

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILMAN CONDOLEO	COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO
COUNCIL PRESIDENT HAUSMANN	COUNCILMAN 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 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 ADDRESS

Mayor Barsa stated that on Monday he had the honor of playing in the 10th Annual Chodae Church Charity Golf Outing. All proceeds benefit the Norwood and Northvale volunteer services. He is very happy to say that once again, for 9 out of 10 years, Norwood has won the tournament and brought back the cup.

He also stated that the new school year has begun and with that comes more morning traffic and children walking and riding bikes to school. This is the perfect time to

reinforce pedestrian and road safety with your children. Remind them to always cross at crosswalks, wear a helmet when riding a bike, and for the drivers, to never pass a school bus.

Mayor Barsa wished all of the students at Norwood Public School and NVOT a great year ahead.

The mayor stated that Northern Valley Old Tappan High School has once again been ranked as one of the top 10 public high schools in Bergen County. Currently ranked as the #7 Best Public High School in Bergen County, our children are guaranteed to receive a top-notch education by dedicated teachers and caring staff.

Mayor Barsa reminded residents that the mobile MVC unit will be at the community center on Wednesday, September 20th from 10am-2pm. There is no appointment needed for driver's license renewals, non-driver ID card, placards, and many other services. If coming for a driver's license renewal make sure to have your 6 points of ID with you.

Finally, Mayor Barsa announced that Norwood Day is only 10 days away! Norwood Day will take place on Saturday, September 23rd, from 1pm-6pm. We have another exciting day planned with something for all ages. The police department will once again be hosting the fishing derby, the fire department will be here continuing their tradition of handing out hot dogs, and there is still time to sign up for the cornhole tournament. Our opening act, Full Disclosure, featuring Norwood residents, will come on at 1:30pm followed by our headliner, the ultimate Rolling Stones tribute band Streetfighter. He looks forward to seeing everyone on the 23rd.

CORRESPONDENCE

Building Department August Fee Log

Fire Department August Report

August Grant Report

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:

August 9, 2023, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2023:167 Resolution Verizon Cell Tower in Borough Right-of-Way

2023:168 Resolution to Appoint Fireman Luke Plescia

2023:169 Resolution to Advertise for Bids for the 2023 Municipal Road Program
2023:170 Resolution to Advertise for Bids for the Demarest Street Drainage
Improvements
2023:171 Resolution to Appoint Annmarie Colwell as Violation Clerk
2023:172 Resolution to Award Bid to Schultz Ford for Ford F350 Super Duty
Pickup Truck
2023:173 Resolution to Approve Neglia Engineering for Professional Services for the
NJDEP MS4 Permit Annual Report
2023:174 Resolution Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation
NJS 40a:4-87
2023:175 Payment of Vouchers

Councilman Foschino asked Mayor Barsa to remove resolution 2023:175.
Councilman Condoleo asked Mayor Barsa to remove the August 9, 2023, minutes

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the amended Consent Agenda. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Foschino wanted to note that on the bills list, the fire department rent is an item to be paid. Since the Fire Department are in discussions to forgo rent monies, to pay for repairs to the chief truck, Councilman Foschino feels that this check should be removed from the bills list. Motion by Council President Hausmann to hold the Fire Department rent and approve the rest of the bills list. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brizzolara. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Condoleo wanted to point out that at the last Mayor and Council meeting, the council appointed John Kuder as the assistant OEM coordinator. Councilman Condoleo wanted to point out that even though John Kuder is the Deputy OEM coordinator, he will not have the approval power that Chief Krapels maintains with the emergency volunteer services.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2023:11 An Ordinance to Amend and Revise Chapter 233-23.2 for Fence Requirements

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Foschino to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion.

Rene Santiago – 527 High Street

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve Ordinance 2022:11.

On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Council President Hausmann, and Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Condoleo, Foschino, and Kim

Absent: None

Nays: None

There being six (6) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2022:11 was approved

2. Ordinance 2023:12 An Ordinance to Amend and Revise Chapter 222 “Vehicles and Traffic” of the Borough Code of the Borough of Norwood

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve Ordinance 2022:12.

On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Council President Hausmann, and Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Condoleo, Foschino, and Kim

Absent: None

Nays: None

There being six (6) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2022:12 was approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Playground Presentation from Michael Neglia

Michael Neglia described his concept design and pricing for the new ADA compliant Kennedy Playground. Neglia described two versions of the playground that was conceptualized. One version has wood chip / wood carpeting flooring, and the other

version has a poured rubber matting. Mike Neglia ensured that both flooring options are considered ADA compliant by the federal government. Neglia stated that the colors of the playground can be decided at the time of bid. Every structure within the park is ADA compliant, including the swings. Neglia explained that the equipment vendor is under state contract and the playground equipment can be ordered, and then the installation can be brought to bid. Neglia explained that this could be a winter or early spring project.

Councilman Brizzolara asked if the current equipment will be replaced. Neglia explained that 100% of the equipment will be replaced. Neglia also explained that the DPW will be tasked with only performing the landscape maintenance of the park. Neglia also explained to Councilman Brizzolara that the two large trees are staying. Councilman Brizzolara asked about the gate location and the drainage. Neglia explained that the gate to the playground will be moved to the basketball court side and the drainage issues will be remedied.

Neglia explained the pros and cons of both types of flooring. The wood chip / wood carpeting wears out and the DPW would have to rake it and maintain it. The high traffic areas of the poured rubber will have to be cut out and replaced but less frequently. Both types of flooring have the same safety rating. Neglia explained that the life of the park with poured rubber flooring will last anywhere from 7 to 10 years. Wood chip / wood carpeting flooring will have to be redone every 4 to 5 years.

Councilman Condoleo asked if a 4-foot-high fence around the playground is safe enough? Mike Neglia explained that it is safe enough while being aesthetically pleasing. Neglia also mentioned that the flooring can be discussed once the bids come in.

Councilman Foschino asked how much we spent on engineering costs so far. Neglia explained the number is about \$22,526 which came out of the prior road program project. Neglia further explained that because of this expenditure, that is why the contingency in the proposal dropped to 10%. Neglia ensured that any changes to the irrigation system will be left operational after construction.

Councilman Foschino wanted clarification on the size of the new playground. Mike Neglia clarified that the new playground will be slightly bigger. It will be expanded towards the basketball court and also towards borough hall.

Councilman Kim asked about the genesis of this project. Mayor Barsa explained that our current playground is not ADA compliant, and the equipment is antiquated. Mayor Barsa also mentioned that the best idea right now would be to go out to bid and see what comes back.

It was moved by Council President Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to have Neglia Engineering put the project out to bid. All Council Members present voted for the motion.

Councilman Foschino would like Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano reach out to other towns in the surrounding area and see how much each municipality spent on new playgrounds.

Council President Hausmann

Environmental Commission

Community garden commission members are still meeting Wednesday evenings at 7pm to harvest but that will be winding down as the garden transitions to fall crops and plantings. Council President Hausmann mentioned that the EC are asking all plot holders to make sure their plots are kept neat and maintained throughout the entirety of the season. There is an evening picnic at the garden scheduled for Sunday, October 22nd beginning at 5pm. Everyone is responsible for bringing their own food.

A community clean up event is scheduled for Saturday, September 30th from 10am-12pm to tackle another section of the Foxhill woods. The Commission will be meeting at the dead end of McClellan and invite all members of the community to join in the cleanup. Hikes have been confirmed for September 17, September 24, October 1, and October 8. They will begin at 10:30am and will start at Boy Scout Camp at Anderson & Ruckman in Closter. The Commission is in need of a second alternate member. Anyone interested can email the EC secretary.

Community Center Refurbishment

Councilman Foschino asked Council President Hausmann to help with the project. Council President Hausmann stated that there was a miscommunication and she thought there was more money in the account. Council President Hausmann is trying to keep costs to a minimum while providing a space for all the community to enjoy. Council President Hausmann plans on exploring the refurbishment of the kitchen and creating a lounge area for 2024 capital. Council President Hausmann asked for a motion to move \$10,000 from the larger capital account earmarked for public building improvements to the line item for community center improvements.

Councilman Foschino feels that the money in that account needs to be expended on other bills that have not come in yet. He wants to avoid going over budget and he feels that this money would force the borough to do that.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to have Councilman Condoleo, Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano and CFO Battaglia explore other ways we can secure between \$7,000 - \$10,000 for the community center refurbishment. The motion was moved by Council President Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Brizzolara, Condoleo, Hausmann, Kim

Nay: Foschino

Abstain:

Motion carried.

Councilman Condoleo

Councilman Condoleo stated that the finances are doing great.

Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese stated that the senior BBQ was a great success. He thanked Deputy Clerk Volpitta for her work during the event. He also gave a special thanks to the two women who worked the event with lindsay. Councilman Ascolese and Mayor Barsa also thanked the Volunteer EMS and FD for their contributions.

Councilman Kim

Councilman Kim gave various updates regarding Northern Valley Old Tappan high school. He mentioned that sections of the roof were repaired.

Councilman Kim spoke about the flooding issues at the library building. The current infrastructure could not handle the amount of rain they received. The building needs repair. The AC is working well but not great. The library director resigned, and they are currently looking for a new one. There was therapy dog training at the library and 7 dogs passed.

Councilman Brizzolara

A letter of warning went to those homeowners who are renting out their pools. A dental office will be opening near the AM/PM urgent care. There will be an EV charging station going near Dunkin donuts. Councilman Brizzolara spoke about a program from O&R which replaces 2% of streetlights in Norwood with LED bulbs for free. Chief Krapels recommended we start with the streetlights near borough hall and Walnut Street. The council agreed to move forward with the program.]

Councilman Foschino

Councilman Foschino mentioned that during the spring season, the Northern Valley Adult Softball League, a division of the Borough of Northvale Recreation, used

Kenned Field a handful of times for their games. There are Norwood residents on all teams throughout the league. It has come to his attention that Norwood is the only town that has charged this league for field use. Their invoices total \$590.00. Councilman Foschino asked to wave their fees for past and future use. It was moved by Council President Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to wave their fees for past and future use. All Council Members present voted for the motion.

Councilman Foschino also stated that it's officially football season here in Norwood. Come support the Raiders at their first home game this Saturday, 9/16, at 5pm.

Councilman Foschino mentioned that shade trees were installed along the stream near Kennedy field to help delineate the roadway from the stream.

Councilman Foschino also mentioned that there is extensive flooding on Hudson and Mills Ave which needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Councilman Foschino stated that as of November 1st, Norwood's DPW will be down 1 full time employee due to retirement. Director Tracy met with personnel, and it was agreed upon, with council approval, to move forward with the hiring of a full-time employee. I would like to begin this process and have the ad for the position published to hopefully have the new employee begin work as soon as possible.

At the personnel meeting, it was also agreed, with council approval, to hire 2 or 3 part-time employees. We would like to hire these employees as tiered employees with a sliding pay scale, meaning they will be hired as a laborer 1 employee at a rate of \$20.00 per hour. After a year they will be evaluated and if they fit specific criteria, they will be moved to laborer 2 at \$22.50 per hour. At the end of the second year, they would be evaluated again, and if approved they would be moved to laborer 3 at \$25.00 per hour. A part time employee will max out at laborer 3. Our labor attorney has reviewed the process and advised that it is permitted though he did suggest we amend the Employee Handbook to include a section specific to the tiered DPW part time employment. Director Tracy is working on the requirements to determine if they would qualify for advancement. Once those are complete, he will meet with personnel for review, and we can begin the hiring process.

Councilman Foschino explained that capital funds in the amount of \$155,000.00 have been set aside for the replacement of the fencing around fields 1 & 2, which are the fields along Hudson Avenue on either side of the snack stand. We received a quote from Fox Fence, who is part of the state contract. Their quote came in under budget at \$150,280.00. It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to award the project to Fox Fence. All Council Members present voted for the motion.

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.

Angie Alberti – 328 Westwind

Ms. Alberti thanked the Mayor, Council, and Mike Neglia for their work towards the new playground. She also thanked the council for their work on the community center. She clarified to the council that the playground committee interviewed several manufacturers and sales representatives for playground equipment. She further clarified that this playground is not just an ADA accessible playground. Rather it is a modern playground meant for all children to enjoy. Access will not be limited.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Foschino. All council members present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:46PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk