

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL

May 13, 2026

6:00 PM

MAYOR BARSÁ

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 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
	Councilwoman DeBiasa	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Council President Kim	Present

MAYORS REMARKS

Yesterday afternoon at approximately 4:00 p.m., a devastating fire tore through the home of one of our residents. A contractor working at a nearby home spotted the flames and immediately called 911. The incident quickly escalated into a three-alarm fire.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the members of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Department, along with the fire departments from Northvale, Harrington Park, Old Tappan, Demarest, Closter, Haworth, Tappan, NY, Orangeburg, NY, and

Piermont, NY, for their swift response and tremendous efforts in battling the blaze. Thanks to their professionalism and teamwork, the flames were knocked down by approximately 6:30 p.m., and the scene was fully cleared shortly before 11:00 p.m.

I would also like to thank Norwood EMS, and the EMS crew from Closter, the rehab unit from South Orangetown and the medic unit from Hackensack Hospital for their quick response to the call.

We are incredibly lucky to have such wonderful members of our volunteer services.

Tonight we have the Norwood Hooligans, the 2026 Indoor Soccer Champions with us. These boys were in 6th place going into the quarter finals and beat a 3rd place Park Ridge team to move on. In the semifinals they beat another fantastic Norwood team, the 2nd place Hotspurs, in a 6 to 1 victory. In a close final game, they beat Rivervale in a 3-2 victory to take home the championship. This is a great accomplishment, and we couldn't be prouder of your success – bringing another championship home to Norwood. I would also like to congratulate and thank the volunteer coaches who take time out of their schedule to work with the children – head coach Gio Cutri and assistant coaches Christi Cutri and Steven Davis.

PRESENTATION – INDOOR SOCCER CHAMPIONS

Mayor Barsa congratulated the soccer team and presented them with certificates for their achievement. Cupcakes were provided for the team.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2026:05 – An Ordinance of The Borough of Norwood Amending Chapter 233-40.1 Of the Borough Code Entitled “Affordable Housing Overlay Zoning District” In Furtherance of The Borough’s Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Council President Kim to open to the public for comments on ordinance 2026:05. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Vin Rabino, White Ave Northvale, asked what the plan is for McClellan Street and potentially extending that to Northvale. Mayor Barsa said there has been no discussion on extending the road into Northvale.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to close to the public for comments on ordinance 2026:05. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Council President Kim to approve ordinance 2026:05. In the roll call vote, council members Brizzolara, DeBiasa, Foschino, and Hausmann voted no. Council members Ascolese and Kim voted in favor of the motion. The motion did not pass.

Councilwoman DeBiasa said she voted no because she was not comfortable with a red lined copy of the ordinance and would like to see a clean copy. She also said there was spacing removed from the deed restriction clause, sections 1 and 2 had different height limits for different parcels, and she felt the ordinance was written with a specific developer in mind.

Councilwoman Hausmann also said she was uncomfortable voting on a red lined version.

Mr. Corrison said the no vote will be a problem. It was not anticipated that it would be denied and he will have to talk to the Borough Planner and the judge. This could result in builder's remedy.

Councilman Brizzolara said in the past the governing body has discussed bringing in the United Way of Bergen County to discuss alternate ways to build the 160 affordable housing units, without having developers build another 900 units on top of that. He asked the Mayor to consent to allow the United Way to come to a meeting. Mayor Barsa said he would love to hear from them and asked Councilman Brizzolara to contact them.

2. Ordinance 2026:06 - Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Council President Kim to open to the public for comments on ordinance 2026:06. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

There was no one present who wished to speak.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Council President Kim to close to the public for comments on ordinance 2026:06. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Kim to approve ordinance 2026:06. In the roll call vote, all Council Members, with the exception of Councilman Foschino who voted no, voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Foschino said he feels there was not enough time reallocating funds to the contingency line item and there is too much waste. He would also like to have a discussion with the library. He does not feel this is right for the taxpayer.

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:

April 15, 2026 Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2026:95 Resolution Approving Liquor License Renewals For 2026-2027
2026:96 Resolution Approving Liquor License Club License Renewal For 2026-2027
2026:97 Resolution Accepting the Retirement of Joann Voccola
2026:98 Resolution Authorizing Requests for Qualifications
2026:99 Authorizing A Deferred Compensation Plan for the Employees of the Borough of Norwood
2026:100 Resolution Adopting the Amended Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan
2026:101 Resolution Authorizing Additional Scope of Services for Fourth Round Affordable Housing for Neglia Engineering
2026:102 Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Administrative Agent for Affordable Housing for the Year 2026
2026:103 Resolution Approving a Shared Service with the Borough of Northvale for a Senior Van
2026:104 Payment of Vouchers

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Council President Kim to approve the consent agenda, with the exception of resolutions 2026:98 and 2026:99, and that April 15, 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.

Councilwoman DeBiasa asked about the line item in the bills list for Neglia Engineering regarding the compost facility. Mr. Loverich said Neglia Engineering has a contract to prepare the soil erosion and sediment control plan for the site, which is required by the state of New Jersey.

Councilman Brizzolara said he did not see the RFQ for resolution 2026:98 in the packet and thought that document would be part of the agenda packet. Mr. Padovano said the resolution is only to allow the Borough to advertise for the RFQ. The RFQ will be created after the resolution to advertise is passed.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked if this resolution was for the leaf compost facility. Mr. Padovano said that it was and the current contractor is there on an emergency basis. Councilwoman Hausmann said she stopped by the compost facility after the last meeting and Mr. Hartman showed her around and explained what he does there. She said it looks beautiful. She suggested having Mr. Hartman give the governing body a presentation on what he does at the compost facility. Councilman Brizzolara suggested having whoever receives the contract come to the meeting.

Councilman Brizzolara asked Mr. Loverich if the DEP ever comes to inspect the compost facility. Mr. Loverich said the engineer typically does not get involved in that aspect because the contractor who runs the facility is responsible for his own operation. He believes the DEP does do a quarterly walk-through inspection and there is no paper trail. It is a visual inspection.

Councilman Brizzolara asked if resolution 2026:99, the deferred compensation plan resolution, could be tabled as it has not yet been discussed and he does not want to vote on

something that hasn't been discussed. Mr. Padovano said the vendor was contacted by a police officer and asked to reach out to the Borough. The deferred compensation plan is like a 401K but for public employees. A portion of each paycheck, that is determined by the employee, goes into a fund and it is taken out upon retirement tax free. This is at no cost to the Borough. State law requires the Borough to contact two other vendors, which he did. The vendor has said he is happy to make a presentation to the governing body. Mayor Barsa tabled the resolution and asked that the vendor give a presentation at the next meeting.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve resolution 2026:98. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING OF 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Approval of Resolution 2026:105 Adopting the 2026 Municipal Budget

Mayor Barsa thanked the Finance Committee and the CFO for all their hard work on the budget.

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

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 Councilwoman Hausmann to approve Resolution 2026:105.

Councilwoman DeBiasa asked Mr. Battaglia why nothing was allocated for chapter 159 and if that chapter is for tax appeals. Mr. Battaglia said that chapter 159 is for budget amendments and it will stay at zero until the budget is adopted. As the year goes on and the Borough receives grants the budget will be amended to include them. This will not affect the budget.

On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, DeBiasa, Hausmann, Kim

Absent:

Nays: Councilman Foschino

There being five (5) ayes and one (1) nays Resolution 2026:105 was approved.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Tree Ordinance

Mayor Barsa asked Mr. Corrison for his feelings on a member of a Borough commission making false statements. Mr. Corrison said the Borough sent an ordinance to the state in 2024 for review and approval. We did not hear anything back from the state until we resent

the ordinance. The state responded with comments. The Borough has taken those comments into consideration. The Borough has not been fined or issued court orders. There is nothing to indicate that the Borough has acted illegally. Mayor Barsa asked Mr. Corrison if the Borough is working within the laws of the State of New Jersey to which Mr. Corrison replied yes and he has not been told otherwise.

Mayor Barsa made the following statement:

I want to make it clear that I deeply appreciate the value trees bring to our community. They enhance the natural beauty of our neighborhoods, provide environmental benefits, and contribute to the character that makes our town such a special place to live.

At the same time, it is important to recognize that the trees removed as part of subdivisions or new home construction represent only a small percentage of the overall tree coverage throughout our municipality. Development, when done responsibly and in accordance with our regulations, allows us to maintain a healthy balance between preserving our natural environment and supporting the needs of our residents.

It is also important to understand the historical context of development in Norwood. From approximately 1984 through 2004, the borough experienced a more significant period of development activity with 17 development projects. In contrast, from 2005 to the present, development has slowed considerably and has been far more controlled and limited in scope with 7 projects. Recent years have seen only small-scale subdivisions and targeted projects, reflecting our continued commitment to responsible growth.

Some examples of NEW development (1984-2004) are:

1984: Virgil Road – 14 homes / 4.5 acres

1985: Chaffee Cir. – 24 homes / 10 acres

Cobblestone Crossing & Clinton Ave – 6 homes / 3 acres

Cobblestone Crossing & Hazel Ct. – 7 homes / 4 acres

1988: Sutton Place Apartments – 7.5 acres

1989: Buckingham – 6 acres

Nottingham Court – 6 homes / 7 acres

1990: Anne Ct. – 10 homes / 4.5 acres

1993: Northwoods – 170 homes / 25 acres

1994: Norwood Gardens – 24 units / 1.4 acres

Rio Vista – 8 homes / 9.5 acres

Wood Turtle Run – 9 homes / 13.5 acres

2001: South Avenue – 3 homes / 1.5 acres

2002: Kensington Ct. – 4 homes / 1.5 acres

2003: Foxhill Manor – 94 units / 2.2 acres

2004: Belle Ct. – 5 homes / 2 acres

Tappan & Blanch – 3 homes / 2 acres

Compare that to the DEVELOPMENT and REDEVELOPMENT that took place from 2005-current

2007: Tappan & Hudson – 1.2 acres

2016: Dercole Farms – Redevelopment

2017: 521 Livingston St – Redevelopment

Arbor Terrace – Redevelopment

2019: The Grande – Redevelopment

2021: Jones Ct – 3 homes / 2 acres

2026: 711 Broadway -3 homes / 1 acre

Where development has occurred, it has largely been in the form of modest subdivisions or redevelopment of existing sites, rather than large-scale expansion.

Our downtown is a clear example of successful redevelopment. What was once an underutilized and unattractive area has been transformed into a vibrant, functional space. It is no longer what many would have considered an eyesore—it has been revitalized into something our community can be proud of. Importantly, the addition of residential living space in the downtown area is not only beneficial, but necessary. A thriving downtown depends on a customer base of people who live, walk, and engage with local businesses. This kind of smart redevelopment supports our economy while enhancing the overall appeal of our town.

A reasonable visual estimate inside the boundary of our town would be approximately:

- Green/tree-covered land: 65–75%
- Buildings, roads, parking lots, and developed surfaces: 25–35%

The large, wooded sections in the south, west, and northeast parts of Norwood push the green percentage much higher than in most Bergen County towns. The main developed/commercial concentration is around the center of town near Broadway and Livingston Street.

Using U.S. Forest Service and National Land Cover Database canopy estimates for suburban New Jersey areas, Norwood is likely around:

- 40%–50% tree canopy cover
- 15%–25% building and paved impervious coverage (houses, roads, parking lots, etc.)

That means Norwood probably has roughly about twice as much tree coverage as building coverage overall.

For comparison:

- Average tree canopy across New Jersey is about 43.6%.
- Dense cities like Newark are much lower, around 15% canopy.

Norwood's large residential lots, wooded neighborhoods, and proximity to the Palisades region help keep its canopy relatively high compared with more urban Bergen County towns.

We remain committed to thoughtful, controlled development that respects both our environment and our community. This includes encouraging appropriate tree replacement, maintaining our existing green spaces, and ensuring that Norwood continues to be a place where nature and neighborhood living go hand in hand.

Mayor Barsa said it has been recommended to adopt the state ordinance, which many towns have done.

Councilwoman DeBiasa stated that there were no trees removed in the Dercole Farms subdivision. Mayor Barsa stated that was redevelopment, not new development and agreed that no trees were removed.

Councilwoman DeBiasa asked Mr. Corrison if the DEP recommendation were a part of the proposed ordinance. Mr. Corrison said yes, the proposed ordinance is essentially the DEP ordinance.

Councilwoman Hausmann said she contacted a member of the DEP and was told the 2016 tree ordinance does not meet the current MS4 requirements and it is recommended that the town contact Timothy Ebersberger from the Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting for additional guidance regarding compliance.

Councilwoman Hausman noted that the Environmental Commission was given permission to give a presentation to the governing body but was later told all comments should be in writing. Councilwoman Hausmann read the following comments from the Environmental Commission into the record:

We are glad that the Borough has introduced for discussion a modified version of the NJ DEP model Tree Ordinance to comply with the requirements of the 2024 Stormwater Regulations. In addition to the mandate, it is vital to establish stronger protection for the community tree canopy to reduce soil erosion and pollutant runoff, promote infiltration of rainwater into the soil, and protect the environment, public health, safety, and welfare. We have been informed that the discussion will focus on the model ordinance, and not the ordinance that the Environmental Commission was asked to prepare in 2022. We offer the following recommendations, as well as some edits to the model ordinance attached, to strengthen the draft ordinance's effectiveness and long-term environmental benefit.

1. Increase Replacement Fees and Contribution-in-Lieu Amounts:
The current replacement fee of \$100 per tree is substantially below the actual cost of purchasing, planting, and maintaining replacement trees. These amounts are unlikely to incentivize on-site replacement or adequately fund municipal replanting

efforts. It is also substantially below the fee of the surrounding municipalities. The Commission recommends significantly increasing these fees to better reflect the true environmental and financial value of mature trees, including planting, watering, monitoring, and maintenance costs over time.

2. Increase Penalties for Violations:

The proposed violation penalty of \$100 is not a meaningful deterrent against unauthorized tree removal. Given the substantial environmental value of mature trees, the Mayor and Council should establish substantially higher fines, plus an additional fine per replacement tree.

3. Require Certified Tree Professionals for Measurements and Hazard Determinations:

All tree measurements, including DBH calculations, and all determinations regarding hazard trees should be performed and documented by a Licensed/Certified Arborist. Hazard tree exemptions should not be self-certified by applicants. Supporting documentation should include a tree removal plan with map of all trees 6 inches or greater on the property and their caliper, photographs, and a written assessment, prepared by the certified professional to ensure consistency and prevent misuse of the exemption provisions.

4. Strengthen Replacement Standards:

The ordinance should require replacement trees to be selected "in kind" in line with the MS4 regulations. For example, canopy trees should be replaced with canopy trees, and understory or ornamental trees should be replaced with similar categories of trees. This approach better preserves ecological function, stormwater benefits, shade canopy, and neighborhood character.

Replacement requirements should direct applicants to choose replacement species from the same category as the removed tree wherever possible and Appendix A should be organized by category.

5. Encourage Greater Use of Native Species:

We recommend prioritizing native tree species in Appendix A and limiting the use of non-native ornamental species where suitable native alternatives exist. Native trees provide superior habitat value, support pollinators and wildlife, and are generally better adapted to local ecological conditions.

6. Consider Additional Protections for Large Mature Trees:

The environmental value of large mature trees increases exponentially with size. We recommend consideration of enhanced replacement requirements or additional review standards for trees above a certain DBH threshold, particularly specimen trees and large native canopy trees.

The Environmental Commission looks forward to assisting the Borough in developing a strong and enforceable ordinance that protects Norwood's tree canopy for future generations.

Councilwoman Hausmann said the penalty cost of \$100.00 should be higher. Mayor Barsa, Councilman Ascolese, and Councilwoman DeBiosa agreed. Mayor Barsa asked

Councilwoman Hausmann if she had a recommendation for the penalty and she said \$1500.00. Councilwoman DeBiasa said the penalty in the Environmental Commission proposed ordinance states the fee would be \$1500.00 with an additional \$500 for each tree that would require remediation.

Mayor Barsa asked which trees would be excluded from the fees. Councilwoman Hausmann said an arborist would determine hazardous trees with supporting evidence. Mayor Barsa asked if trees in a floorplan of a building permit would be exempt. Mr. Corrison said that would be a Planning Board issue. Mr. Loverich said those trees would not be exempt if they were healthy. Councilman Brizzolara said those trees would have to be replaced or the homeowner could pay the fine. Mr. Loverich said the ordinance allows for removal of 4 trees per acer in a 5-year period. It is a formula. If the property is $\frac{1}{4}$ an acre 1 tree is allowed to be removed, if the property is $\frac{1}{2}$ acre 2 trees would be allowed to be removed.

Councilman Foschino said a builder could remove 10 trees to build a house, replace them with ten 1.5 inch caliber trees, and the new owners could decide they don't want them and remove them. Under the proposed ordinance, trees under 6 inch caliber can be removed. Mr. Loverich and Mr. Corrison agreed with Councilman Foschino. Councilman Foschino said it would take 10-15 years for a 1.5 inch caliber to tree to grow to a caliber of 6 inches. Councilman Foschino asked who would monitor this. It doesn't make sense to hit residents with a hefty fine. This is not realistic.

Mayor Barsa said there are certain areas of the state ordinance that the Borough can change and vote on how them then move forward with the ordinance. He feels a fine of \$100.00 is a good starting point but \$500.00 is too much.

Councilman Foschino said the ordinance is not enforceable. Councilwoman DeBiasa said the fines will make it enforceable. Mayor Barsa said he built his house around a tree that he easily could have removed and that was his choice. The homeowners should develop their property the way they want.

Councilman Brizzolara asked to table the discussion until next month so everyone can review the red-lined document provided by the Environmental Commission. He also asked for a moratorium on clear cutting until an ordinance is in place. Mr. Corrison said you cannot have a straight moratorium; it will have to be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Councilman Foschino said an arborist hired by the homeowner is not going to say the trees shouldn't be removed. Councilwoman Hausmann suggested following what other towns do and provide a list of three independent arborists that the homeowner can chose to examine the trees. It will be paid for by the homeowner.

Mayor Barsa said this discussion will be tabled until next month and the current ordinance will remain active as the Borough has not been told we are doing anything wrong and have not been notified that we are in noncompliance.

Lafontant Bench Engraving Application

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Council President Kim to approve the Lafontant bench engraving application. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman DeBiasa

Councilwoman DeBiasa said the Board of Health will begin pool inspections before Memorial Day. There was a complaint about rats though no rats were found. Residents are responsible for paying for rodent remediation. There is an open alternate seat on the Board.

Councilwoman DeBiasa said the Construction Office issued 50 permits in April, a decrease from 57 last April. There were 8 resale certificates issued, which is also down from last year. There are 4 new businesses coming into town. There was a property warning issued to 72 Demarest Street and a second warning issued to 34 Somerset. Construction is progressing on six single family homes in town.

Councilman Brizzolara

Councilman Brizzolara said the Finance Committee will meet with the professionals to draft the capital budget for heavy equipment and vehicles. Mr. Padovano will follow up with the department heads to submit their requests.

Councilman Brizzolara said the solid waste contract will expire this summer and sealed bids are due by June 9th. As of this date no bids have been received.

Councilman Foschino

Councilman Foschino said the fire department and the departments from the surrounding towns and Rockland County did a fantastic job battling the fire on 17th Street.

Councilman Foschino congratulated the boys 2026 Indoor Soccer Champions. They played great teams to move through the rounds and get to the final game. Congratulations on a great season and thank you coaches.

Registration is open for the 2026 Norther Valley Jr. Knights football and cheer program. Registration is also open for the recreation summer basketball league. Links can be found on the Borough website and official town Facebook pages.

There are also some camps that will take place this summer:

The Blue and Gold Football Camp will take place at NVOT the week of July 20th to the 24th from 9am to 2pm. The camp is open to children entering 1st through 9th grade.

The Golden Knights Basketball Camp will be held at NVOT July 6th to the 10th from 9am to 1pm. This is open to boys entering 2nd through 9th grade.

Links to register can also be found on the Borough website and official Facebook pages.

Councilman Foschino will be meeting with representative from the Baseball/Softball Board on Saturday to discuss improvements to fields 1 & 2.

Councilman Foschino advised the governing body that the DPW has dropped off two new trucks at Cliffside Body to be outfitted with multi-use body systems. Cleanups are underway around town, the monument will be power washed in advance of Memorial Day, and the flowers are up on Livingston Street. He also noted that the Borough won a contest for the Livingston Street flowers. Lastly, he congratulated Tim Quinn on his retirement and thanked him for his many years of service. Councilman Foschino Acknowledged National Public Works week and thanked the DPW for everything they do.

Councilwoman Hausmann

Councilwoman Hausmann said the week of service in conjunction with Bergen County United We Stand was a success. A litter pickup was rescheduled for May 17th. Arbor Day was celebrated with the 3rd graders at NPS and there was food pantry drop boxes at multiple locations. The Valley Program partnered with the Borough, picking up food from the drop boxes and stocking the shelves at the food pantry.

The Borough has applied for the International Garden Grant which, if awarded, would give the Borough \$750 for a raised garden bed at the community garden.

Mr. Loverich attended the May meeting and gave a very informative presentation on stormwater. The Commission thanks him for taking his time to meet with them. The two events that were scheduled for April were rained out. There is a hike with Nature marc scheduled for June 6th at 10am. More information will be available soon and a flyer will be posted to the Environmental Commission Facebook page. A community garden clean up event has been scheduled for May 30th, 10:30am-11:30am. All are welcome to attend both events. The June meeting has been rescheduled to June 9th due to the regular meeting date falling on the same day as the Primary Elections. The link to the Zoom meeting will be on the borough website and Environmental Commission Facebook.

Councilman Kim

Councilman Kim reported that the New Jersey School Board gave an ethics presentation to the high school staff. Reappointments of many staff members were confirmed. There was a job fair in Mahwah in April. The Superintendent visited Apple and learned about AI.

Councilman Kim

Councilman Kim said the library discussed reducing staff members to cut costs. There are two new Board members. They also discussed donations and the best way to use them to supplement expenses going forward. The Library Director attended a meeting with BCCLS to discuss the purchase of a new electric delivery van.

Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese attended the Seniors Club business meeting. A representative from the County presented all the services seniors can get from the county. There is a personnel meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT

Mr. Padovano said the NJ MVC mobile unit was a great success. There will be another one scheduled. They tell us the date, we have no control over that. Once we have that information it will be posted to website and Facebook page. Mr. Padovano advised those in the public that the Borough now has an app that can be downloaded from the App Store and Play Store. Lastly, he mentioned that the shredding event will take place on May 30th, from 9am-1pm, in the DPW parking lot.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Mr. Corrison said he successfully had the contractor pay the \$1500.00 that was owed to the Police Department.

Mr. Corrison asked the governing body to reconsider the adoption of the ordinance for the overlay zone. Not adopting it will cause major problems. This ordinance was part of the settlement with Fair Share Housing, and the courts take it very seriously. The extension was granted based on the Borough approving the ordinance. If it is not adopted the Borough will lose immunity and Builders Remedy will come into effect. We will end up in a lawsuit and not come out on the right side.

Mr. Loverich said he agrees with everything Mr. Corrison said. This was negotiated step by step with Fair Share Housing. It was not created because someone wanted it that way. It took scores of hours to put together.

Mayor Barsa said he is not in favor of it but knows the law and what will happen if its not approved. The Borough will lose all protections.

Councilman Brizzolara asked to be convinced that this will not lead to overdevelopment in that area. Mr. Corrison said this area is the best place for it. The Planner went through the town to find out where we could legally build, and this is what the professionals came up with. It is a big mistake not to take the advice of the engineer and attorney.

Mr. Loverich said, with respect to locations, the Planner went through every vacant land and tax-exempt land to figure out where would be the best parcel for development. Councilman Brizzolara asked how many units there will be. Mr. Loverich said 50 total units with 20% being affordable.

Councilman Ascolese said he is very concerned about the outcome with Builders Remedy. If we don't approve the ordinance, it could get much worse. We will give up every right we have. This is currently going on in Englewood Cliffs.

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to approve ordinance 2026:05. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ascolese. Four council members voted yes, while Councilwomen DeBiasa and Hausmann voted no. The motion carries.

BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Loverich informed the governing body that they have closed out a lot of the Bergen County Open Space Grants. The Broad Street grant was awarded through a federal grant. Remington Verdick will submit a design and review it with the state. Councilwoman asked why the grant report shows the grant was for \$1,000,000.00 and she was told it is only for \$800,000.00. Mr. Loverich said the allocation is \$800,000.00.

Mr. Loverich said Veolia will start the water main replacement on Mills early to mid-June. The work will be all of Mills, Valley, down Austin, and half of Kensington from the dead-end to John St. They hope to have the paving done in November, weather permitting.

Mr. Loverich advised that the Summit Street work will begin at the end of May. A resident at 295 Summit Street has documented a puddle in front of his house that is a problem. Mr. Loverich said if a puddle is there for more than 24 hours and is more than a penny thick it is considered a drainage issue. He has received a quote to install a catch basin at the bottom of the driveway and connect it on the other side of the street. The quote is for \$24,800.00 and he has confirmed with the CFO that there is money available for this.

Councilman Foschino asked if John Street and John Circle could be included in this. Mr. Loverich said the cost estimate is about \$100,000.00 and we don't have the mechanism to add that amount as a change order. This will need to be a separate project.

Councilwoman Hausmann made a motion to approve the change order. Councilman Ascolese seconded the motion. All council members present approved the motion.

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 Council President Kim. All council members present approved the motion.

Ms. Emily Riley, 91 Millbrook Circle, asked for the road to be paved. It is in horrendous condition and it's a struggle to push a stroller. It is a danger for walkers and the elderly. Mayor Barsa said last month he asked the engineer to review the area. It is already being worked on.

Ms. Brielle Olshan, 8 Frasco, said everyone here cares about Norwood and that makes it special. Everyone might not feel the same way about trees, but it is a very important topic. Last month during Arbor Day at Norwood public the 3rd graders were asked how trees make them feel. They responded that trees make them feel safe, small, and protected. Ms. Olshan asked the governing body to not consider the minimum but make sure children in 100 years still feel that way.

Mr. Ed Conlon, 307 Cedar Ct, said he spends a lot of time walking and has noticed all kinds of trees standing dead or leaning on another tree. He views it as a form of neglect. He is not accusing the Borough of being neglectful, but something needs to be done. While walking towards Northwoods, on the right side there are all kinds of trees laying on the ground in the woods. Arrangements can be made with a company to cut them up for mulch. Mayor Barsa

said that area is the Meadowlands Conservation Trust and instructed Mr. Padovano to find out the rights about maintaining the trees.

Mr. Ermin Suljec, 868 Broadway, said he agrees with Councilman Foschino about the affordable housing ordinance. He asked if the plot of land being discussed was the grassy area by the rehab facility and said that lot is undevelopable due to drainage.

Ms. Michaela Redden, 8 Frasco, said she has listened to ideas going back and forth but it is not productive. The council is focusing on the rights of the property owners but should focus on storm management and environmental impact. The other part that comes into play is when there is an application, they also have to think about how it affects the neighbors and the surrounding properties. She said she knows the ordinance has not been accepted by the state and it's breaking the law when trees do not have to be replanted.

Ms. Maureen Cuschieri, 54 Tappan, said she feels it would be beneficial to consider one large development to meet the affordable housing needs instead of many smaller developments.

Mr. Dominick Congiusti, Livingston Street, said he has lived in town since 1960 and has seen the town grow. Growing up he lived in the second house on the east hill and there was nothing there but woods and corn fields. He does not feel we are moving in the wrong direction. He feels the property owners should do what they want on their property.

Mr. Allen Rapaport, 18 Park Avenue Old Tappan, said the fire department did an amazing job at the fire the previous day. Please are fleeing New York and are looking for a better life for their family and children. Mr. Rapaport went over the allotted 3 minutes, and Mayor Barsa asked him to sit down.

Mr. Suljec said the tree ordinance is there for a reason and lots should be approved based on the criteria in the ordinance.

Ms. Karin Rosenthal, 19 John Circle, said she is not originally from here, but when family and friends visit they all comment on how beautiful and lush and green the town is. She has been to meetings several times with the Environmental Commission advocating for a stronger tree ordinance and encourages everyone to work together to make it effective and enforceable.

Mr. Dominick Congiusti asked those posting on social media to be mindful when posting about firefighters being hurt.

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

Chief Federici said the touch-a-truck was a success and thanked DPW Foreman Congiusti and Officer Rooney for all their work. There will be a Narcan training on June 4th in the community center. Sgt. Kuder, Det. Sgt. Duelfer, Ptl. McMackin, Ptl. Dottino, and Ptl. Marcellari assisted the Old Tappan Police Department and responded to NVOT for a call of a student possibly with a firearm. They entered the classroom and retrieved the book bag

where the firearm was believed to be. It was technically not a firearm but considered one under the NJ criminal code. Chief Federici acknowledged Det. Sgt. Duelfer and his work with the Cyber Crimes Task Force. He was an integral part of the surveillance, search warrant and arrest of a Closter resident who was in possession of child pornography.

Mayor Barsa said that we sometimes forget about the past. He encouraged everyone to look at the photos, dating back to the early 1900's, that surround the room to see how things progress. There is nothing he would change about this town.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann. All council members present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk