

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
April 15, 2026
6:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILWOMAN DEBIASA	COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO
COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN	COUNCIL PRESIDENT KIM

CALL TO ORDER

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 6:01 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
	Councilwoman DeBiasa	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Council President Kim	Present

MAYORS REMARKS

I want to share that one of our own, Sergeant Thomas Tobin, is currently battling a serious medical illness. Sergeant Tobin has served with the Norwood Police Department since 2000 and was promoted to Sergeant in 2015. Throughout his career, he has been a dedicated, professional, and compassionate officer who has earned the respect and appreciation of both the governing body and the residents he serves. During this difficult time, a GoFundMe page has been established to assist with medical expenses and to support Sergeant Tobin’s family. For those of you who would like to join me in contributing to the GoFundMe, you can find the link on the

Norwood Police Department's Facebook page. We ask that you keep Sergeant Tobin and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Our community stands with him, and we are grateful for his years of service and commitment.

The Police Department has scheduled two programs for middle school and high school students. The programs, Unlock Your Potential and Confidence On and Offline, will be held on April 23rd and April 30th. More information, including how to register, can be found on the Police Department's Facebook page.

The Mobile DMV unit will be back on May 13th processing Real ID's, registrations and titles. Appointments for the Real ID will go live on April 21st. A link will soon be provided on the Borough website and our official Facebook pages.

Earlier today we held an auction of DPW vehicles and equipment. I am happy to say the Borough raised \$10,900.00 in the auction.

Divisiveness is defined as the state or quality of creating disagreement, conflict, or hostility between people.

As Mayor, I believe it is important to address how divisiveness can negatively impact the work of a governing body. Our responsibility is to serve the residents with integrity, efficiency, and a shared commitment to the greater good. When division takes hold, it disrupts communication, erodes trust, and ultimately hinders our ability to function effectively.

A governing body cannot operate at its best when individuals are working against one another instead of with one another. Progress is slowed, decisions become more difficult, and the focus shifts away from what truly matters—serving our community. Personal disagreements and negativity only create obstacles where cooperation and mutual respect should exist.

Working together is not just beneficial—it is essential. Collaboration allows us to combine ideas, solve problems more efficiently, and deliver meaningful results for our residents. Even when we may not agree on every issue, we must remain committed to respectful dialogue and finding common ground.

Negativity, on the other hand, spreads quickly and can overshadow the important work being done. It discourages teamwork, damages morale, and can diminish public confidence in their leadership. Our residents deserve better.

Let us recommit ourselves to professionalism, cooperation, and positivity. By working together, we can accomplish what needs to be done and continue to build a stronger, more effective government for all those we serve.

BUDGET MEETING

Mayor Barsa thanked Councilman Brizzolara and CFO for their hard work and many hours preparing the budget. He also thanked Mr. Padovano for working with the department heads on their budgets.

Mr. Wielkott said this has been the worst year he has experienced relative to the budgets with the incredible increase in health care and other costs. It has become increasingly harder for municipal governments to put force a reasonable balanced budget and he believes Norwood is doing that.

There are five drivers that increase the appropriation:

Contractual salaries

Health care cost

Special emergencies – tax maps and reassessment

Statuary library contribution

Debt service

Everything else in the budget that is controlled have gone down \$43,000 across the board from the 2025 budget. An increase in the appropriation is not an increase in spending. The governing body has no control over that.

The tax impact to average the homeowner, with the reassessments on the books, will be an average of \$220, 5.8 %, over last year. This is the lowest increase seen of all budgets he has been involved in this year. Ratables for the town went from \$1.2 billion to \$2 billion based on the reassessment. Right now, the Borough ratables are stagnant and the governing body was still able to keep the tax increase at a reasonable level.

Councilwoman DeBiasa noted a typo on the scanned documents; a wrong town was named but the numbers were correct. She also asked why the cap rate in the ordinance showed two different figures. One clause identified \$149,000.00 excess needed for the 2% cap and another clause authorized \$349,000 for a 3.5% cap. Mr. Wielkott said the statute governs the appropriation cap to allow for the state to set the annual rate between 0-3.5%. The 2026 rate is set at 2% and to get to the 3.5% you need this ordinance. The extra \$770,000.00 can carry over to future years.

Councilman Brizzolara thanked Mr. Wielkott and Mr. Battaglia for their great work on the budget.

Mr. Battaglia said the Borough started the budget process at close to 13%. A lot of work went to get it down. The items within the council's control saw a net reduction. There is no fat in the budget to pull from. Revenue has no major drivers.

Councilman Brizzolara asked why the amount received from the cable franchise fees have gone down. Mr. Battaglia said because more people are cutting cable and

streaming the cable companies are not making as much revenue. We get a percentage of that.

Mayor Barsa gave a brief background on the rising health care costs and how moving to the 2035 plan last year brought savings to the Borough. There is a new plan, the high deductible plan, that will also bring a higher savings to the Borough. The plan is option for the employees and would take effect August 1st.

High-Deductible Health Plan

2026:93 Resolution Approving the option of the High-Deductible Health Insurance Plan

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve 2026:93, Resolution Approving the option of the High-Deductible Health Insurance Plan. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Brizzolara thanked Mayor Barsa for addressing this issue.

Councilman Ascolese said much of the contractual agreements are budgeted for and 14% of the budget is operating. Battaglia said about 90% of the budget is fixed costs.

Councilman Foschino said the capital budget is based off of \$50,000.00 but he is aware the DPW need \$500,000.00 in vehicles and the fire and EMS also have capital needs. Mr. Battaglia said there is unused capital from previous years. There is already \$56,000.00 in reserves and we can authorize up to \$2 million without bringing that number up to \$75,000.00

Councilman Foschino said the Environmental Commission is asking for a 100% increase in their budget.

Ms. Rosenthal, 19 John Circle, said she is here with Brielle Olshan who is also a member of the Environmental Commission to discuss the budget request. They are asking for an additional \$10,000.00 to purchase and install a larger shed to hold the garden supplies and also to finish off the accessible area of the garden. They have many successful garden events and educational activities, and they need a larger place to store supplies. It would be a one time expenditure.

Councilman Foschino asked what is the total amount of all garden improvements needed, including the shed. Ms. Rosenthal said about \$13,000.00. Councilman Foschino asked if the shed could be a capital expensive, which Mr. Battaglia said it could. Mayor Barsa said he would rather pay for this outright than over time.

Councilman Ascolese said if \$13,000.00 is needed there will be \$7,000.00 remaining. Ms. Rosenthal said it will never be finished, the shed and garden will always need maintenance.

Ms. Olshan said the Environmental Commission has taken over the responsibilities of the Shade Tree Commission and they are also requesting a budget of \$12,500.00 for that. That would give them the ability to have a mini survey down to highlight streets where trees need to be replaced and it would give them a basic tree plan on where and when to plant trees and which type to purchase. It will cost about \$4,000.00 for the survey and \$4,000.00 to hire a contractor to plant trees.

Mayor Barsa said the trees should be a part of the DPW budget. They would purchase and plant them. Mr. Loverich said Neglia Engineering has a landscape architect on staff and can provide the service at no cost.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked why the Livingston Beautification budget is always at \$50,000.00 when that money is never used. Councilman Foschino said that money goes towards benches, light posts, banners, anything for Livingston Street. Mr. Schuck said it also is there for accidents. Each light post cost \$13,000.00 to replace. Councilman Foschino said they will be seeing an expense this year as the maple trees have to be pruned by hand.

Councilman Brizzolara recommended having the shade tree commission use the money out of the Livingston Street Beautification account.

Councilwoman DeBiasa noted that the Board of Health has not held a flu clinic in many years and the name of the line item will be changed to seminars and events.

Councilman Foschino asked to see a copy of the library budget. Mr. Battaglia said there is a state formula that sets the amount the Borough must contribute to the library. That is the minimum required funding. Council President Kim said the library would like to have a meeting with Borough representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Resolution 2026:95 Approving the Introduction of the 2026 Municipal Budget

Public hearing on the 2026 Municipal Budget will be held on May 13, 2026

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve resolution 2026:95, Approving the Introduction of the 2026 Municipal Budget. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Padovano read the Notice of Hearing.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

1. Ordinance 2025:06 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2026:05 will be May 13, 2026

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve ordinance 2026:06, Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

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:

March 25, 2026 Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2026:84 Resolution Approving Grant Writer 2026 Contract

2026:85 Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Refund Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Due to Duplicate Payment

2026:86 Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Robert Brescia as Tax Assessor

2026:87 Resolution Authorizing Engineering Services Agreement with Neglia Engineering for the Revised Municipal Stormwater Management Plan Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Revised Stormwater control Ordinance NJDEP Ms4 Municipal Stormwater Management Program Borough of Norwood, Bergen County, New Jersey

2026:88 Resolution Authorizing the Processing of an Involuntary Disability Retirement Application for Sergeant Thomas Tobin

2026:89 Resolution Authorizing Engineering Services Agreement with Remington & Vernick Engineers for the Broad Street Bridge Replacement

2026:90 Governing Body Certification of Compliance with The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of The Civil Rights Act Of 1964"

2026:91 Self Examination

2026:92 Payment of Vouchers

Councilman Ascolese asked for clarification of the term involuntary in resolution 2026:88. Mr. Corrison said involuntary is used because the officer has a disease and cannot continue to work.

Councilman Brizzolara asked what the organic recycling expense was on resolution 2026:92. Mr. Schuck said that the is road sweeping disposal. Road sweepings are hazardous waste and need to be disposed of at ORI.

Mr. Padovano advised the governing body that resolution 2026:91 had to be pulled because the Borough does not qualify this year.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the Consent Agenda, removing resolution 2026:91, and that March 25, 2026, Mayor & Council Meeting minutes be approved for content and release. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Crossing Guard Incentives

Chief Federici informed the governing body that in the past the police department has had difficulty attracting crossing guards and keeping the ones they had. Chief Federici met with some of the crossing guards who provided him with a list of incentives they would like to see. Chief Federici reviewed this list with Councilman Ascolese and Mr. Padovano and they felt that two of the requests would not be difficult to fulfill. They crossing guards would like to be paid for snow days and would like an extra \$50.00 added to their clothing allowance, raising it from \$100.00 to \$150.00. The budget is already sufficient enough to handle the request for snow day pay and there is enough money in the clothing allowance budget to approve the \$50.00 increase.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the requests from the crossing guards to be paid for snow days and to have their clothing allowance increased to \$150.00. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Foschino Bench Engraving Application

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the Foschino bench engraving application. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Foschino did not vote.

Meadow Lane Drainage - Additional Work

2026:94 Resolution Awarding a Contract to Gotthold Contractors, LLC for Meadow Lane Drainage Improvements Additional Work

Mr. Loverich said he spoke about the improvements to Meadow Lane outfall at a prior meeting. The project was just erosion control to move the outfall away from homes. That project has been completed. During that project they found an existing 24in pipe between two 18in pipes. The pipes are connected into the draining system, and it is not a good conveyance situation. They received three quotes to disconnect and remove the pipes and move them to the discharge opening. The lowest bid was for \$18,500.00, which he feels is reasonable for the work. There is money in the 2024 capital that can be used to pay for this work.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve 2026:94, Resolution Awarding a Contract to Gotthold Contractors, LLC for Meadow Lane Drainage Improvements Additional Work. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman DeBiasa

Councilwoman DeBiasa said she attended the Board of Health meeting April 6th. The new Board members will be joining committees. They are working to finalize the town directory.

The construction report showed a big increase in permits from March of last year with 76 permits being issued. Permit fees have exceeded 30,000 which is an 802% increase from March of last year. There have been two CO's issued for businesses on Walnut and Livingston. The bamboo issue from the previous meeting has been dealt with.

The reassessment has been completed. If property owners wish to appeal, they can file an appeal with the Bergen County Board of Taxation.

Councilman Brizzolara

Councilman Brizzolara thanked everyone who worked on the budget to help make it a successful one.

Councilman Foschino

Councilman Foschino advised the governing body that baseball/softball opening day parade will be held on Saturday, April 25th, at 10am. He also advised that registration for the Northern Valley Jr. Knights football and cheer is now open.

The fire department new Pierce truck, truck 363, responded to its first call which happened to be in Northvale.

Councilman Foschino thanked Mr. Schuck, who has been in charge of the DPW department for about a month, and said the fields are looking great. He also congratulated DPW employee Tim Quinn on his retirement after many years with the Borough. Cleanups are underway, catch basins are being repaired and the compost facility cleanup is coming along very well.

At this time, Mayor Barsa congratulated Councilman Brizzolara on his retirement from Orange and Rockland.

Councilwoman Hausmann

Councilwoman Hausmann informed the governing body that the Borough has applied for the Community Project Funding grant for police department radio communication upgrades that total about \$59,717.00.

As liaison to the food pantry and Community Outreach, Councilwoman Hausmann has worked with the County to plan events for united service week. In addition to the events there are many businesses in town collecting for the food pantry. The Valley Program will be holding a cleanup at Kennedy Field and also teaming up with students at NPS to make placemats for Meals on Wheels. The Scouts will also be holding a community cleanup. Flyers will be distributed that will have a QR code with information on all events.

The Environmental Commission will be celebrating Arbor Day with the 3rd graders at NPS. The Commission will supply saplings for the students and Dercole Farms generously donated flowers for the children to plant. Councilwoman Hausmann asked Mr. Corrison if he received an update from the DEP regarding the tree ordinance. Mr. Corrison said he received an email today from the DEP listing comments such as adding a provision for municipal trees, establishing a tree fund, reconsidering the 8in diameter, and allowing for removal of invasive species. The DEP provided their model ordinance and will also provide ordinances from other towns that they have accepted. Councilwoman Hausmann said the Commission has been working on their proposed tree ordinance and would like to present it to the governing body at the May or June meeting. Mayor Barsa said they can come to give their input. Councilwoman Hausmann asked Mr. Corrison if the DEP said the Borough was not in compliance. Mr. Corrison said the DEP did not say either way, they only provided comments. Mr. Corrison said he sent the tree ordinance to the DEP for review in 2024 and has not heard back from them until today.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked for the DEP letter stating the reasons the mulch was not acceptable to be distributed. Mr. Schuck said he did not receive a letter from DEP, it was a verbal communication. Councilman Brizzolara asked when the sticks along the road get chipped where do they go. Mr. Schuck said the chips go to Hartmann Excavating. Councilman Foschino said the byproduct of the chipping is

not the mulch Hartmann is delivering. The chipping has nothing to do with the mulch.

Councilman Kim

Councilman Kim reported that the students at NVOT to the GPA test in March. The high school has submitted their budget to the count. The final budget will be presented on April 27th.

The library had two Board members resign. There are new requirements for library trustees. Ebook usage has increased by 21% from last year with 27% of library users being exclusive to digital books. IN March there were 2,804 books taken out of the library, 423 books ordered through BCCLS and 14,331 in foot traffic.

Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese asked Chief Federici to say a few words about the detectives. Chief Federici said the detectives are doing great work. Earlier in the year there was a burglary at a self storage facility in town. The detectives scoured the surveillance footage and found an image of a vehicle and a grainy picture of a person. Working with other agencies they found that the suspect was involved in a car crash that night and called 911. Using his cell phone number, they were able to put the suspect at the self storage facility at the time of the burglary. The suspect was picked up in Suffolk County. Another detective contributed to the Bergen County Cyber Crimes task force and made two arrests on possession of child pornography. Both suspects are facing first degree crimes. There will be two presentations offered April 23rd and 30th for middle school and high school students. There will be a DEA drug take back event on April 25th. The 2nd annual Touch a Truck will be held on May 3rd from 12pm-3pm. There will also be another Narcan training event scheduled during the first week of June.

Councilman Ascolese informed the governing body that the senior bus service will be expanding. There is a shared service agreement with Northvale that will all for the senior bus service to be five days a week and will also have set hours. There is currently an ad out to find a second bus driver to fill the hours.

Councilman Brizzolara asked what work Hartmann has done for the Borough. Mr. Schuck said Hartmann is currently running the compost facility. They redid the berm that is needed to keep the compost facility separate from the wetlands behind the property, drains have been added for stormwater ensuring it drains correctly. They are working to clean up the dump. Councilman Brizzolara asked how much the Borough is paying him. Mr. Padovano said the Borough does not pay him. He is on a temporary six month contract to fill the gap. A full contract will be discussed at the May meeting. He will be paying us.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT

Mr. Padovano said we are accepting bids for the solid waste contract. We have advertised for an additional senior van driver. Mr. Padovano thanked the Hillmans of Mills Ave who gave the Borough a complete set of drawings of historical homes drawn by Charlie McGill.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Mr. Corriston did not have a report.

BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Loverich informed the governing body that a preconstruction meeting was held and the contractor said the Summit Street paving will start mid-May. He also attended a preconstruction meeting with Veolia who is preparing for water main improvements along Mills, Austin, and Kensington from Tappan Road to the dead ends. The work is slated to begin in May and the paving has been pushed back to the fall of this year. Since the Borough will be paving Mills, Veolia has agreed to pave Austin and Kensington curb to curb as a swap. Councilman Foschino said Kensington Ct., John Cir. and John St. are very small and in bad condition. Mr. Loverich said he will look into adding these streets to the contract.

Councilwoman DeBiasa said it was poor planning to hold a Planning Board meeting the first night of Passover and ask that the calendars be cross referenced for major holidays. Councilwoman DeBiasa also addressed the mulch issue and how it was communicated. The initial post had no explanation and left residents confused. The follow up post listed the reasons why the mulch deliveries were stopping. She is concerned about the process and asked that the council be informed and not find out things on social media.

Councilman Foschino said everyone missed the Passover date and we need to be more careful. When he was contacted about the mulch he was told there is no product and at this time of year people are expecting the mulch. Councilman Foschino said the residents needed to know to make other arrangements. He said instead of going to social media, to pick up the phone and ask. Councilman Foschino said he received a few phone calls from residents saying they do not want to see the negativity in town. This was a minuscule issue, and a phone call could have resolved it.

Mayor Barsa said he does not micromanage the departments and found out about the mulch the following morning. As soon as he found out he called Borough Hall and received the whole story. Mayor Barsa said the negativity needs to stop.

Councilman Brizzolara said calling someone out for not following a process is not negative. He said he received a "nastygram" at 9:45pm calling him pathetic and a disappointment. He gave a copy of the message to the Borough Attorney. Councilman Brizzolara summarized his April 13 social media remarks which were critical of the Borough's decision making process to eliminate mulch delivery service (full statement provided). Councilman Brizzolara also took umbrage with what he perceived as Councilman Foschino's continued personal attacks

on the dais as Councilman Foschino engaged in continued "name calling" purposely repeating his April 13 personal text characterization of Councilman Brizzolara as a "pathetic disappointment" numerous times.

Councilman Foschino said he sees the game being played and how quickly responses to Facebook posts happen, even from those who no longer live in town. Councilman Foschino said there was a personal attack against him last year with "flowergate" and this year its "mulchgate". The one constant denominator is the divisiveness and the axe to grind with the DPW. He was disappointed, not as intimidation, but because he holds Council Brizzolara in a higher regard. When reaching out to Councilman Brizzolara he was told to "respond to my post".

Mayor Barsa said this is exactly why we need to stop. We see the divisiveness at the national level and do not need it in our homes. Mayor Barsa said he always tries to put out positive informational posts. He is receiving calls from residents asking for the divisiveness to stop. When he sees this behavior, he will call it out. This could have been resolved with a phone call. Mayor Barsa found out the following morning because he trusts his department heads and does not micromanage. They made the best decision they could with the information they had.

Councilman Brizzolara stated that one man's lack of harmony is another man's right to speak up when he sees a problem that needs to be addressed.

Councilman Foschino said he was contacted by the Assistant Director who informed him they do not have the product. He told him the residents need to know they cannot count on us this year. Since there was no product there was nothing to discuss. This situation was blown up because of social media, and this did not need to happen.

Mayor Barsa said this is exactly what he is trying to stop.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Kim. All council members present approved the motion.

Ms. Brielle Olshan, Frasco Lane, stated she was a member of Environmental Commission and that she feels the governing body is required to adopt an ordinance that meets the requirements of the DEP clear cutting ordinance from 2024. While the Borough waits for follow up from the state she feels there should be a moratorium on approving clear cutting permits. She wanted to be clear that she is not seeking this because of a recent application that was approved.

Mayor Barsa said the Borough does have an ordinance filed with the DEP and are following all laws and processes. Until the governing body receives word from the Borough Attorney to do things differently, they will use the ordinance that is in effect.

Ms. Maryanne Grommisch, Millbrook Circle, asked about Millbrook Circle being paved. There are a lot of walkers, and it is unsafe. She asked if it could be patched in the meantime. There is also a bamboo overgrowth issue.

Mayor Barsa said there is a bamboo ordinance in place and instructed Mr. Tessaro to address the issue. He also said that Millbrook Circle is a very large road and could cost a substantial amount to repave. He knows that it is in need of improvements and has instructed the DPW to get it patched as soon as possible.

Mr. Colin Machlder, Tappan Road, said the contractor for the compost facility should not have been handed to someone but advertised for public bid. The contractor needs to be licensed by the state. The DEP can fine the towns for 5 years. You need a contractor who is properly licensed and is giving the best deal to the town.

Mayor Barsa said Mr. Hartmann holds all required licenses and was awarded the contract on an emergency six month basis. Mr. Corrison said we do not pay the contractor, they will be paying us.

Ms. Michaela Redden, Frasco Lane, said she is a member of the Environmental Commission and has been a resident for 30 years. She has been directly affected by the clear cutting as three houses around her had clear cutting applications approved. The tree ordinance exists to balance property owner's rights with the rights of their neighbors. The DEP ordinance is mandatory, and the ordinance must cover removal and replacement. The Council is ignoring the mandate which is illegal. She asked the governing body to consider a moratorium until the new tree ordinance is approved.

Mayor Barsa said the Borough is in compliance and have submitted an ordinance.

Mr. Arthur Olshan, Frasco Lane, asked why the governing body can argue for 20 minutes but the public only has 3 minutes to speak. He said that during the last election Mayor Barsa, Councilman Foschino and Ed Condoleo came to his house to muster support. He spoke with them and voiced his concern about the clear cutting. He feels that Councilman Foschino has a conflict because of his landscaping business. Mr. Olshan said the house being built across the street was not given permits and the clear 9:06cutting application should have been heard after that. He, along with other neighbors, are considering legal action against the town if steps are not taken to bring the Borough into compliance.

Mayor Barsa said the house being built is only going before the Board because the ordinance states you cannot have two houses on the property at the same time. The new home being built will not need variances.

Ms. Karin Rosenthal, John Street, stated she is also a member of the Environmental Commission. She said regardless of the legality issue, clear cutting is a commonsense issue. Residents want an ordinance that better protects the trees. She asked the governing body to review the FAQ page on the DEP ordinance.

Mayor Barsa said he understands the concerns and passion for trees. When he built his home he built around the trees. He recently took down a tree that he remembered his children climbing in and it bothered him to have to remove it. Homeowners have a right to develop their property and if the request falls within the laws and rules of the Borough they will approve the request.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann. All council members present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk