

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK/EXECUTIVE SESSION
JUNE 22, 2022
7:00 PM

MAYOR BARSA	
COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOSCHINO	COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN
COUNCILMAN KIM	COUNCILMAN SULJIC

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 7:00 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
	Councilman Ascolese	Present
	Councilman Brizzolara	Present
	Council President Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Absent
	Councilman Suljic	Present

The mayor congratulated the 8th graders who graduated on the 17th, and the seniors who will be graduating on the 23rd.

The mayor announced that there was a great turnout for our first Movie Night at Kennedy Field. The weather was perfect and the feedback from those who attended was extremely positive. The Recreation Committee is working on coordinating more movie nights in the future.

Mayor Barsa stated that the volunteer coaches for the recreation baseball and softball teams got together to play a coaches’ game. It was a fun time with many laughs had by all.

The mayor announced that the next Mayors Wellness event will be on Saturday, July 10th, at 10am. This will be a biking event that will start and end at the library. More information, including the different routes, will soon be available.

Mayor Barsa reminded residents that registration for the library summer reading program will open on Monday, June 27th. There will be a special kick-off program on Thursday, June 30th at noon.

Mayor Barsa also mentioned that grants for the paving of Summit Street and High Street are being

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:

June 8, 2022 Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2022:122 Authorizing the Renewal of a Club Liquor License for Norwood American Legion Post 272 Inc. for the 2022-2023 Licensing Period

2022:123 Authorizing the Renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption and Distribution Liquor License for the 2022-2023 Licensing Period

2022:124 Authorizing an Approval of Alexander Waiser's Application and Acceptance as a Member of Norwood Fire Co. No. 1

2022:125 Authorizing an Approval of Byeongjun Lee's Application and Acceptance as a Junior Member of the Norwood Fire Co. No. 1

2022:126 Authorizing the Submission of a FY23 Municipal Aid Grant Application and Execution of a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Drainage Improvements to Meadow Land, 15th Street, and Millbrook Circle

2022:127 Authorizing the Submission of a FY23 Municipal Aid Grant Application and Execution of a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Improvements to Summit Street and High Street

2022:128 Authorizing the Advertisement and Receipt of Bids for the 2022 Municipal Road Program

2022:129 Payment of Vouchers

2022-130 Accepting Deed for Donated Land (Block 39/Lot10)

Approval of Resolutions 2022:122 through 2022:130 and approval of the June 8th Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes was motioned by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Grounding of Dugouts:

The mayor invited construction code official Gino Tessaro to address the council on the need for the grounding of the dugouts on Kennedy field. Mr. Tessaro informed the council that the electric subcode official in town, the manufacturer of the dugouts themselves, the borough of Emerson who has the same dugouts, the borough engineer, and the Director of DPW all say it is not necessary for the dugouts to be grounded. Grounding will not make the dugouts safe during a lightning storm. The borough ordinance also states that when the lighting detectors sound, all people on the field must leave.

Field Usage Fees – Norwood Whalers:

The mayor explained that the Norwood Whalers is an adult softball team that has 7 Norwood residents on the team. The team is requesting to the Mayor and Council to waive their field usage fee that is laid out in the ordinance. Councilwoman Hausmann questioned if this will become an issue down the line and how we determine who is eligible for a waiver and who is not. Attorney Kevin Corrison said that it is up to the council to decide, as the council is doing at this meeting. Councilman Brizzolara wanted to confirm that the Norwood Whalers never paid, which they have not. Council President Foschino stated that the rec board worked hard to recommend this fee schedule and was adopted via ordinance. Council President Foschino wants to table this discussion for the next meeting. Councilwoman Hausmann asked if the team was in financial distress and Council President Foschino answered no. Councilwoman Hausmann feels that the borough should enforce the fee schedule when it can.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to table the discussion until the next Mayor and Council meeting but allow the games to take place until then. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Field Use Application – Santos Baseball Summer Season:

It was moved by Council President Foschino and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve the field use application for the Santos Baseball Summer Season. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mock Street Sign Honoring Ms. Kathleen Vuoncino – Northern Valley Central

The Northern Valley Regional Program reached out to the Borough to install an honorary street sign in Ms. Kathleen Vuoncino's honor at the Northern Valley Central location here in town. Ms. Kathleen Vuoncino is retiring from her long-time position there. There are no residents living on Clinton Street and it is the road going directly into the school parking lot.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked if any resident can submit a request for a street sign. Mayor Barsa stated that there will be 4 or 5 street signs with long time Norwood family names on them being installed this year. The borough needs to establish criteria for that process. This is a unique situation because this has to do with an employee of the school and the street is a non-resident occupied street.

Mayor Barsa would like to see the criteria for the naming of street signs in town on a future work session. Council President Foschino feels that having that discussion is a great idea. Councilwoman Hausmann suggested getting the historical society involved in that process, as they would have a better idea of the impactful families over the year. Council President Foschino explained that this year 5 names were proposed to the families. The Bocchino, Cerbasi, Falkenstern, Benequista, and the Krause families were on the list. The Krause family respectfully declined. The Bocchino family has not responded yet. This week the DPW received the signs for Cerbasi Way, Falkenstern Drive, and Benequista Way. There will be a ceremony over the summer to install those street signs. Councilman Brizzolara wants to know if this needs to be formally approved. Mayor Barsa feels that when we have a final plan for the streets, it should be approved.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the mock street sign application for Ms. Kathleen Vuoncino's sign. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Impact Zone 5K Request – October 1, 2022:

Impact Zone wants to organize their own 5K separate from the Norwood Recreation event planned for Norwood Day. Impact Zone will be happy to help Norwood Recreation with their 5K race, but ultimately want to hold their own event. Mayor Barsa feels that there are some issues having the two races a week apart. Council

President Foschino feels that there should be an informal meeting with Impact Zone and the Recreation Committee before the next meeting.

Land Donation/Purchase – Block 39/Lot 10 (Encyclopedia Lot)

Chief Krapels explained what an Encyclopedia Lot is and the mayor explained that the town has traditionally accepted these lots back as a donation from the owners. Borough Administrator / Clerk pointed out that this donation was approved in the consent agenda.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Report:

Beginning on July 5 through October 14th, the CDC will be calling residents of Bergen County for a phone survey regarding healthy living and health habits. If anyone receives a phone call, just know this is not a scam and it is a federally authorized survey. With that said, the survey is not mandatory, and you do not have to participate.

With the most recent mailing of tax bills, donation letters for Norwood day were included.

If any resident or business wishes to reserve a table for Norwood Day the application is found on our website under special events, or on the borough calendar on our homepage.

Borough Attorney Report:

The Jones Road development issue will work out.

Borough Engineer Report

The mayor explained that the Council approved unanimously the 2022 road program as proposed by Michael Neglia. This road program includes the sidewalk installation and paving of Hemlock Court. The interior “finger” streets will be the responsibility of the association. Mayor Barsa has witnessed many people walking on Hemlock court in the street and is concerned for their safety. He explained that the sidewalk will go behind the trees on the east side of the road. The trees and landscaping will not be affected but safety will be improved upon.

Engineer Michael Neglia explained that the Blanch Ave bridge is completed. Some issues with residents on Blanch, which the county is working on fixing. Neglia also contacted the county to work on the striping on Livingston Street as well as a possible

crosswalk by Dunkin Donuts. As soon as the turf takes on the Knickerbocker field, the field will be released. The dog park project will start at the end of the summer after Labor Day.

2022 road program will include Walnut Street, Millbrook Circle, 14th Street, Hemlock Court, with an Alternate Bid is for the FD parking lot as well as Tilden Place. In addition to that, it would be better to pave the “finger” streets and the main road all at once. In terms of the sidewalk installation, this safety concern was brought up as far back as January. There are two areas of concern, there is a lot of pedestrian traffic on that road and the entrance by the “Northwoods” sign. The road program includes a beautiful winding sidewalk behind the trees that will lead to right before Aspen Ct. We will not be touching the landscaping, the curbs, or the islands in the road. There were some resident concerns that the tree canopy and landscaping will be affected, but that is not the case.

Chief Krapels felt that this is a great idea and safe way to get pedestrians of the main road.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

The following residents came before the mayor and council with safety concerns for Piermont Road. They all were in favor of installing crosswalks and sidewalks to make navigating Piermont safer:

Kim Hastings – 21 Millbrook Circle
Razzi – 84 Briarwood
Emily Reilly – 91 Millbrook
Gavriel Epstein – 196 Millbrook
Bill Engmann – 76 Briarwood
Brook Breitbart – 156 Millbrook

Mayor Barsa addressed these concerns by saying that the borough does not own Piermont Road as it is a County owned road. With that being said, the borough is working on a sidewalk project with our Engineer. The borough is also looking at grant money to help fund the project. The borough is working with the county as it is their road, as well as the property owners who live on that road.

Michael Neglia offered that his firm was also already planning a crosswalk here on Broadway with allocated grant money. As far as Piermont Road, there are already conceptual layouts. Neglia must work with the county to get across the street.

Together with the borough and a grant writer, we are hopeful we can get funds for that. Another project that is heavily discussed with many problems is behind the school in town.

The following residents came before the mayor and council with questions and comments for the sidewalk project on Hemlock:

Amy Goldenberg – 420 Dogwood

Paul Cohen – 102 Aspen

Alan Spitzer – 120 Aspen

Allen Etal – 826 Hemlock

Allen Rappaport – 844 Hemlock

Michael Neglia offered answers to each resident and offered to walk Hemlock and explain in person to any resident who wishes to know more. He reinforced the fact that the landscape of Hemlock will not be changed, and the sidewalk will be installed behind the tree line.

Gene Huelster – 277 Rockland – Feels that the Norwood Whalers should only be allowed to use Field 2. When they play on field 1 it makes Field 3 unusable and dangerous.

Angie Alberti – 328 Westwind – Speaking on behalf of Spectrum for Living. They are looking to have ADA accommodations for the fireworks in town. Maybe they can reserve a section for parking and / or seating.

Mayor Barsa advised Ms. Alberti to email Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano and have him work with Spectrum.

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 Foschino. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Brizzolara had a question for Michael Neglia regarding the material makeup of the new sidewalk on Hemlock and the timeline. Michael Neglia explained that the sidewalk will be 6 inches of clean stone then asphalt. He is hoping to have this out to bid in July and construction from August through November.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked if the prospective crosswalk near Dunkin Donuts requires the same approval process as the prospective crosswalk on Piermont.

Michael Neglia explained that yes, both projects need approval from the County of Bergen.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Council President Foschino. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:24PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk