today to extend the invitation to any women in the borough who owns a business or would like to own a business to contact us and join us. Councilman Rooney said it was a pleasure to be invited and to join the podcast. The borough certainly has the space for female owned businesses in town.

Nieves Chanthasoto – 305 Tappan Rd.

Thank you for the opportunity to connect with you. We look forward to engaging women who own business in Norwood or would like to own business in Norwood. We thank you for the opportunity.

Nancy Congiusti – 195 Livingston Street.

Asked Michael Neglia if he will be attending the next Kennedy Park playground committee meeting. Michael Neglia confirmed that he will be there.

Eugene Huelster – 277 Rockland



I am the president of the recreation committee. We are currently trying to get together a winter carnival to be held at the pond on February 26 from 2-6pm. Planning on getting a food truck and maybe some ice skating. There were 171 participants in baseball / softball last year. Those dugouts need to be replaced. I would love to see a bigger encompassing plan to improve gym time for team sports. We need to look for a shared services agreement or building a community rec center. I understand things take time, but the process needs to be started.

Mayor Barsa had concerns regarding skating on the pond due to water currents and fluctuating weather.

John Barry – 652 Broadway

Wanted clarification from Councilwoman Hausmann on what the priorities are for wanting an ADA compliant playground.

Councilwoman Hausmann stated that the park has been on the docket for a while since it does not meet ADA requirements and mandates. We have schools in this town that address the needs of that community and the Kennedy Park is outdated. It needs to be updated. There is money allocated for this park. I fully support the playground. Even parents that are in a wheelchair cannot take their children to the park.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Council President Foschino and seconded by Councilman Rooney. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Rooney and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 9:01PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano  
Borough Clerk