

MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING  
January 22, 2025  
7:00 PM  
MAYOR BARSA

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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 7:01 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 OF THE COUNCIL

|            |                               |         |
|------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Roll Call: | Mayor Barsa                   | Present |
|            | Councilman Ascolese           | Present |
|            | Councilman Brizzolara         | Present |
|            | Councilman Condoleo           | Present |
|            | Councilman President Foschino | Present |
|            | Councilwoman Hausmann         | Absent  |
|            | Councilman Kim                | Present |

CORRESPONDENCE

Grant Writers Report

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2024:01 Establishing Salaries or Wages of Officials and Employees of The Borough of Norwood

*Public Hearing for Ordinance 2025:01 will be on February 12, 2025*

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilman Ascolese, that Ordinance 2025:01 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on February 12, 2025.

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:

December 11, 2024, Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes  
January 6, 2025, Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2025:47 Resolution To Approve The Mutual Aid Assistance Agreement Between The Norwood Fire Department And The Sparkill-Palisades Fire District  
2025:48 Resolution Authorizing A Fy25 NJ DOT Local Freight Impact Fund Grant Application And Executing A Grant Contract With The New Jersey Department Of Transportation For Roadway Improvements To Rockland Avenue Located In The Borough Of Norwood  
2025:49 Payment of Vouchers

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Condoleo to approve the amended Consent Agenda and that December 11, 2024, and January 6, 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

Affordable Housing

2025:50 - Resolution Committing To DCA's Fourth Round Affordable Housing Present Need And Prospective Need Numbers As Modified  
Mr. Neglia gave an update to the affordable housing obligations. The first stage of the fourth round of affordable housing has a deadline at the end of the month to challenge the allocation. The second stage is the housing element and plan. Norwood is region one (1), which includes Paterson. Using specific numbers from Paterson, such as median income, the number for Norwood was decided. Round

three (3) obligation is fifteen (15) units, round four (4) is one hundred sixty one (161) units. DCA use three (3) categories to determine the obligation number. The Borough Planner challenged the land capacity factor and removed properties in flood plan, railroads, central woods, fire department property, and other areas to reduce the number to one hundred thirty (130) units.

Mayor Barsa asked what is the timeframe of the State to respond to the municipalities. Mr. Corriston said we are filing a complaint, an answer to the complaint should be filed within thirty-five (35) days. The complaint could be filed by a builder or Fair Share Housing. It would be best for the Borough if no one files an answer.

Councilman Brizzolara asked if rental units count towards the total and if a rental is rehabbed to a condo could that count towards the obligation. Mr. Neglia said rental units do count but there are requirements.

Councilman Ascolese asked if the senior citizen housing at 521 Livingston is the same as affordable housing. Mr. Neglia said the Borough did receive credit for the senior citizen housing.

It was moved by Council President Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve Resolution 2025:50 Committing to DCA's Fourth Round Affordable Housing Present Need and Prospective Need Numbers as Modified including the language from the sample resolution from the lawsuit. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

#### EMS Ambulance Repairs

Councilman Condoleo informed the governing body that the third ambulance is in need of repairs which should be about \$3,000.00. This would allow for the third ambulance to stay in service until the shared service agreement with Northvale EMS is in effect.

Council President said the Council allocated \$6,000.00 for repairs in February 2024 with the agreement that it would be the last of the repairs. Council President Foschino asked if we could contact Northvale to see if we could borrow an ambulance until the shared service agreement is in effect.

Councilman Ascolese asked if the ambulance is operational without the repairs. Chief Barron said that it was.

Mayor Barsa asked Chief Barron to call Northvale to see if we could use their ambulance and what is needed to get it into compliance. Chief Barron said the

Northvale ambulances are not inspected by the State or First Aid Council. They are not following the standard set by the State and First Aid Council. There is also an equipment issue. There was a significant increase in call volume since 2017 which is why a third ambulance was needed.

#### Financial Procedure Change & Budget Update

Councilman Condoleo advised the governing body that an expenditure for the community garden was taken out of the contingency account. It was thought that there was enough funds in the DPW account but the account was short. The CFO charged it against the contingency account, which is not intended to be used. It would be beneficial for a resolution to come back to the governing body if it is determined that there are not enough funds in the intended account. Mr. Neglia said that invoice will be replaced with \$2,500.00 in grant money which can replenish that account.

Council President Foschino asked DPW Director Tracy to go building by building and advise the governing body of what the needs are for each municipal building. Mr. Neglia said if it is health and safety related that must go to the top of the list. Councilman Condoleo would also like a plan for all Borough vehicles.

Councilman Condoleo said the budget reports will soon be issued to all department heads. Mr. Padovano said that email will be sent this week, with a deadline of February 12<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Condoleo said all department heads should not go over a 2% increase. Any increase over 2% will have to be explained to the Council.

#### Local Recreation Improvement Grant

2025-51 - Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Submission to The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Fy25 Local Recreation Improvement Grant Program

Mr. Padovano advised the governing body of the local recreation grant. The Recreation Committee has requested the grant be used towards LED lighting upgrades at Kennedy Field. Mayor Barsa suggested applying for lights for the pickleball courts. Mr. Neglia agreed with the pickleball court lights and also suggested lights for the walking path in Northwoods.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Council President Foschino to approve Resolution 2025:51 Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Submission to The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Fy25 Local Recreation Improvement Grant Program for lights for the pickleball courts. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

#### Recycling Coordinator

DPW Director Tracy informed the governing body that there was an employee who held the position of Recycling Coordinator but had to give up the position due to a job change. This resulted in a loss of the stipend of \$2,080.00. Another employee took the classes and became the new Recycling Coordinator and was entitled to the stipend. The first employee has since went back to his previous position and would also like to receive the stipend for Recycling Coordinator.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Foschino to approve having two (2) Recycling Coordinators.

#### DPW Part Time Help

DPW Director Tracy asked the governing body for permission to hire part time DPW employees. He feels this is a good way to see if an employee would work out well as a full time employee. It will help fill in the gaps when employees are on vacation or out with an injury. Director Tracy would like to hire for a start date of April 15<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Barsa said he would prefer to hire full time employees as part time employees always tend to leave once they are hired for a full time position elsewhere. Councilman Brizzolara agrees with Mayor Barsa and that we should also plan for any upcoming retirements. A longer term strategy is needed. Mr. Neglia said we should hold off on a decision tonight and discuss it with the Council liaison who is not present this evening.

#### Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Mr. Padovano advised the Council that on Resolution 2024:225, the vendor needs to be changed from Borough of Old Tappan to Jesco.

Mr. Padovano also advised that Lt. Amatucci's father passed away.

#### 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 Councilman Brizzolara. All council members present approved the motion.

Ms. Ann Kelly, a resident of Norwood Gardens, is upset because the Board has decided that the parking spots will no longer have snow removal. Only the walking pathways will have snow removal. She is also upset that an Administrator was hired and will be paid \$400.00 per month. Mayor Barsa said he will address the safety concerns and will instruct the DPW to put salt down to make the area safer. He will discuss this issue with out Borough Attorney. Ms. Kelly said when the Board feels someone questions them they give them a fine.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Brizzolara 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 Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Condoleo. All council members present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano  
Borough Clerk