

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING & WORK SESSION
October 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 OF THE COUNCIL

Roll Call:	Mayor Barsa	Present
	Councilman Ascolese	Present
	Councilman Brizzolara	Present
	Council Condoleo	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Council President Hausmann	Absent
	Councilman Kim	Present

MAYOR’S OPENING REMARKS:

Congratulations are in order, our own Administrator/Clerk, Jordan Padovano, won a hard-fought election to become the Secretary for the Bergen County Municipal Clerks Association. Congratulations Jordan!

Leaf season has begun. Please do not park your cars on or near leaf piles as this could prevent the DPW from accessing those piles and clearing them from the roadway. Also, make sure to not include any rocks, or large sticks, or branches in the leaf piles. Chipping will be suspended until leaf season concludes.

Election Day is right around the corner. Vote-By-Mail Applications must be received by the County Clerk no later than October 31st. On Tuesday, November 7th, the polls will be open from 6am to 8pm. If you are unsure of your voting location, please contact our Administration staff and they will advise you where you need to go to vote.

Norwood Day is only a few short days away and we have been busy making sure everything will be ready to go on Saturday. It looks like it will be a beautiful day for fun with family and friends. Come dressed in costume and take part in the costume contest at the American Legion table. The pumpkin slingshots will be set up in the swim club parking lot. Try to hit the targets, get pumpkins in the barrels, and win a prize. Or try the food trucks and enjoy the live music. There will be something for everyone to enjoy. The festivities start at 1pm and the band will play until 6pm. I hope to see you all on Saturday.

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:

October 11, 2023, Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2023:187 Approving Member Appointment to Norwood Fire Company No. 1 Kevin McLaughlin

2023:188 Approving Appointment of Alternate School Guard Christine Angelo

2023:189 Resolution for Contract with Action Data Services

2023:190 Payment of Vouchers

2023:191 Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a Fisher 4.0 Yard Tempest

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve the Consent Agenda, and that the 10/11/2023 Mayor & Council Meeting minutes be approved for content and release. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2023:13 An Ordinance Amending the Code of the Borough of Norwood to Repeal an Ordinance Regulating Campaign Contributions and Public Contracting

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.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve Ordinance 2023:13

On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Condoleo, Foschino, and Kim

Absent: Council President Hausmann

Nays: None

There being six (5) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2023:13 was approved

2. Ordinance 2023:14 An Ordinance to Repeal the Norwood Ethics Board

It was moved by Councilman Condoleo and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve Ordinance 2023:14

On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Condoleo, Foschino, and Kim

Absent: Council President Hausmann

Nays: None

There being six (5) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2023:14 was approved

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Tobar Contract

Mayor Barsa informed the Council that Tobar Excavating has had an agreement to operate the Borough's compost facility for many years. There have never been any issues with DEP and the operation is very clean. The contract has expired, and Mayor Barsa proposed a new one (1) year contract with the option for two (2) one (1) year extensions. The prior contract had a rent payment of \$24,000.00 per year. Due to the change in requirements and operating expenses, Mayor Barsa proposed a recommended rent of \$ 8,000.00 to \$12,000.00 per year.

Councilman Brizzolara asked if Tobar Excavating had shown what the increased operating costs were. Mayor Barsa advised that Tobar has not sold as much topsoil as in years past and has also not been able to afford the rent payment for September through December of this year in the amount of \$8,000.00.

Councilman Foschino stated that Tobar Excavating does much more for the Borough than just turn leaves at the compost facility and the scope of work that is done for the Borough has changed drastically since he first signed the contract. Tobar grinds over 2,000 lbs of woodchips, assists in moving debris and product throughout the facility, helps with taking in the salt deliveries and depositing the salt into the bins, and gives the Borough use of the front-end loader which is a piece of machinery the Borough would not otherwise have access to. Councilman Foschino feels that the services Tobar Excavating provides to the Borough are priceless and suggests a yearly rent of \$6,000.00.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to approve a one (1) year contract with two (2) one (1) year extension for Tobar Excavating to continue operating the compost facility with an annual rent of \$6,000.00 and to waive the remaining rent payment for September through December of 2023. Councilman Brizzolara seconded the motion and all Council members, with the exception of Councilman Ascolese who abstained, voted in favor of the motion.

EMS Concerns

Mayor Barsa met with Chief Krapels and Chief Barron who came to an agreement on procedures that will work well for everyone. Councilman Condoleo and Chief Barron also had a discussion regarding procedures and a possible shared service agreement which they will continue to work on.

2024 Health Benefits

Mayor Barsa gave the Council information on the 2035 State Health Insurance Benefit Plan. This plan would save money for both the employee and the Borough. It

is a higher deductible plan that the Borough will supplement with a debit card. The employee will keep the same copay as before and the difference will be paid with a visa card provided by the Borough. The visa card is a “smart card” that will know when it is being used at a doctor's office or hospital. The current cost to the Borough is approximately \$784,000.00 per year. With the difference card program that could drop down to \$667,000.00 per year. Chris Battaglia, CFO for the Borough, has used this in Caldwell for many years. The Closter PBA will begin using this plan January 1, 2024. The average Closter Police Officer on the family plan will save roughly \$3,000.00 per year.

Councilman Brizzolara asked if the employees would see any reduction in services. Mayor Barsa replied all services would remain the same.

Councilman Condoleo made a motion to approve the option for employees to choose the difference card 2035 State Health Plan beginning in 2024. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and all council members voted in favor of the motion.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Mr. Padovano reiterated Mayor Barsa’s opening remarks about the election and Norwood Day.

Borough Engineer Report

Mr. Loverich advised the governing body about an emergency at the Piermont Road Pump Station. There is currently no generator at this pump station, and it needs to be replaced immediately. Mr. Padovano advised that three (3) resolutions will need to be adopted. The first is for an emergency appropriation of funds, a resolution authorizing the rental agreement for the generator, and a resolution for procurement of the new generator. The DPW would like to use Academy Electric for the rental and purchase of the generator. Two quotes have been received for the new generator and a third quote is forthcoming. The rental of the generator will be \$1780.00 per month with a one-time set-up fee of \$1990.00 and a one-time removal fee of \$1990.00. The cost for the purchase and installation of the new generator will be \$36,998.00. This will be paid for using leftover capital funds and capital funds that were allocated to be used for equipment that is no longer needed.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to authorize the rental of a generator and the purchase and installation of a new generation from Academy Electric. Councilman Ascolese seconded the motion and all council members voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion for an emergency appropriation of funds for the Piermont Road Pump Station Generator. Councilman Condoleo seconded the motion and all council members voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Loverich advised the governing body that the Hemlock Court side walk are complete. There is some soil restoration and fence installation needed to close out that phase of the project. There is no start date for the paving.

The pre-construction meeting for the Livingston Street ADA ramps was canceled by the contractor. It will hopefully be rescheduled next week.

The Demarest Street improvements and the Kennedy Park playground will be advertised for bid within the next two (2) weeks.

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.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese. All council members present approved the motion.

CLOSED SESSION

2023:192 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to Proceed in
Closed Session – Employment Matters

Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilman Condoleo, and unanimously agreed that 2023:192 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session –Employment Matters be approved. The meeting was temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 7:45.

RETURN TO OPEN

The meeting resumed in open session at 9:19 PM.

Councilman Condoleo made a motion to terminate employee Tom Schoppe effective November 1, 2023, based on violation numbers one (1) through five (5) on the document dated October 6, 2023. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and all Council members voted in favor of the motion on a roll call vote.

Councilman Condoleo made a motion to terminate employee John Oddo effective November 1, 2023, based on violation numbers one (1) through five (5) on the document dated October 6, 2023. Councilman Brizzolara seconded the motion and all Council members voted in favor of the motion on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Condoleo. All council members present approved of the motion.

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 9:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Administrator/Clerk