

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
October 23, 2024
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 President Condoleo	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Absent
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present

PRESENTATION

Greenway Update

Team leader for the Northern Valley Greenway, Andrew Mikesh, gave an update on the Greenway Project. There are not many safe places for people participating in active transportation. Active transportation is anything that’s not motorized transportation. The Northern Valley Greenway is a 7.5 mile stretch of unused railroad. The goal of the project is to convert the remaining part of the rail to a safe

corridor for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. There are six (6) towns involved in the Norther Valley Greenway. These are the towns in which the rail line runs. It is important that the towns stay engaged in the project so they have a say in what will be done. The NJ DOT conducted a study and approved the project. The significant finding is that the right of way varies by size. It will change size throughout the length. Funding is still being worked out and there is more prep work that needs to be done. CSX, the property owner, said they do not allow any trails. The biggest challenge has been the Hudson Bergen Light Rail Expansion Project. They have to make changes to their project that could affect the Greenway.

Councilwoman Hausmann thanked the presenters for their hard work on the project and wished them luck.

Mayor Barsa said this is a great project and will be great for the community. Mayor Barsa said he will come to the meeting with CSX and show support for the project.

Councilman Kim said the Greenway Committee had to reinstate the talks with CSX, as CSX has been reluctant to talk to the Committee.

Mr. Mikesha advised on two other projects. One is to look at the tunnels and bridges to see how they can accommodate all the active transportation demands. The Greenway will be included as part of this initiative. Another project from the NJ DOT is to expand 9W from Englewood Cliffs up to the state line to ensure a large bicycle lane. The Green way will be a stakeholder on that Committee.

Council President Condoleo questioned how they are funding the project. Mr. Mikesha said they are covered by the JIF as a municipal entity. The Rotary Service Project is a 501C(3) and has raised money for the project. The biggest hurdle is getting funding for the planning aspect. The Greenway is considering fundraising options.

Councilman Ascolese asked what level at CSX does the project have contact with. Mr. Mikesha said they have a contact in the real estate department.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2024:12 An Ordinance Amending Article Iii Titled "Fees" In Chapter 98 Of the Code of The Borough of Norwood

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese 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.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded

by Councilman Ascolese to approve Ordinance 2024:12. All Council Members present voted for 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:

October 9, 2024, Mayor & Council Meeting
October 9, 2024, Mayor & Council Meeting Closed Session

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2024:211 Resolution Approving Francisco Barillas as Crossing Guard
2024:212 Resolution Authorizing Valley Health System, Inc. to provide alcohol and drug testing services to the Borough of Norwood
2024:213 Resolution Amending the Term of The Contract for The Shared Services Agreement for A Shared Municipal Court Administrator with The Borough of Haworth
2024:214 Approving the Corrective Action Plan for The Calendar Year December 31, 2023
2024:215 Payment of Vouchers
2024:216 Resolution Awarding a Contract To William Falkenstern, Inc For The Norwood Community Garden Improvements

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Resolution 2024:216, and that the May 8, 2024, 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.

Councilman Brizzolara asked for clarification on Resolution 2024:216, if the vendors had enough time, three (3) business days, to respond. He feels that receiving just one (1) quote appears we did not so our due diligence. He would like to give at least a week or two to respond. Mr. Loverich said the grant application has a timeline, and it needed to be on this agenda.

Council President Condoleo asked why the resolution was being capped at \$17,500.00 when the quote was for \$10,000.00. Mr. Loverich said this is standard language for the resolution. If there was a changed needed there would be a change order.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve 2024:216 Resolution Awarding a Contract to William Falkenstern, Inc for The Norwood Community Garden Improvements. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

105 Oak Street Land

Mayor Barsa gave a brief recap of the possible vacating and selling 105 Oak Street. After the meeting Mayor Barsa researched what would be best for the Borough regarding that land. DPW Director Tracy advised that he is growing out of the present DPW location and that land could benefit the Borough

Mr. Tracy said this land would be very beneficial to the Borough for storing seasonal DPW equipment. Parking is an issue at the DPW, having to move trucks, cars, and equipment many times throughout the week. The DPW is an eyesore and could be dangerous. Mr. Tracy feels a fenced in area would help by safely storing the equipment. The Police Department and EMS also store vehicles that will be auctioned off in the current DPW area.

Councilman Ascolese noted that conversation has been had since the issue of this property was brought to light. If the land is given up to a private person, the Borough loses control. In the future this area could be needed if this gets rezoned. Councilman Ascolese does not want to see Borough property given up.

Mayor Barsa asked when the photos were taken. Mr. Tracy said the pictures were taken within the last month.

Council President Condoleo asked if this is a buildable area. Mr. Loverich said the state does not show any wetlands but the only way to know for sure is to have a wetlands professional check the area. That would cost \$500.00 to \$1,000.00.

Mr. Corrison spoke with the assessor and an estimated value of the property, fair market value, was about \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00.

Mayor Barsa said the town is only growing and we don't know how this will affect our DPW and Police.

Councilwoman Hausmann stated that there is always a discussion on going to shared services. She also feels uncomfortable discussion this topic.

Councilman Brizzolara agreed with Mayor Barsa and does not want to give away any property.

Mayor Barsa said he feels the Borough is not ready to move forward with the sale of the property at this time. Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to table the discussion. Councilman Ascolese seconded the motion. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Padovano stated that election day is November 5th. The deadline to apply to vote by mail is October 29th. Vote by mail ballots can be dropped off at the mailbox in front of Borough Hall. Early voting begins on October 26th. The closest location to Norwood for early voting is River Vale.

BOROUGH ENGINEER REPORT

Mr. Loverich said the milling and paving will start on High Street next week. The safety surface for the playground will be delivered tomorrow, with another two (2) weeks needed to complete the playground. There will be a bid opening for the pickleball courts before the December meeting.

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 Councilwoman Hausmann. All council members present approved the motion.

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

CLOSED SESSION

2024:121 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to Proceed in Closed Session – Matters Relating to Employment

Motion by Council President Condoleo, second by Councilman Ascolese, and unanimously agreed that 2024:105 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Matters Relating to Employment be approved. The meeting was temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 8:08PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The meeting returned to open at 9:10 PM

Motion by Council President Condoleo and second by Councilman Ascolese to approve the conceptual plan for round three (3) affordable housing be presented to Fair Share Housing. All council members present approved the motion.

Motion by Councilwoman Hausmann and second by Councilman Ascolese to approve Mr. Fede to move forward with the round four (4) affordable housing. All council members present approved the motion.

Motion by Council President Condoleo and second by Councilman Ascolese to approve Neglia Engineering to move forward with the round four (4) affordable housing. All council members present approved the motion.

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 9:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk