

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING & WORK SESSION
June 12, 2024
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

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

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 REMARKS:

On Wednesday, June 19th, from 10am-2pm, the NJMVC mobile unit will be at the community center. All services, with the exception of a Real ID, are walk up. If you would like to obtain a Real ID, please make an appointment using the link on our website and Facebook page.

Our annual Independence Day fireworks celebration is scheduled for Thursday, July 4th, at Kennedy Field. The fireworks will begin once it is dark. Bring a blanket and grab a snack from the popcorn or ice cream trucks and enjoy the show.

Fathers play an irreplaceable role in shaping the lives of children and setting an example of strength, integrity, and compassion. I would like to wish a happy Father's Day to all the dads, grandfathers, and father figures in our community.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2024:08 Establishing Salaries or Wages of Officials and Employees of the Borough of Norwood

Public Hearing for Ordinance 2024:08 will be on July 10, 2024

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilman Ascolese, that Ordinance 2024:08 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on July 10, 2024.

Roll Call

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent: Councilman Kim

Motion carried.

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:

May 22, 2024, Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2024, Mayor & Council Closed Session Meeting Minutes

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2024:124 Certifying Members Of The Norwood Fire Department No. 1 Who Successfully Qualified For The L.O.S.A.P. Incentive Program in 2022

2024:125 Authorizing Liquor License Renewals for 2024-2025

2024:126 Authorizing Liquor License Renewal for Club License 2024-2025

2024:127 Approving the Block Party Application for 74 Kensington

2024:128 Appointing Alternate Crossing Guard Nicholas Karayanis
2024:129 Approving Modifications to Part-Time DPW Salaries in the Employee Handbook
2024:130 Approving Summer Camp Refund for Katherine Turro
2024:131 Payment of Vouchers

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the Consent Agenda, and that the 05/22/2024 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.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Amending the Tree Removal/Replacement Ordinance

Mr. Corrison advised the governing body that he reviewed the proposed ordinance that was developed by the Environmental Commission and made changes to better reflect the model ordinance from the DEP. Mayor Barsa believes that the Borough's current tree ordinance is what's best for the residents and asked Mr. Corrison to send the current ordinance to the state for review and approval. Should the state reject the current ordinance, changes will be made to reflect what needs to change. Councilwoman Hausmann disagrees and feels the ordinance that Mr. Corrison worked on, which is modeled on the DEP ordinance and Environmental Commission ordinance, should be sent. The volunteers from the Environmental Commission worked hard on the proposed ordinance and not everyone feels the current ordinance is the right one. Councilman Brizzolara asked if the State takes precedence over the Borough's ordinance and approval of tree removal applications. Mr. Corrison replied that when the State takes a position, and the Borough does not fall in line with that position, the State will take precedence. Councilman Ascolese asked what the major difference in the Borough's ordinance and the proposed Dep ordinance is. Mr. Corrison said the DEP ordinance is more extensive.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Council President Condoleo to authorize Mr. Corrison to send the Borough's current ordinance to the State for approval. In the roll call vote, Councilman Ascolese, Condoleo, Foschino, and Kim voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Brizzolara and Councilwoman Hausmann voted to deny the motion. The motion was carried.

Library Rent

2024:132 Accepting the Negotiated Rent Due to the Borough of Norwood from the Norwood Public Library

Council President Condoleo informed the governing body that the Finance Committee and Library Board met for a second time to discuss the rent increase. It was agreed that the rent will be raised by \$19,000.00, not the amount of about \$30,000.00 that the Council approved at an earlier meeting. During next years budget discussions, the Finance Committee and the Library Board will meet to discuss what is needed in terms of rent and library spending.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the library rent be reduced to an increase of \$19,000.00. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Little Library Proposal for Kennedy Field from the Norwood Public Library

Ms. Martha Kleinhaut, a Trustee of the Norwood Public Library, asked permission for the Library Board to install a Little Library at Kennedy Field. It is requested the library be installed near a bench. The Library Board will pay for the library, maintenance, and supply.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the little library at Kennedy Field. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Reports:

Councilwoman Hausmann

Councilwoman Hausmann advised that the Board of Health is in the final stages of the Borough business directory. Once the directory is complete will be added to the Board of Health page on the website and copies will be printed for the residents of Foxhill and the members of the Seniors Club.

Councilwoman Hausmann informed the governing body that Chief Federici spoke with the grant writer and they applied for a Department of Justice grant that would provide approximately \$40,000 over a three (3) year period to hire new police officers. The Borough would be responsible for covering any part of the salary not covered by the grant. The most recent grants award were for the pickleball courts in the amount of \$69,000.00 and a grant from ANJEC for \$1,5000.00 that will go towards the garden expansion.

Council President Condoleo

Council President Condoleo advised that the Borough is in a good place regarding the budget for this time of year.

Council President Condoleo informed the governing body that the ambulance is scheduled to be delivered tomorrow and after adding a few things will be certified to take calls. Once the ambulance has arrived the oldest ambulance should be retired.

Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese informed the governing body that Lt. John Amatucci was sworn in earlier today for his new position and wished him the best of luck.

Councilman Foschino

Councilman Foschino stated that the registrations for the 2024 season of football and cheer are underway. The new electronic scoreboard should be installed within the next two (2) weeks. Councilman Foschino passed around a photo of the proposed scoreboard dedication plaque, which also included the wording. The plaque will be the same as the plaque that is dedicated to Mayor Dercole.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Council President Condoleo to approve the plaque and wording for the scoreboard dedication. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Foschino stated that the mulch deliveries were underway and invited all residents to take advantage of this free service. He also provided a report on the GPS of the DPW vehicles from January 2024-May 2024 and recommended that this program continue to be utilized.

Councilman Foschino advised that the Ford Explorer, donated from the police department to the fire department, needs \$2,700.00 worth of work before it can be given to the fire department. This will save the Borough approximately \$90,000.00 in purchasing a new Assistant Chiefs car.

Mayor Barsa said he has received many calls stating Livingston Street and the flowers looked beautiful.

Councilman Brizzolara

Councilman Brizzolara said that Orange and Rockland will begin a project next week to install underground powerlines that will stop the loss of power during a storm. The work will go through the end of July. They will begin on Livingston Street, which will be closed northbound at Blanch Avenue.

Councilman Brizzolara informed the governing body that an application for the Bank of America property will be going before the Planning Board. In the coming months

Valley Bank will be opening in the Chase Bank location. There is also a possible application coming before the Planning Board for a subdivision on Meadow Lane.

Councilman Kim

Councilman Kim said that Greenway consultant is continuing to work to promote the project.

Northern Valley Old Tappan had a staff wellness day that allowed them to bring their children to work. There were ninety-four (94) staff members who took part in the program. The roof repair will begin this summer with two other projects, a storage expansion and drainage improvements, beginning in early 2025.

Councilman Kim informed the governing body that the new Library Director will begin work on July 1st.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Mr. Padovano advised the council that two resolutions, 2024:76 and 2024:106, were amended due to clerical errors.

Mr. Padovano gave a brief overview of the upcoming changes to the OPRA law. He began by stating that the media is giving misinformation of what the bill entails. The bill will help by cutting the amount of time spent on OPRA requests in half. There are other changes to what can be included in the documents. Any questions regarding OPRA should be directed to Mr. Padovano.

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 Councilman Ascolese. All council members present approved the motion.

There was no one present who wished to speak.

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 Condoleo. 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 Council President Condoleo. All council members present approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk