

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 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 7:01 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:	Mayor Barsa	Present
	Councilman Ascolese	Not Present
	Councilman Brizzolara	Present
	Councilman Condoleo	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Council President Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present

MAYOR’S OPENING ADDRESS

The mayor announced that Norwood had another large crowd for the rabies clinic, providing vaccines for over 70 dogs and cats. He thanked the staff of the Northvale Veterinary Clinic for helping with the event. He reminded residents to please remember all dogs and cats must be licensed by February 28th.

The mayor stated that the Borough has a no-knock ordinance. If a resident would like their address to be placed on the list of residences that solicitors are prohibited from approaching, please complete the no-knock form and return it to the Borough Clerks’ office. the address will be added to the list of prohibited homes that is given to all solicitors when they apply for a permit.

Mayor Barsa announced that the grace period for taxes will be ending on Friday, February 10th. Residents can pay taxes in person by coming into borough hall, by leaving them in an envelope in the secure drop box located in the front vestibule of borough hall, through the mail, or online with a credit card. If residents have any questions, please contact the finance office.

Mayor Barsa stated that the next Mayors Wellness event will be hosted by Norwood EMS. On Monday, February 20th at 7pm please join in the community center for a free adult CPR class. Residents will be taught to recognize the symptoms of heart attacks, strokes, and cardiac arrest and how to provide treatment. Residents will also be given hand on training in CPR and how to handle obstructed airways. There will be a demonstration of how to properly use an AED device and a discussion on Narcan. This will be a very informative class that could ultimately save a life.

Lastly, Mayor Barsa stated that every Tuesday evening, the library hosts “Read To A Dog” night. This is a wonderful program for the children and the dog. It encourages children to read and builds confidence. Registration for this event is required and can be made by calling the library directly.

CORRESPONDENCE

Building Department December 2022 & January 2023 Fee Log

Norwood Police Department January Report

Norwood Fire Department January Report

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Barsa read a proclamation celebrating the 100th Birthday of Norwood Resident Eda Policano.

Councilman Ascolese entered the meeting via zoom

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2023:01 An Ordinance Amending Article I Titled “Registration and Inspection” and Article II Titled “Inspections and Penalties” in Chapter 181 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Hausmann 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 Council President Hausmann to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Condoleo to approve Ordinance 2023:01.

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 2023:01 was approved.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2023:02 An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition by a Gift of Property Known as Block 74, Lot 3 in the Borough of Norwood

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Council President Hausmann, that Ordinance 2023:02 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on February 22nd, 2023.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Brizzolara, Condoleo, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

2. Ordinance 2023:03 An Ordinance Dissolving the Norwood Zoning Board of Adjustments

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilman Foschino, that Ordinance 2023:03 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on February 22nd, 2023.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Brizzolara, Condoleo, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim

Nay:

Abstain:

3. Ordinance 2023:04 An Ordinance Authorizing the Combining of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustments of the Borough of Norwood

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Council President Hausmann, that Ordinance 2023:04 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on February 22nd, 2023.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Brizzolara, Condoleo, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim

Nay:

Abstain:

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:

January 25, 2023 Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2022:195 (Revision) – Authorizing the Salary Correction of Norwood DPW Laborer
Andrew Cowley

2023:58 Authorizing the Hiring of Anthony Sacciaccio as Part-Time Laborer for the
Norwood DPW

2023:59 Authorizing the Hiring of Zachary Smith as Part-Time Laborer for the
Norwood DPW

2023:60 Authorizing A Shared Services Agreement Between the Borough of
Norwood, And the Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority

2023:61 Payment of Vouchers

2023:62 COAH Refund for 820 Blanch Ave

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Condoleo to approve the Consent Agenda and that the 01/25/2023 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Barsa:

Mayor Barsa explained that the shared services council committee met with Northvale and Norwood EMS to discuss a merger to help increase public safety. There will be more meetings to follow.

Council President Hausmann:

Council President Hausmann mentioned that she met with Councilman Foschino and Rob Tracy to discuss adding more plots to the community garden. Council President Hausmann mentioned that the Environmental Commission hikes continue every Sunday. She also stated that she helps the Norwood food pantry deliver hot meals every Friday.

Council President Hausmann mentioned that the Bergen County Board of Health will be dropping off more covid tests to the borough hall and she would be more than happy to help distribute to residents. Lastly, Council President Hausmann stated that the Bergen County Board of Health met at borough hall with herself, Borough Administrator / Clerk Jordan Padovano, Property Maintenance Official Chris Jackson, DPW Director Rob Tracy, and the Norwood Board of Health to discuss grease traps in town. The County Board of Health representative Laura Falco explained that grease trap maintenance was removed from the county health code about a decade ago. This meant that the responsibility to assure grease trap maintenance fell to the towns. Currently, Council President Hausmann explained, our DPW jets the sewer lines out when incidents occur, and these incidents are unacceptable. Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano found an ordinance from Washington Township which addresses this issue and makes the restaurants in town responsible for cleaning their grease traps and notifying the town when they do.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to have Kevin Corrison draft a similar grease trap ordinance for Norwood. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Condoleo and seconded by Councilman Foschino. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

Councilman Condoleo:

Councilman Condoleo is expecting to submit a preliminary budget for council review by the next work session. Councilman Condoleo stated that a lot of work still needs to be done and updated pricing needs to be obtained. He further explained that we also need to keep exploring ways that we can offset this expenditure by way of grants.

Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese explained that the Norwood Seniors have their activities planned for 2023. Also, there is a scheduled personnel committee meeting this month.

Councilman Kim:

Councilman Kim explained that the Greenway committee has been using Tik Toks to help advertise their mission online. Councilman Kim and Borough Attorney Kevin Corrison have been working on an MOU between Chodae Church and Norwood / Northvale Police.

Councilman Brizzolara:

Councilman Brizzolara announced that Uncle Louie G and the fried chicken restaurant will be finalizing their permits soon. Also, Councilman Brizzolara mentioned that the dental office and pharmacy will be opening in the Grande soon.

Councilman Brizzolara stated that Orange & Rockland will be working on their “storm hardening project” which will feature underground work near Blanch Ave in Closter. They are exploring the option of using CSX’s right-away for their work, but CSX is difficult to contact.

Councilman Anthony Foschino:

Councilman Foschino mentioned that the Project Clean and Green, which includes the spring shredding event with the county, has been scheduled for Saturday, May 6th, from 9am-1pm. Like last year, there will be free recyclable cans and yard waste bags available for the residents. This year there will also be bundles of firewood ready for easy pickup. There will be another contest for the children of Norwood Public School and those details will be announced as it gets closer to the event date.

Councilman Foschino announced that on January 21st we held our first annual Winter Festival. There was a great turnout and received positive feedback from all who attended. Councilman Foschino thanked the Recreation Committee, especially Gene Huelster, Steve Whaley and Kevin Wilson for organizing the event. He also thanked DPW Director Rob Tracy and members of the DPW who built the firepits and helped with set up and clean up. Lastly, he thanked Adrian Bourke who came through for us after the food truck we had scheduled forgot about our event. He made multiple gallons of delicious chili on short notice and fed a large crowd. Councilman Foschino congratulated the McDermott family who won the first Norwood Great Cookie Bake Off.

Councilman Foschino announced that the Recreation Committee voted to recommend the Council approve the applications for Northern Valley Soccer Club to use Trackside for their spring season and for Norwood Public School and NVOT to use Kennedy Field for baseball and softball games and practices. The Recreation Committee does request the high school consider an equitable distribution of time for use of the football field during football season between Norwood/Harrington Park and Old Tappan/Northvale. These will be listed as discussion items on an upcoming agenda.

Councilman Foschino explained that as part of our borough ordinance, all recreation coaches and volunteers are required to submit fingerprints for a background check

every three years. Appointments are harder and harder to come by, having to go to either New City or Garfield to have the prints taken. The Recreation Committee has arranged to have a mobile fingerprint unit come to the Borough on Wednesday, February 15th to help our residents meet this requirement. The link to schedule an appointment is available on the recreation Facebook page and borough website. This is something they would like to do yearly, as a way to help our volunteers.

Also, Councilman Foschino mentioned that another requirement of the recreation coaches and volunteers is that they must be Rutgers certified. This is a three-hour course that only needs to be taken once. Very rarely is this course offered in our area. Our recreation secretary is in the process of scheduling a virtual course for Norwood's volunteers.

Councilman Foschino explained that the Recreation Committee also discussed having all coaches and volunteers trained on how to properly operate an AED device and have working knowledge of how to perform CPR. Chris Barron, Norwood's EMS Chief, has offered to coordinate with our recreation secretary and hold a class on proper operating procedures. This will be offered as an optional class for all volunteers.

Councilman Foschino stated that our summer camp Director has requested to increase camp fees from \$125.00 to \$150.00. There has not been an increase in fees in 8 to 10 years. All camp supplies and materials, including programs, have increased in price. The \$25.00 fee adjustment will help offset those margins. The Recreation Committee has approved the increase. This will be a discussion item on an upcoming agenda.

Councilman Foschino announced that he met with the Superintendent and Principal of Norwood Public School to discuss the Tappan drop off / pickup enhancements.

Councilman Foschino met with the firetruck design committee at the firehouse. A great conversation was had by all. Councilman Foschino asked if the borough can just replace 363 with a smaller truck and not replace 361 with a larger truck. Councilman Foschino hopes to have more information by the next meeting. Councilman Foschino also met with Veri Risk, the company that calculates Norwood's ISO rating. Councilman Foschino stated that Norwood is at level 4 out of 10 levels. 1 is the best level and level 10 is the worst. There is not a big difference in insurance savings resulting from going from a level 4 to a level 3, however there is a large cost effect by dropping to a level 5.

Councilman Foschino met with Rob Tracy regarding capital. The DPW needs a new backhoe and Northvale is selling their used backhoe. Councilman Foschino hopes that he will have more details on that purchase soon.

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 Brizzolara. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

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

CLOSED SESSION

2023:63 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Attorney-Client Privilege Matters

Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilman Condoleo, and unanimously agreed that 2023:63 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Attorney-Client Privilege Matters be approved. The meeting temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 7:38 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Approval of Resolution 2023:64 Authorizing Settlement of the 2021 & 2022 Tax Appeal Regarding 11 Cobblestone Crossing

Motion by Councilman Foschino, second by Councilman Condoleo, and unanimously agreed by the council that 2023:64 Authorizing Settlement of the 2021 & 2022 Tax Appeal Regarding 11 Cobblestone Crossing be approved.

Approval of Resolution 2023:65 Authorizing Settlement of the 2021 & 2022 Tax Appeal Regarding 200 Belle Court

Motion by Councilman Foschino, second by Councilman Condoleo, and unanimously agreed by the council that 2023:65 Authorizing Settlement of the 2021 & 2022 Tax Appeal Regarding 200 Belle Court be approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Hausmann. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:04PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk