

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING & WORK SESSION
June 14, 2023
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSА

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 7:00 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 OF THE COUNCIL

Roll Call:	Mayor Barsa	Present
	Councilman Ascolese	Present
	Councilman Brizzolara	Present
	Council Condoleo	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Council President Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present

MAYOR’S OPENING REMARKS:

I would like to thank our residents who came out on June 6th to vote in the primary elections. Every election is a chance to be heard. Council President Hausmann and Councilman Kim will both be on the general election ballot with me and I hope to see you all at the polls in November.

Congratulations to our 4th graders Soey Shin, Nadine Affoumado, Zoe Alberti, Jerrica Krepcio, Ashley Tice, Tina Macchiaroli, and Ellie Rinaldi on winning the USSSA Softball New Jersey State Championship 10U C Division. This is a great accomplishment and I know you will all continue to excel.

As the school year is winding down and graduation is approaching, I would also like to congratulate the Norwood Public School 8th grade class and all of our Norwood NVOT seniors. Keep working hard and reaching for the stars and there will be no stopping you from obtaining your dreams.

The townwide shredding event will be held this Saturday, June 17th, from 9am-1pm in the DPW parking lot. This is a great opportunity to safely dispose of documents that hold confidential information but are no longer needed.

June is National Great Outdoors Month and there are plenty of opportunities right here in Norwood and our surrounding towns where you can appreciate the outdoors. Our Environmental Commission has weekly hikes that all are welcome to attend. You can meet them at Anderson & Ruckman Road in Closter at 10:30am every Sunday. There are plenty of areas for fishing, including Heroes Pond. Fishing licenses are required and easily obtainable on the NJ DEP website. If a leisurely stroll is more your idea, we have a lighted walking path at Kennedy Field. With the great outdoors come bugs. To be proactive in bug protection, we have a list of insect safety tips on our borough website.

The mobile DMV unit was a great success, and we are in the process of scheduling another date in the fall. More information will be available soon.

Our annual Independence Day fireworks celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, July 4th, at Kennedy Field. The fireworks will begin once it is dark. Bring a blanket and grab a snack from the popcorn or ice cream trucks and enjoy the show.

On this date in 1777, the Second Continental Congress adopted a resolution officially making the stars and stripes the official flag of our country. The first flag had 13 stars and stripes representing the original 13 colonies and over the years has transformed into what we are familiar with today.

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.

Councilman Brizzolara asked for further discussion on Resolution 2023:111.
Councilman Condoleo asked for further discussion on Resolution 2023:112

Approval of the Following Minutes:

May 24, 2023, Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2023:108 – Approving Liquor License Renewals for 2023-2024

2023:109 - Approving Club License Renewal for 2023-2024

2023:110 - Authorize Tax Collector to Prepare and Issue Estimated Tax Bills For 3rd Quarter 2023 Taxes

2023:111 - Approving Refund of Summer Camp Registration Fee

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding Resolution 2023:111 and Resolution 2023:112, and that the 05/24/2023 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 Brizzolara noted that Resolution 2023:111 was for a refund of the summer camp fee due to the child having conflicts with mandatory school classes. Councilman Brizzolara suggested that the school be contacted and asked to have better organization when scheduling classes.

It was moved by Council President Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve Resolution 2023:111. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Condoleo advised the governing body that there was an amended bills list due to an invoice for Viking Pest Control being removed. The Borough no longer uses Viking Pest Control and a revised bills list was given to the governing body for their review.

It was moved by Council President Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve Resolution 2023:112. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Employee Handbook Changes

Councilman Ascolese gave a brief recap of the Employee Handbook changes that were discussed at the prior meeting. Councilman Ascolese suggested having the Council determine a set number of holidays to be given to employees so this does not happen again in the future. Mr. Padovano advised the governing body that the employees would like to keep the holidays the same as what they currently have.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the changes to the Employee Handbook. All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Court Violations Clerk

Mr. Padovano informed the Council that interviews were conducted for the Municipal Court Violations Bureau position and there was a very promising candidate. The candidate asked for a pay rate of \$25.00 per hour.

It was moved by Council President Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the rate of pay and offer the position to the candidate. All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Bergen County Fire Mutual Aid Agreement

Mr. Padovano discussed the Bergen County Fire Mutual Aid Agreement stating that this has been accepted by municipalities throughout the county and if the agreement is not approved the Norwood Fire Department would not be permitted to respond to calls outside of Norwood.

It was moved by Council President Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Condoleo to approve the Bergen County Fire Mutual Aid Agreement. All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Fire Department Off Road Vehicle Donation

Councilman Foschino informed the governing body that the Fire Department was awarded a grant by CSX in the amount of \$20,000.00 and those funds were used to purchase a used UTV. The Fire Department would like to donate the UTV to the Borough of Norwood to be used on calls where a regular truck or SUV would not be able to gain access to an area. The Fire Department has agreed to pay for all maintenance costs for the UTV.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Council President Hausmann to approve the donation of the Fire Department UTV. All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Neglia Engineering 15th Street, Meadow Lane, and Millbrook Circle Drainage Improvements

Mr. Neglia informed the governing body that due to the cost of the required surveys the proposal will be higher than what was originally budgeted for.

It was moved by Council President Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the donation of the Neglia Engineering Drainage Improvements for 15th Street, Meadow Lane, and Millbrook Circle. All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Neglia Engineering South Street Speeding Analysis

Mayor Barsa informed the Council that the Borough has received multiple complaints of speeding on South Street and the residents have asked for an installation of a speedhump. Mr. Neglia explained that when past speedhumps were installed in the Borough a speeding analysis was not completed. Most towns would conduct a speed analysis to see if the speedhumps were warranted. Councilman Foschino suggested having a police car stationed on South Street as that is a very good deterrent for speeders. Councilman Brizzolara asked if the portable digital sign could be placed on South Street to help advise motorists of the speed. Chief Krapels said he would put out a directive to the Police Department advising them of the issue and will create an enforcement plan.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Mr. Padovano stated that the election went well with the new machines, and he thanked all the poll workers and super poll workers.

Borough Attorney Report

Mr. Corrison advised the governing body that the Borough has been served with a complaint. The complaint is from a bicyclist who fell off his bike on Livingston and feels the ropes on the sidewalk caused the fall. Chief Krapels said the police were not called to the scene of the fall and they have no reports documenting the incident. Mr. Corrison said he will follow up with JIF.

Borough Engineer Report

Mr. Neglia stated that the plans for the playground at Kennedy Field should be ready in about two (2) weeks and they will set up a meeting with the playground committee at that time. Mr. Brizzolara asked what the timeline of the construction will be. Mr. Neglia said they could close the playground this fall and hopefully have it ready by the spring of 2024.

Committee Reports:

Councilman Brizzolara

Councilman Brizzolara advised the governing body that Mayor Barsa and Mr. Padovano met with Rockland Electric to discuss the plans to have the wires moved underground for storm protection. This project should begin sometime this year.

This will take place on Livingston, South, Railroad, Broadway, and Oak. During this meeting the project to remove the defunct transmission lines from the John Circle/Dale Court area was also discussed. The wires will be removed this year and the stanchions will be removed next year.

The landscaping at the Daibes property on Livingston Street is almost complete. Uncle Louie G's and K Chicken has opened, and a pilates studio will be opening soon.

Councilman Kim

Councilman Kim stated that the library's HVAC unit is only 50 % operational and needs to be replaced so the library does not close. This is the original equipment from when the library opened. Councilman Foschino noted that DPW Director Tracy should be notified whenever there is a problem so it can be resolved quickly.

The Greenway Project is in the process of trying to gain more community awareness. They have applied for grants and are awaiting the results.

Councilman Foschino

Councilman Foschino thanked and acknowledged the hard work and dedication shown by our DPW employees. In the past week, they helped the PTO with its annual carnival working until 2:30am on Saturday, and to almost midnight the rest of the week.

The Borough was also contacted by a Haworth resident who walks his dogs at Kennedy Field every day. He was very complimentary of the DPW stating the fields are meticulously kept.

Our shredding event will be held on Saturday, June 17th from 9am-1pm. Norwood residents are encouraged to bring up to four boxes of documents for shredding. We will also have free recyclable containers and yard waste bags available for our residents.

Councilman Foschino also informed the governing body that the Borough has been contacted by Norwood Public School to take over their landscaping once again. Mayor Barsa noted that in the past when the DPW was in charge of the schools landscaping it had to be done after hours and the Borough incurred the cost of overtime for the DPW employees. It became a costly project for the Borough. Councilman Foschino stated he asked Assistant Director Schuck to contact the school's head of maintenance to get a plan of exactly what duties they would like the DPW to perform. If the Borough were to agree to take on this work it would need to be done during normal business hours and for a fee.

Councilman Foschino also advised that he has been informed by the CFO that the Borough will need to begin the bid process in order to purchase two new pickup trucks, which have been approved as a capital expense, due to the fact they are not being purchased under state contract. The dealers that have state contract do not have any inventory.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the Start of the bid process to purchase two new pickup trucks from the DPW as an approved capital expense. All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

After a successful season, baseball and softball have come to a close. Councilman Foschino thanked all the parent volunteers for giving back to the children of our community. This would not be possible without you.

In conjunction with Major League Baseball, recreation will be holding a Pitch, Hit, & Run skills competition on July 8th at Kennedy Field. This is open to all Norwood children ages 7-14. More information will be available soon.

Council President Hausmann

Council President Hausmann said the Board of Health is working on an ordinance that would require establishments to display Board of Health placards stating the status of their health inspection.

Council President Hausmann gave an update on the community garden. The garden is thriving and there is an abundance of lettuce. The community plots are available for all residents. They are the last 4 plots to the right of the entrance. The next community garden day will be on June 24th.

The Environmental Commission thanked the council members for their input towards the proposed tree ordinance and is in the process of compiling all questions and comments for review. They will then refine the proposed ordinance and address all concerns.

A second quote from EV Connect has been received and is being reviewed by the Environmental Commission.

The Foxhill cleanup was a great success. Over 10 large garbage bags were filled. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, along with community members, volunteered for the event.

Council President Hausmann also advised the governing body of a standardized form that she would like to use for volunteers throughout the Borough. This would be used

for children and students who need to document their volunteer hours and will be used by all Borough departments.

Councilman Condoleo

Councilman Condoleo informed that the ambulance is still scheduled to be delivered sometime in mid 2024. EMS has currently used about 50% of its vehicle maintenance budget.

Councilman Ascolese

The Seniors had their business meeting, and they are all very happy with the community center renovations. Councilman Ascolese met with the Borough's representative from Neglia Engineering to discuss adding a barrier along Walnut Street and Broadway to block unintended access to the water. The barrier will be similar to what is currently at the dog park.

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 Hausmann. All council members present approved the motion.

There was no one present who wished to speak.

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 Hausmann. All council members present approved the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Brizzoalra and seconded by Council President Hausmann. All council members present approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk

