

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 28, 2022
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOSCHINO	COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN
COUNCILMAN KIM	COUNCILMAN SULJIC

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	Present
	Councilman Brizzolara	Present
	Council President Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present
	Councilman Suljic	Present

Mayor Barsa thanked all those who donated for Norwood Day as well as the fire department for supplying free hot dogs to the community. He explained that each year he tries to bring something new to the festivities. This year he was able to secure the Broadway cast of Jersey Boys, who performed their top hits. It was great show enjoyed by all.

For the next Mayors Wellness Campaign / Healthy Norwood event, the Borough has teamed up with the American Cancer Society to hold the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk at Kennedy Field. The event will be held on Sunday October 16th at 9am.

The mayor reminded residents that the deadline to register to vote in the November election is October 18th. He explained that residents register to vote by visiting

Borough Hall, printing out an application from the New Jersey Division of Elections website and mailing it in, or going directly to the Bergen County Superintendent of Elections in Hackensack. If residents are mailing the application, it must be received by October 18th. As a courtesy to our residents the Borough Clerk's office will be open until 9pm on October 18th to accept applications.

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:

September 14, 2022, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2022:147 Certification of the Annual Audit by the Governing Body (Tabled 9/14/22)

2022:150 Approving the Corrective Action Plan for the Fiscal Year Ending
December 31, 2021 (Tabled 9/14/22)

2022:160 Employment of Roger Girardin as Alternate School Crossing Guard

2022:161 Authorizing Public Auction of Borough Personal Property

2022:162 Authorizing the Person-to-Person Liquor License Transfer from Eve
Group LLC. to Norwood Restaurant LLC.

2022:163 Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 2 – Knickerbocker
Baseball Field Improvements

2022:164 Payment of Vouchers

Approval of Resolutions 2022:147, 2022:150, 2022:160 through 2022:164 and approval of the September 14th Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes was motioned by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

CFO Christopher Battaglia gave an update on the municipal audit. The borough is in very good shape financially. The fund balance went up while keeping the tax rate and increase low.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Presentation by the Environmental Commission

Resident Phil Maljevic, as a representative of the Environmental Commission, gave a presentation on a possible electric vehicle charger in the borough. Mr. Maljevic

offered some background information on the history and current makeup of the Environmental Commission. Mr. Maljevic offered some statistics on the rise of electric vehicles in Bergen County and the impact that rise is having. Mr. Maljevic explained the differences between the different levels of vehicle chargers available on the market. He explained that a level 2 charger is the most common model and would fit well in town. Mr. Maljevic explained that the 2 prospective parking spot that will feature this charger are the spots closest to Broadway on the side nearest the playground. This location will allow access to electricity without having to dig a trench. Mr. Maljevic explained that the borough can determine how much money the charger can require to charge a vehicle. He explained that this is not a money-making venture, and the true goal is to break even on the charger and maybe offset some costs.

Mayor Barsa agreed that purchasing of electric cars are happening everywhere and is the way of the future. He agrees that Norwood has a need for electric vehicle chargers, however he is interested in exploring some other location options.

Councilman Brizzolara feels that the goal is to have residents already coming to Kennedy Field and then to have them plug in their cars while they are here.

George from Bryan Electric stated that he is aware that there is a concern about EV chargers limiting the amount of available parking spaces at borough hall. He explained that these spots aren't necessarily taking away parking spots but amplifying them. George also explained that the charging stations can be deactivated during sporting events so they can become regular spots.

George acknowledged that the other location ideas that were passed around were Livingston Street and the Library.

Mr. Maljevic stated that he is open to all location possibilities and the borough can work with both private and public owners.

Councilman Ascolese felt that EV charging stations is a great idea for the borough, but the only conversation that needs to be had is the final location of the chargers.

Councilwoman Hausmann felt that exploring multiple options is a smart way to go. Bergen County leads the rest of the state in electric vehicle registrations by a good amount. She felt that the Kennedy Field location would be great for visitors to the borough.

Councilman Kim was 100% on board with the idea of EV chargers. He wants more information on how much these chargers would be used in Norwood.

Council President Foschino asked for information from Bryan Electric on where they installed chargers in Oradell. George from Bryan Electric stated that they put the chargers in Oradell near the library. Council President Foschino asked if their library and EV chargers are close to their downtown and why didn't the town want chargers closer to their borough hall? George confirmed that Oradell's library and EV chargers are closer to their downtown area and that Oradell wanted the chargers more towards their commuter / tourist destinations.

New Doors/Frames – D'Ercole Court Affordable Housing Units (Jason Argenti)

Representatives from Norwood Gardens requested that the borough help fund the installation of new doors and windows at the facility. Mr. Jason Argenti explained in detail that the doors and windows at the complex are becoming obsolete and useless. He went on to explain how it is a big safety issue to the residents because the doors aren't closing properly. He stated that new doors and windows, which are to be installed by him, will total \$21,189.

Mayor Barsa explained that public safety is the borough's number one priority. He asked for a motion for the borough to fund the window and door replacement project. The motion was made by Council President Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Enclosure of Exhaust Vents

Councilman Ascolese brought up the issue of enclosing vents for new business in town. He explained that recently, our construction code official Gino Tessaro recently convinced some business owners in town to enclose their external vents. Councilman Ascolese is concerned that he will not be able to convince future business owners to come to the same conclusion. He would like to see our borough code amended to include the requirement enclose the vents for any new construction.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked if this requirement was in the contract for the new development on Livingston Street. Gino Tessaro explained that it was not in the contract for the large building, only the smaller building.

Councilman Brizzolara asked if current businesses would be grandfathered in. Councilman Ascolese explained that yes, current businesses would be grandfathered in, but if that business were to change locations, they would have to comply with the new ordinance.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion for the borough attorney to work on amending the ordinance. The motion was made by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Annual Bergen County Community Development Regional Committee Municipal Appointments

Resolution 2022:165 - A Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Municipal Representatives to the Bergen County

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano explained that the council needs to select 2 representatives to serve on the Bergen County Community Development Regional Committee. Council President Foschino and Councilwoman Hausmann were chosen by the council to serve as representatives on the Bergen County Community Development Regional Committee. The motion to approve resolution 2022:165 with Council President Foschino and Councilwoman Hausmann as the council's representatives was made by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Bench Engraving Application – Norwood Public Library

A bench engraving application was approved. The bench will be installed at the library. The motion to approve the bench engraving and location was made by Council President Foschino and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Harrington Park Shared Service Agreement

Council President Foschino explained that the shared services agreement with Harrington Park will be renegotiated to be separate from composting. It will include equipment sharing and field maintenance.

Ordinance 2022:06

Borough Attorney Kevin Corrison explained that the proposed ordinance being introduced would help establish certain qualifications for churches in the borough. Other towns in the surrounding areas have these qualifications in place and Gino Tessaro wanted to have similar language in Norwood's code.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano stated that Norwood Day was another success this year. He thanked the Mayor and Council, all the sponsors and volunteers. He also thanked Deputy Clerk Rick Buginsky who organizes everything that has to do with Norwood Day.

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano reminded residents that there is an election drop box outside the front door of borough hall. For anyone wishing to vote by mail but does not want to utilize the postal service they can drop their ballot in the secure drop box. He further explained that the county picks up the ballots every day.

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano explained that the last day to register to vote is October 18th. As a courtesy, the clerk's office will stay open until 9:00pm on that day to collect any last-minute registrations. If anyone would like to register to vote, they can do that online via the state superintendent of elections website, and the paper application is also available on that website as well. The link to that site is on the borough homepage. The borough clerk's office always has paper registration forms available.

Borough Attorney Report

Kevin Corrison stated that he is still awaiting a response from Northwoods regarding the paving agreement.

Borough Engineer Report

Borough Engineer Michael Neglia explained that the dog park is moving along nicely. He also explained that there are three potential crosswalks coming to Norwood, specifically at Livingston St, Broadway, and Piermont Rd. The timing on all three projects differs depending on Bergen County approval and funding.

Michael Neglia also explained that there are some issues with the new basketball courts. They may need to get the borough attorney involved in the remediation of the issues. The contractor who installed the courts should be responsible for fixing the issues.

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 councilmembers present voted in favor of the motion

Jim Elling – 263 Summit Street

Mr. Elling wanted to say hello to the council. He is proud of Norwood and is proud to hear the borough is doing well with their financial surplus. He also stated that getting EV charging stations would put Norwood ahead of the curve and is certain that they will be utilized in town.

Ed Condoleo – 81 Summit Street

Mr. Condoleo supports the EV charging stations. He feels that whatever is done, it should not burden the residents. He agrees with Councilman Kim's suggestion to find out how much they will be utilized in Norwood.

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

CLOSED SESSION

2022:166 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to Proceed in
Closed Session – Employment Matters

Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilman Ascolese, and unanimously agreed that 2022:166 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Litigation be approved. The meeting temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 7:50 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN

The meeting resumed in open session at 8:35 PM.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2022:06 An Ordinance Amending Article V Titled "Residential Zones" and Article XIII Titled "Parks and Public Purpose Zones" in Chapter 233 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood

The mayor read the ordinance by title.

Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilwoman Hausmann, that Ordinance 2022:06 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on October 26th, 2022.

Roll Call

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

2. Ordinance 2022:07 An Ordinance Establishing Salaries or Wages of Officials and Employees of the Borough of Norwood

Motion by Councilwoman Hausmann, second by Councilman Brizzolara, that Ordinance 2022:07 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on October 12th, 2022.

Roll Call

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

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk