

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
September 10, 2025
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSÀ

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILMAN CONDOLEO	COUNCILMAN PRESIDENT FOSCHINO
COUNCILWOMAN 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 7:03 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
	Councilman Condoleo	Present
	Councilman President Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present

CORRESPONDENCE

August Grant Report
Building Department August Fee Log
Police Department August Report
Fire Department August Report
Engineer August Report

Sposa Street Sign Dedication

Mayor Barsa gave background on the Sposa family and the many positions they held within the Borough. Councilman Foschino also spoke on the Sposa family history and the contributions they gave to the Borough. The family was presented with a street sign that will be placed on the corner of Rockland and Summit.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2025:12 – Ordinance Amending Chapter 222-32 Schedule I: No Parking

The Public hearing for Ordinance 2025:12 will be held on October 08, 2025

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilwoman Hausmann, that Ordinance 2025:12 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on October 8, 2025.

There being six (6) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2025:12 was approved

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2025:11 - Salary Ordinance

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann 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 Councilwoman Hausmann to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve Ordinance 2025:011

On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Condoleo, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim

Absent: None

Nays: None

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 20, 2025, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

- 2025:150 Resolution Authorizing to Advertise for Bids for the Mills Avenue Roadway Improvements
- 2025:151 Resolution Authorizing to Advertise for Bids for the Summit Street Roadway Improvements (DOT Funded)
- 2025:152 Resolution Approving Member Appointment of Shawn Kuizema to Norwood Fire Co. No. 1
- 2025:153 2025 Salary Resolution
- 2025:154 Resolution Authorizing Redemption of Tax Title Lien
- 2025:155 Resolution Authorizing Electronic Tax Sale
- 2025:156 Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Rebate Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Pursuant to Final Judgment by the Tax Court of New Jersey
- 2025:157 Resolution Authorizing to Advertise for Bids for the Capital Purchase of (2) DPW Trucks
- 2025:158 Resolution Authorizing Engineering Services with Neglia Engineering for the Phase I of Watershed Improvement Plan
- 2025:159 Confirming the Appointment of Richard Hess as Fire Inspector 1
- 2025:160 Resolution Exercising Option to Continue Contract for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal
- 2025:161 Payment of Vouchers

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Condoleo to approve the Consent Agenda, and that August 20, 2025, 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

Book Recycling Program

Mr. Padovano advised the governing body that he received an email from Book Drop asking if the Borough would be interested in a book recycling program. There is no cost to the Borough. Mr. Padovano spoke with the library director who also feels it is a great idea.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve the book recycling program. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Bamboo Ordinance

Mr. Corrison gave a synopsis on the proposed bamboo ordinance. The ordinance specifies the type of bamboo that will be banned within the Borough, which is running bamboo. The ordinance also includes a buffer zone. If a resident already has bamboo they have to maintain it as stated in the ordinance.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Condoleo to approve the bamboo ordinance. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Tree Removal Application – 220 Piermont Rd

Mr. Padovano gave background on the application. The applicant was already approved to remove four (4) trees earlier in the year. They have come back asking to remove five (5) more trees. They have over two hundred (200) trees on the property.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the tree removal application at 220 Piermont Road. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Reports

Councilwoman Hausmann

Councilwoman Hausmann said there are four (4) salons applying for licenses. The county has been asked to attend Norwood Day to distribute materials. A current Board of Health member cannot continue. They would like Kimberly Hastings to be moved to that seat for the unexpired term. This will leave an alternate position available.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve moving Kimberly Hastings to the unexpired Board of Health seat. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The hikes are starting up again with the Environmental Commission. The next Mocktail Mixer at the Garden is scheduled for September 25th.

We will be going out to bid for two (2) new DPW trucks. Due to tractor trailers turning onto residential streets, the Chief Federici filed a complaint with the GPS system that sends them that way.

Councilman Condoleo

Councilman Condoleo said the CPR devices for EMS will be ordered next week. Harrington Park has requested to borrow an ambulance for a few days. The request

was approved. It will only be borrowed for a few days. Overall we have spent about 65% of the budget which is good for this time of year.

Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese advised he attended the Seniors Club business meeting and they are doing well. A personnel meeting has been set for September 19th.

Council President Foschino

Council President Foschino asked Director Tracy to have a date put on the website to advise when leaf pick up will begin. Council President asked what the plan is for snow removal since we will be down two (2) big trucks. Director Tracy said he will reach out to other towns for help in big storms. Council President suggested contracting out with an outside vendor for large vehicles during the snow storms. The football program is using Kennedy Field for practices and B games. Council President Foschino thanked the fire department for helping and taking care of the food during the senior picnic. The fire department has confirmed they will be supplying hot dogs for Norwood Day. The new fire truck arrived in New Jersey yesterday. Once it is lettered they will mount the equipment on the truck. Last month it was reported that they have received communication from residents about concerns at the public school. Council President Foschino and Mayor Barsa attended the Board of Education meeting last night. Issues are teachers returning to school without a contract, the Superintendent received a stipend for a position from May 21 through June 30, why is there a big turnover, having seventeen (17) teachers leave last year. The issues with the school could affect the home values. Over \$200,000.00 in legal fees have been paid to their legal team since January 1, 2025. One Board members, Jen Mendoza, resigned during last night's meeting. Council President Foschino hopes their voices were heard last night and as a community the school is one of the Boroughs biggest assets. As to the referendum regarding Tappan Road, discussions were held with school representatives and those people are no longer with the school.

Councilman Brizzolara

Councilman Brizzolara said the permits were down from this time last year with only twenty-nine (29) permits being issued. There was a property maintenance issue at 34 Somerset Road with the home in a severe state of neglect and disrepair.

Councilman Kim

Councilman Kim said ESL assessment for 9th through 12th grade has been performed. Twenty-Five (25) staff members at NVOT had a perfect attendance record. There was a public hearing regarding the Board Presidents term issue. The library will be spending \$62,000.00 on expenses. The Korean PTA donated \$1,000.00 to the library. The library will participate in Norwood Day. The summer reading numbers have doubled from last year.

Borough Engineer Report

Mayor Barsa said he was advised by Mr. Loverich that the 14th Street Circle should be paved next week up to Westwind.

Borough Attorney Report

Mr. Corrison advised that the Borough has been sued by Fair Share Housing over our calculations of open space. It has been sent to the Borough Planner for review.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Mr. Padovano advised that October 14th is the deadline for voter registration. The Clerk's office will be opened until 9pm that day to accept voter registrations. As of August 334 residential properties have been inspected for the reassessment. Mr. Padovano gave an update on possibly installing two (2) street lights on McKenna Drive. Orange and Rockland quoted a price of over \$70,000.00. Of that \$40,000.00 would be DEP permitting. If Neglia Engineering does the permitting it will reduce the cost to \$25,000.00 bringing the total to about \$60,000.00.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Ms. Heather Garcia, 15 Dwarskill Lane, said she did mention the Tappan Road referendum at the Board of Education meeting and that Councilman Foschino did reach out to discuss it but it fell to the wayside because of the playground. She also commented that the legal fees are for bringing back special education children to the school and there are programs being designed. In the long run it will save the Borough money. Ms. Garcia asked if soil samples are conducted in the compost and how does the Borough make sure they are compliant with prevailing wage. Also is there a date for the ethics training and can the public attend. She also asked where she can find DEP filings for the state.

Mr. Ermin Suljec, Broadway, said he has added solar light posts to parking lots and they are a cheaper alternative. He also said the Board is new, only one (1) or two (2) years old, and they need to be given time to settle in.

Mr. Maynak Rastogi, 15 Clinton Street, thanked the DPW for removing a giant bees nest where children walk to school. He also said the fire whistle is going off too much and a new method needs to be implemented. The volume and timing late at night and in the morning is highly disruptive.

Mr. Remi Renault, Broadway, asked if there is a limit for 15 ton trucks and if so is it enforced. He also said his son was approached by teachers saying that Norwood students are not prepared for high school.

Ms. Susanne Dibaisa, 500 Summit Street, commented on low income housing saying thirty-seven units were approved at Bank of America site with little objection.

Director Tracy thanked the Norwood PD for their quick action in helping a DPW employee after multiple bee stings.

Ms. Robin Schwarty, 196 Hudson Ave., thanked the DPW for help with the bamboo and to the governing body for following through with the ordinance.

Mayor Barsa asked Chief Federici to look into alternatives for the fire siren.

Mayor Barsa said we have significantly reduced overdevelopment over the last twenty years. It is important to understand the affordable housing process to see why units have to be approved. We have to control as much as possible.

Mr. Suljec said that the Board needs to be aware of lot size. Mr. Corrison said the Borough's obligation is 161 units. If we don't comply we will be sued and it will be a disaster. The governing body is taking it very seriously and we are doing the best we can to fight it. Mayor Barsa said there is a statement he put out explaining everything we have to do by law and the reasoning we have to do what we do.

Council President Foschino said there were meetings with the Borough Engineer and they discussed a possible grant to help with the issue on Tappan Road. He suggested the Board of Education hold off until a grant can be researched.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese. All council members present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk