

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK /EXECUTIVE SESSION
April 28, 2021

MAYOR BARSÀ

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ASCOLESE

COUNCILMAN ROONEY

COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN

COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA

COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO

COUNCILMAN KIM

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Norwood was held on the above date at Borough Hall and with Zoom access to the meeting.

Mayor Barsa stated that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, pointed out the exits and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

All members were present at roll call.

Mayor Barsa advised the residents that the borough will provide door to door service for senior residents to get their vaccine, taxes are due May 1st and the DPW is now accepting requests for free firewood.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2021:02 & 2021:03

Mayor Barsa said the taxes on the average home will only increase \$56.14 per home. He thanked Councilman Rooney and Mr. Steven Wielkatz, borough auditor, and all others involved for the great job they did with the budget.

Councilman Rooney said the completion of the budget was a team effort. He also thanked the auditors, CFO and department heads.

Mr. Wielkatz said Norwood was in a great place financially last year, which helped them weather the COVID storm and stay in great financial shape. Tax collection went up almost a full percent over last year, and the borough will continue to build their surplus.

Mr. Christopher Battaglia, CFO, said the removal of the DPW underground storage tank was not something that was contemplated during the budget process, but because the borough is in such great financial shape, they will be able to make an amendment to the budget that will not result in a net tax input to the residents.

Councilman Rooney made a motion to approve the introduction of ordinance 2021:02. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

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Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to approve the introduction of ordinance 2021:03. Councilman Rooney seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Hausmann asked if resolution 2021:92, the replacement of borough roofs, could be tabled so discussion could be had on having the roof be solar powered. Mayor Barsa explained that the discussion of solar power could be had at a later date. The resolution needed to be passed tonight so they process can get started.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council President Ascolese seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to approve the introduction of the 2021 municipal budget. Councilman Rooney seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Council President advised the Council that two organizations, Industrial Rivet & Fastner Co. and Northern Valley Lacrosse has requested to use Trackside and Kennedy Field. The Recreation Committee has recommended the Council allow use. All Council members agreed to approve the applications.

The homeowner from 72 Burlington has applied to remove trees from their property. Mr. Tessaro said there are many trees on the property and they are not requesting to remove a large amount. He does feel that the best way to determine if a tree is diseased or dying to get a letter from an arborist. Councilwoman Hausmann said she feels moving forward we should follow the ordinance the borough has in place and if need be, hire an arborist to make tree decisions. Council President said each application has to be evaluated individually. Councilman Brizzolara feels the best way to protect the borough from liability is to hire an arborist.

Councilwoman Hausmann made a motion to approve the clear cutting application for 72 Burlington. Councilman Brizzolara seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

Mr. Chris Brown, from Brown and Associates, gave a presentation on what his company can bring to the borough. He gave a brief description on what his company does and the fee schedule. Councilman Foschino suggested combing with the Norwood Board of Education and share the cost.

Mr. Padovano informed the Council that borough is looking to hire part time floater. This position will be able to fill in gaps that are missing in the building department, clerks' officer and any other department that is in need. Councilman Foschino asked if this position includes property maintenance, to which Mr. Padavano replies it does. Personal discussed the issue with Mr. Tessaro

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that he needs someone in the office to handle property maintenance. Councilman Foschino said the property maintenance position should be pro active and not just when a complaint comes in. He feels this position best falls under DPW as they are on the roads every day and will see a violation before anyone else would. Council President Ascolese said whomever holds this position should be qualified in the field.

Council President Ascolese made a motion to approve the hiring of a part time floater for the borough. Councilman Brizzolara seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Corriston gave the Council a brief overview of the marijuana law and what their options were. Each council member gave input.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Ascolese made a motion to open to the meeting to the public. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Michael Congiusti thanked the Mayor and Council for the kind acknowledgement.

Ms. Ayana McKanney informed the Council that she had applied to use the basketball courts for her sons' team but the application was denied. She wanted clarification as to why she was denied.

Mayor Barsa said he was aware of her application and the reason for denial was that she was asking for too many days which would result in a great loss of time for the residents that use the courts. He advised he will review all her questions and follow up with her.

Mr. Ermin Suljic said he feels the tree ordinance needs to be revisited but not repealed.

Ms. Heather Garcia feels it will be a great idea to share the service of a grant writer with the Board of Education. Both the school and the borough would benefit.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Hausmann seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Buginsky, Deputy Clerk

