

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
JANUARY 25, 2023
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:	Mayor Barsa	Present
	Councilman Ascolese	Present
	Councilman Brizzolara	Present
	Council Condoleo	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Council President Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present

Mayor Barsa announced the passing of two retired members of the police department, Lt. Richard Sposa and Sgt. Douglas Van Dyke.

Mayor Barsa reminded residents that taxes are due on February 1.

The mayor reminded residents that the rabies clinic will be held on January 31st at the community center from 5:30 – 7pm.

Mayor Barsa congratulated Norwood Recreation on hosting a successful Winterfest and also congratulated the McDermott family who won the first annual Great Norwood Cookie Bake Off.

Mayor Barsa announced the birthday of Muriel Straub who will be turning 107 on Sunday.

Finally, Mayor Barsa mentioned that Alexander Fruhling has been awarded with the Girl Scout's gold award and her name has been added to the plaque in borough hall.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2022:11 An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition by a Gift of Property Known as Block 74, Lot 3 in the Borough of Norwood

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Hausmann to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Hausmann to approve Ordinance 2022:11.

On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Council President Hausmann, and Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Condoleo, Foschino, and Kim

Absent: None

Nays: None

There being six (6) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2022:11 was approved.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2023:01 An Ordinance Amending Article I Titled "Registration and Inspection" and Article II Titled "Inspections and Penalties" in Chapter 181 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilman Ascolese, that Ordinance 2023:01 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on February 8, 2023.

Roll Call

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

Nay:

Abstain:

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:

December 14, 2022, Mayor & Council Meeting

January 4, 2023, Mayor & Council Reorganization Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2023:45 Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayment for Block 80, Lot 3

2023:46 Approving Refund of Escrow for Block 115 Lot 30 (820 Blanch Avenue)

2023:47 Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 2 – Norwood Roof
Replacement Projects

2023:48 Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 3 – Kennedy Park Barrier
Free Restrooms

2023:49 Appointment of Donald Helmstetter as Borough Appraiser for a one-year
term to expire 12/31/2023

2023:50 Appointment of Louis G. DeAngelis as Public Defender for a one-year term
to expire 12/31/2023

2023:51 Appointment of Matthew E. Gilson as Special Conflict Counsel for a
one-year term to expire 12/31/2023

2023:52 Approval of Change Order Summary for the Blanch Avenue Over Dwers
Kill Bridge Project

2023:53 Authorizing an Award of Contract for SCBA Equipment for the Norwood
Fire Department

2023:54 Payment of Vouchers

2023:55 Approving Appointment to Norwood Fire Co. No. 1 Nicholas D. Varni

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the Consent Agenda without resolution 2023:53 and that the 12/14/2022 and 01/04/23 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.

Councilman Foschino made a comment regarding resolution 2023:53. He said that the SCBA purchase was put through as capital within last year's budget. 2 proposals

were obtained by the fire chief and Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano. The grant we went out for was denied but we will reapply as a borough.

Councilman Kim asked if there was a specific reason that Norwood was denied. Councilman Ascolese explained that the application process is very strict and they do not mention why Norwood was not selected.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve resolution 2023:53. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Zoning / Planning Shared Board

Mayor Barsa began by explaining at one point, the borough had a combined planning / zoning board. Then after a while, the board was broken into two separate boards. Now in the past year, the planning board has only met once, and that was for reorganization. As background, Mayor Barsa explained that the planning board deals with bigger issues, such as the master plan, while the zoning board deals with the more simple and smaller decisions within the borough. He further explained that the new board will go from 9 to 11 members and it will be one board to hear everything.

Borough Attorney Corriston agrees that the boards should be combined.

Councilman Ascolese agreed and stated that most towns in New Jersey are making moves towards combining boards.

Council President Hausmann asked about the purpose of a planning board. Mayor Barsa explained that the planning board will heard decisions on the moving of plotlines, subdivision issues, and master plans. The planning board looks at the big picture whereas the zoning board focuses on small issues.

Councilman Foschino made a point that often the planning board does not know what the zoning boards are doing.

Councilman Kim asked what happens if we ever need a separate planning board again. Borough Attorney Corriston stated that we could always separate the boards at a later date.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion. It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Foschino to have Borough Attorney Corrison draft an ordinance which combines the zoning and planning board. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

2023 Budget Preparation

Councilman Condoleo stated that the department heads in the borough need to start getting together a wants and needs lists for their departments. The capital project amount should be done before march. Councilman Brizzolara mentioned that the borough had a spreadsheet which expands a 5-year track for capital projects. Mike Neglia is working on updates for capital. The mayor wants to see everything sent to Councilman Condoleo.

Mayor Barsa stated that this is a tough economy to be working with a budget.

Councilman Condoleo stated that the departments were sent worksheets for their operating budget.

Councilman Ascolese stated that years ago, the finance committee used to meet with the different departments to hear their needs.

A discussion was held regarding the budgetary process, timelines and county / school budgets.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Borough Administrator / Clerk gave the following important dates:

Rabies Clinic January 31st 5:30 – 7:00 community center

Blood Drive on April 5th – registration is online.

DMV mobile unit – potential for June 1

- Available services will include driver's license renewals, Real IDs (limitations), registration renewals, veteran/handicap/Purple Heart placards, permits, and non-driver IDs. Residents can also drop off their old license plates.

Borough Engineer Report

Borough Engineer Loverich has no update regarding the road work in the spring. The contract for the summit street drainage project will have a change order coming soon. The plans for a Livingston street and Broadway crosswalk was submitted today. The plans for the Piermont crosswalk will be submitted next week. A grant from the DOT was awarded to Norwood for the Summit / High street improvements for \$203,110. Neglia Engineering still needs to figure out the scope of the project.

Borough Attorney Report

Borough Attorney Corrison stated that he met with Gino Tessaro and Borough Engineer Loverich regarding the Jones Court issue.

Borough Attorney Corrison also stated that they are working on a shared services agreement with Chodae Church for police issued security. Councilman Brizzolara asked what Chodae is asking for. Chief Krapels explained that why are looking for a police officer to be present for the 4 hour Sunday church service. Councilman Kim explained that with the current climate of mass shootings around the country, Chodae Church feels worried that they can be a target. Councilman Kim feels that Chief Krapels is doing a great job at working on this agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Council President Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara. All councilmembers present voted in favor of the motion.

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 Hausmann. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

CLOSED SESSION

2023:56 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to Proceed in Closed Session – Contract Negotiations

Motion by Councilman Ascolese, second by Council President Hausmann, and unanimously agreed that 2023:56 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Employment Matters be approved. The meeting temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 7:50 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN

The meeting resumed in open session at 8:15 PM.

Motion by Councilman Foschino, second by Councilman Brizzolara, and unanimously agreed by the council to approve Resolution 2023:57 - *Resolution Authorizing*

Execution of A Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The Borough Of Norwood And IBT Local 125 For The Term January 1, 2021 To December 31, 2025. All councilmembers present approved the motion via a roll call vote. Councilman Kim and Councilman Ascolese added to their aye vote that they only accept the new wording in the contract provided the contract's intent is the same and only language has changed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Council President Hausmann. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk