

**MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
SINE-DIE/REORGANIZATION
JANUARY 4, 2023
7:00 PM**

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.

Daniella Ashbahian sang the National Anthem, followed by the invocation by Deacon James Puliatte.

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

Mayor Barsa acknowledged and thanked all dignitaries, and borough employees in the audience.

All members were present at roll call.

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 for consideration.

2022:200 Approving Refund of Maintenance Bond for Block 115 Lot 30
(820 Blanch Avenue)

2022:201 Approving Refund of Performance Bond for Block 115 Lot 30
(820 Blanch Avenue)

2022:202 Approving Refund of Escrow for Block 115 Lot 30
(820 Blanch Avenue)

2022:203 Rescinding Resolution 2022:156 Requesting Approval of Items of
Revenue and Appropriations - Northwoods Road Paving Project

2022:204 Authorizing Budget Transfers for Calendar Year 2022

2022:205 Authorizing the Award of Contract for the Purchase of 2 John Deere
Gators and Accessories

2022:206 Authorizing Requests for Qualifications

2022:207 Payment of Vouchers

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the Consent Agenda. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Barsa addressed the council and residents.

“2022 was another exceptional year for the borough. Many important projects were completed, and new programs were put into place to provide our residents with more services.

It is because of our community volunteers, borough employees, and first responders that we can continue to provide our residents with top-notch services and programs. Thank you to all our volunteer recreation coaches, and members of our boards, committees, and commissions.

Chief Jeffrey Krapels leads the group of extraordinary officers that make up the Norwood Police Department. Earlier this year Captain Perry Buongiorno retired after many dedicated years of service to the borough. Thank you, Captain Buongiorno, and congratulations on your retirement. Enjoy all that life has to offer. We also hired two new officers, both of whom were raised in Norwood. Congratulations to Officers Matthew Rooney and Matthew Dottino. Best of luck and stay safe. Once again, our Police Department has put us on the list for one of the 100 safest towns in the United States. Thank you, Chief and the entire Norwood Police Department for your excellent service and commitment to our community.

Thank you to our DPW Director Robert Tracy, and the team of individuals who keep our town looking great and roads safe for travel. On top of their daily operations, our DPW employees respond to emergencies and help whenever needed. I am always getting compliments on the extraordinary work done by our DPW and I have received more compliments this year than any other, from both residents and non-residents, about the beauty of our downtown, our parks, and our fields. Your hard work is recognized and appreciated.

Fire Chief Michael Congiusti, and the members of our volunteer fire department, thank you for your continued generosity and dedication to our residents.

Our volunteer EMS Department spends countless hours responding to calls and providing urgent life-saving care. Thank you to Chief Chris Baron and our EMS volunteers for all you do.

Thank you to our Borough Hall staff for their professionalism and efficiency throughout the year: my administration staff, Jordan Padovano and Richard Buginsky, Construction Department, Gino Tessaro, Chris Jackson and Laurie Engle, Municipal Court staff, Lindsay Volpitta, Judge Robert Travers, Laura Nunnink and Louis DeAngelis, our finance personnel, Chris Battaglia, Lori Gonzalez, and Joann Voccola, our tax assessor Robert Brescia, and our Board of Health secretary Debbie Whalen.

We rely on our Borough professionals for their commitment and knowledge in their field. Thank you to our Borough attorney Kevin Corrison, and our Borough Engineer Michael Neglia, and Scott Loverich. They are always available at a moment's notice.

There are six distinct personalities that sit on the dais, and each is an important part of our thriving community. It is the melding of ideas brought forth by this diverse group that sparks conversations on how we can improve what we provide for our residents and Norwood as a whole.

Councilman John Rooney retired from borough politics in May of this past year. John was our Fire Department liaison and finance department Chair. Working alongside our CFO, John played a significant role in keeping the tradition of our tax rate being one of the lowest in the county and drafting and finalizing our budget to have a less than 2% increase. John, thank you for sharing your financial knowledge and experience. I know I speak for the rest of the council when I say it was a pleasure and an honor working alongside you over the years.

Councilwoman Annie Hausmann has done a terrific job resurrecting our Environmental Commission. In addition to their weekly hikes, they are working on important projects, such as a charging station for the borough and revising our current clear-cutting ordinance. Councilwoman Hausmann is a part of our Kennedy Field Playground Committee and is now our official designee for the Norwood Food Pantry. She also holds important positions as a liaison to the Board of Health and Zoning Board.

Councilman BJ Kim is an integral part of the Greenway Trail Project. As our liaison to the library and Board of Education, he brings vital information back to our meetings.

Councilman Joseph Ascolese is our liaison to the Seniors, Police Department, and a valued member of our Planning Board. Councilman Ascolese plays a key role in the safety of our community and the health and wellness of our senior population. Councilman Ascolese always brings multiple ideas to the table and has a unique way of looking at things.

Councilman Tom Brizzolara is our Construction Department liaison and works closely with the department head to make certain all borough codes and ordinances are up to date. Livingston Street is flourishing, and storefronts are filling up. Councilman Brizzolara keeps the governing body informed of all new leases on Livingston Street and throughout the borough. Councilman Brizzolara is an asset and is always here to help me, especially regarding issues with public utilities. He is available day or night to keep me informed of any and all updates.

Councilman Anthony Foschino wears many hats. He is the liaison to our DPW, EMS, and Fire Department. He works closely with our first responders to ensure

they have what they need to operate at maximum efficiency and provide the highest level of care. With his knowledge of specific aspects of the DPW he is an indispensable asset.

Councilman Ermin Suljic was with us for the last six months of the year filling an unexpired term. He brought a new perspective to our meetings and will continue to be involved in the development of the ADA compliant playground. Thank you, Councilman Suljic, for volunteering your time and bringing new ideas to our meetings.

Our Recreation Committee is made up of eleven volunteers who devote many hours of their personal time to organizing new and exciting events for our residents and to make sure our summer camp and sports programs are running smoothly, safely, and fun is had by all involved. This past year recreation brought two very well-received movie nights into town, brought back the beloved 5K, and on January 21st will hold their first Winter Festival and cooking baking contest.

One of my main goals and visions for Norwood is to have a community where there is an abundance of health and wellness options for our residents. By collaborating with the Mayors Wellness Campaign, I was able to begin an initiative that focuses on coordinating free events to help the people of our town get healthy and stay healthy. We also provide opportunities to give back and help others. This past year I was fortunate to team up with the American Cancer Society and the American Red Cross to give back to those in need. With the American Cancer Society, we held our first annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk at Kennedy Field. We were able to donate over \$4,500.00 towards cancer research, education, and outreach. We also worked with the American Red Cross and held a blood drive that brought in over 32 pints of blood which equates to saving 96 lives. We will host both events again in the new year.

Our January event is a community weight loss challenge. Beginning this Sunday, The GymGuyz have volunteered their time to give a free fitness class each weekend for our residents. Classes will be at the community center and suitable for all fitness levels. We are also using the app, Better Together, to keep each other motivated. More information about the type of fitness classes, time, and how to join our group on the app can be found on the Borough Facebook page, my Facebook page, and the Borough website.

Throughout the year we completed many borough improvement projects.

Our community garden was completely rehabilitated by our DPW. They constructed the garden in record time and saved the borough money by keeping all the work in-house.

A long-awaited dog park has opened in an area by the swim club. This will provide enjoyment for our furry four-legged friends and the people that love them.

The community center has been renovated for our seniors and other organizations that utilize the space. There are a few more finishing touches in the works.

Our Knickerbocker field was reconstructed to fix drainage issues and improve field conditions, and the roofs of the triplex, field house, and brough hall were replaced.

With the help of Neglia Engineering, we received a grant from the NJDOT Mutual Aid Program in the amount of \$221,000.00 that will go towards the paving of Walnut Street. Concrete curb repair was completed in November and the milling and paving should be complete in the spring of 2023.

In the spring of this year, we will see other improvements to our roads and infrastructure. There will be two new catch basins and stormwater piping installed along Summit Street, an ADA accessible curb and crosswalks will be constructed on Livingston Street by the Dunkin Donuts, and the Kennedy Field basketball courts will be repaired and resurfaced at no cost to the Borough.

We are also exploring pedestrian safety improvements, which would include a crosswalk on Piermont Road and another in front of Borough Hall.

This was our first year using the services of a grant writer and I am happy to say it has paid off. We currently have seven grants for which we have applied and are waiting for the award decisions to be announced.

I would like to thank Congressman Gottheimer for reaching out to me and including Norwood as part of his Community Project Funding. He has requested \$1,000,000.00 be set aside for the Broad Street bridge replacement project as part of his federal appropriations. We should receive more information on the status of the requested funds in early 2023.

Ultimately, it is the residents of Norwood that deserve my thanks. It is the people that make up the community that determines the direction in which it grows. Norwood is a diverse and inclusive, safe, and fiscally responsible town. We have an outstanding school system and a continued history of minimal tax increases. Thank you for allowing me to be your mayor and represent you on a large scale. I am proud to hold this position and will never take it, or your trust, for granted.

I wish you all a safe, healthy, prosperous happy New Year.”

CLOSE MEETING. SINE—DIE

The mayor adjourned the meeting SINE—DIE. Meeting closed at 7:20pm.

Councilman Suljic stated that he is very lucky to live in Norwood and is excited for the future of the borough. The Mayor, Council, and employees are all great.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano announced the receipt of the Certificates of Election for Councilman Foschino and Councilman Condoleo.

Oath of Office administered to Councilman Foschino by Judge Travers

Oath of Office administered to Councilman Condoleo by Judge Travers

The mayor announced the new officers for the fire department:

Fire Department:

Chief: Michael Conguisti

Assistant Chief: Richard Hess

Captain: Danny Plescia

Lieutenant/Safety Officer: Michael Aanonsen

Lieutenant: Danny Ochse

Lieutenant: Brian Bourke

Safety Officer: Kevin McLaughlin

Ambulance Corps:

Oaths of Office were administered to the following by Judge Travers:

Chief: Chris Barron

Deputy Chief: John Kuder

1st Lieutenant: Dayna Tidwell

All councilmembers were present at the roll call of 2023 Council.

SELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to elect Councilwoman Hausmann as Council President. Councilman Ascolese seconded the motion. The Borough Clerk took a roll call vote for Councilwoman Hausmann's nomination. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Ascolese	Aye
Councilman Brizzolara	Aye
Councilman Condoleo	Aye
Councilman Foschino	Aye
Councilwoman Hausmann	Aye
Councilman Kim	Aye

With the majority vote, Councilwoman Hausmann was made Council President for 2023.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items are routine and will be enacted with a single motion; any items requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda; all Consent Agenda items will be reflected in full in the minutes.

- 23:01 Approving the Rules and By-Laws dated July 2, 1969, supplemented, and approved for 2023
- 23:02 Approving the Rules of Order
- 23:03 Mayor and Council Meeting Annual Meeting Notice
- 23:04 Minutes of Meetings need not be read by the Borough Clerk at Council Meetings
- 23:05 Designation of Official Newspapers
- 23:06 2023 Official Holidays
- 23:07 Establishing a Cash Management Plan
- 23:08 Designating 2023 Bank Depositories
- 23:09 Fixing the Rate of Interest and Year End Penalty for non-payment of taxes
- 23:10 Appointment of Lori Gonzalez as assistant Treasurer for the year 2023
- 23:11 Appointment of Richard Buginsky as Deputy Borough Clerk
- 23:12 Appointment of Jordan Padovano as Insurance Commissioner for the Bergen County Joint Insurance Fund for 2023
- 23:13 Appointment of Robert Brescia as Municipal Housing Liaison for the year 2023
- 23:14 Appointment of Janet Gallagher as Court Assistant
- 23:15 Appointment of Laura A. Nunnink, Esq. as Municipal Prosecutor for the year 2023
- 23:16 Appointment of Chief Jeffrey Krapels as Emergency Management Coordinator for the year 2023
- 23:17 Appointing Kevin C. Corrison of Breslin & Breslin PA as Borough Attorney for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2023
- 23:18 Appointment of Boswell Engineering as Special Conflict Engineer for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2023
- 23:19 Approval of 2023 Temporary Budget
- 23:20 Appointing Steven Wielkots of Wielkots and Company as Borough Auditor for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2023
- 23:21 Appointing Steve Rogut of Rogut, McCarthy, L.L.C. as Bond Counsel for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2023
- 23:22 Appointing Victor Fadini as Risk Manager for the Borough of Norwood for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2023
- 23:23 Appointing Dart Computer as IT Consultant for a one-year term to expire on 12/31/2023
- 23:24 Appointing Kevin Doherty as Elevator Inspector for one-year term with one, one-year extensions
- 23:25 Appointing Acari and Iovino Architects PC as Borough Architect for a one-year term to expire on 12/31/2023
- 23:26 Appointing Kauker & Kauker LLC as Borough Planner for a one-year term to expire on 12/31/2023

- 23:27 Appointing Helene C. Herbert, Esq. as Special Counsel for Tax Appeal
Conflicts for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2023
- 23:28 Appointment of Andrew Fede to Serve as Special Counsel to the Borough of
Norwood
- 23:29 Appointing Jason Shafron as Labor Attorney for a one-year term to expire
12/31/2023
- 23:30 Appointment of the County of Bergen as its Animal Control Officer for 2023
- 23:31 Authorizing a Public Health Shared Services Agreement between the
Borough of Norwood and the County of Bergen for Employees Assistance
Program
- 23:32 Appointing Supporting Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force
- 23:33 Approving Inter-Boro Mutual Aid Group with various municipalities
- 23:34 Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Closter for the
Use of the Police Firearms Training Facility
- 23:35 Appointing Richard Buginsky as Deputy Tax Collector for 2023
- 23:36 Appointing Laurie Engel as TACO for the 2023
- 23:37 Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing (HGAC)
- 23:38 Confirming the appointment of Jordan Padovano as Public Agency
Compliance Officer in Accordance with the New Jersey Administrative Code's
Requirements
- 23:39 Authorizing Animal Cruelty Agreement with Bergen County
- 23:40 Establishing Petty Cash for the Borough
- 23:41 Adopting A Form Required to Be Used For The Filing Of Notices Of Tort
Claims
- 23:42 Authorizing an Emergency Temporary Appropriations to Fund the
Replacement of a Muffin Monster Sewage Grinder on an Emergency Basis
- 23:43 Authorizing the Award of Contract to Rapid Pump & Meter Service Co. for
the Replacement of a Muffin Monster Sewage Grinder
- 23:44 Resolution Supporting the Continuing Efforts of the Proposed Northern
Valley Greenway Project

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the Consent Agenda. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

XVII. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS

Board of Health:

Sheila Conroy - 3 Yr. Term Expires 12/31/2025

Marjorie Scott – Alternate I – 2 Yr. Term Expires 12/31/2024

Recreation Committee:

Nicole Rivera (Cheer) 3 Yr. Term Expires 12/31/2025

Larry Rossi (Football)	3 Yr. Term Expires	12/31/2025
Kevin Wilson		
(Knickerbocker Baseball)	3 Yr. Term Expires	12/31/2025
Steve Whaley (At Large)	3 Yr. Term Expires	12/31/2025
Gene Huelster (At Large)	3 Yr. Term Expires	12/31/2025

Historic Preservation Committee: 1 Yr. Terms Expire 12/31/2023

David Elling	Marjorie Scott	James Elling
Birgitha Tray	Richard Williams	

Green Team Committee: 1 Yr. Terms Expires 12/31/2023

Mayor James Barsa	David Hausmann
Annie Hausmann	Richard Buginsky (borough hall representative)
Anthony Foschino	Eric Schuck (DPW / Recycling representative)
Joanna Kao	Michael Congiusti (FD representative)
Jonathan Zipper	Sal Russino (PD representative)
Paul Haberman	Christopher Barron (EMS representative)
Barbara Vanderbeck	

Shade Tree Committee:

Responsibilities to be merged with the Environmental Commission

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee: 1 Yr. Term, Expires 12/31/2023

Mayor Barsa	Janet D'Ercole
Councilman Ascolese	John Jost
Martha Kleinlaut	Barbara Vanderbeck
Paul Elenio	

Special Patrolmen:

Class I

Christopher Campo
Richard Sposa
Thomas Tracy

Police Clerk/Matron:

JoAnn Voccola

Police Physician:

Park Medical Group

Towing Services:

D.T.R. Towing LLC
DeMauro Towing, Inc
Emerson Towing Inc
NorthStar Towing

Rich's Automotive

Bureau of Fire Safety Inspectors:

William McGuire

Kenny Sheppard

Crossing Guards for 2023

Alice McCausland

Michael Cheringal

Robert Kuenzler

Larry Grassi

Robert Canas

Barbara Latinis

Alternates:

Alice Sposa

Tzuyi Peter Lin

Harry Ahn

Roger Girardin

Linda Dudzienski

Paul Weigartner

Robert Wojcik

Rita Paton

Superintendent of Roads

Mike Neglia

Councilman Ascolese made a motion to approve the Mayoral appointments to various boards and committees and the Council committee assignments. Councilman Brizzolara seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

XVII.I. COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Finance

Condoleo (Chair)

Kim

Ascolese

Personnel

Ascolese (Chair)

Brizzolara

Condoleo

Property/Zoning

Brizzolara (Chair)

Kim (Construction)

Ascolese (Planning Board)

Public Health

Hausmann (Chair)

Brizzolara

Ascolese

Public Safety

Ascolese (Police)

Foschino (Fire)

Condoleo (EMS)

Public Utilities

Brizzolara (Chair)

Hausmann

Kim

Public Works

Foschino (Chair)

Condoleo

Hausmann

Shared Services

Barsa (chair)

Ascolese

Foschino

Grant Writer
Hausmann (chair)
Ascolese
Kim

Mayor Barsa offers the following appointments not subject to council approval:

Planning Board:

Chris Jackson	Class II, Term Expires	12/31/2023
Joseph Ascolese,	Class III, Term Expires	12/31/2023
Walter Deptuch	Class IV, Term Expires	12/31/2026
John Barry	Class IV, Term Expires	12/31/2026
W. Scott Roberts	Class IV, Term Expires	12/31/2026

Environmental Commission:

Walter Deptuch	3 Yr. Term Expires	12/31/2026
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Mayor Barsa made his appointments to the Planning Board, Environmental Committee and Council liaison appointments.

Mayor Barsa to announce his Liaison Appointments for 2023:

Board of Education.....	Foschino/Kim
Board of Health	Hausmann
Community Development	Hausmann
Community Outreach/Food Pantry	Hausmann
Environmental Commission	Hausmann
Greenway Trail	Kim
Historic Preservation	Condoleo
Library.....	Kim
Recreation.....	Foschino
Seniors	Ascolese
Senior Advisory Board	Ascolese
Shade Tree.....	Hausmann

COMMENTS AND REMARKS

Council President Hausmann thanked the council for their support.

Councilman Condoleo stated that he met with the finance department and administration to discuss budget preparation. The fiscal year is closed. Department heads need to work on budget worksheets. They are due at the end of January. The high inflation is concerning.

Councilman Ascolese thanked Ermin for his time and effort. Congratulated the two newly elected councilmen. Councilman Ascolese stated that he is excited to face the challenges of 2023.

Council President Foschino reported that the Winter Festival is being hosted on January 21st near Heroes Pond.

Councilman Brizzolara congratulated Council President Foschino and Councilman Ed Condoleo on their election results. He also congratulated Council President Hausmann on her new position. Councilman Brizzolara also thanked Ermin for his efforts.

Councilman Kim stated that he echoes Councilman Brizzolara sentiments and that he is happy and excited to serve another year. Councilman Kim also mentioned that 2023 is the year of the rabbit.

Mayor Barsa stated that Norwood has a great group on the dais this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilman Ascolese made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Councilwoman Hausmann seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Barbara Vanderbeck, 401 Dercole Court - Ms. Vanderbeck wanted to know where the affordable housing construction plan was in its process and if there is a designated area for the building yet. She also mentioned that any new construction in that area would increase flooding and drainage issues in that area.

Mayor Barsa reassured her that everything is still in the planning stage and no decisions have been made on location yet.

Phil Maljevic – 192 Piermont Road – Mr. Maljevic mentioned that he hopes the council approves the sidewalk and crosswalk project on Piermont Road.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.