

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
November 12, 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 7:04 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	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present

CORRESPONDENCE

October Grant Report
Building Department October Fee Log
Police Department October Report
October Fire Department Report

Presentation

3rd/4th Grade Baseball Champions

Mayor Barsa welcomed the Boys 3rd/4th grade baseball team and congratulated them on their championship season. Certificates were presented to all players and they celebrated with cake.

DIWALI PROCLAMATION

Mayor Barsa read the Diwali Proclamation and gave a brief background on Diwali, also thanking Kanika Chadha for all her hard work with the Diwali Festival.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2025:12 – Bamboo Ordinance

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann 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 Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve Ordinance 2025:12

On the roll call vote:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

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 8, 2025, Mayor & Council Meeting

October 8, 2025, Mayor & Council Meeting Closed Session

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2025:176 Resolution Appointing James Vander Werff as School Crossing Guard

2025:177 Resolution Authorizing Requests for Qualifications
2025:178 Resolution Authorizing Settlement of tax Appeal for Frank & Elise Mauro
2025:179 Resolution Authorizing a Fy26 NJDOT 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
2025:180 Resolution Authorizing Settlement of Tax Appeal for Carols Emilio
Guzman
2025:181 Resolution Approving the 2024 Corrective Action Plan
2025:182 Resolution Approving Member Appointment to Fire Co. No. 1 Zion Cheon
2025:183 Resolution Opposing Application for "Databank Orangeburg Phase 2 (Lga-
4)"
2025:184 Resolution Approving the Change Order for Ma-23 & 24 Improvements
Summit & High Street
2025:185 Resolution Approving the Change Order for Norwood Pickleball Courts
2025:186 Resolution Approving the Change Order for Kennedy Park Playground
Improvements
2025:187 Payment of Vouchers
2025:188 Resolution Awarding a Contract to Smith Soudy Asphalt Construction
Company, Inc. for Mills Avenue Roadway Improvements
2025:189 Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Resolution 2025:183, and that October 8, 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.

Councilman Brizzolara asked, regarding 2025:178 & 2025:180, how the properties are being over assessed. Mr. Brescia said we do not have many properties in tax court. It is good to clean up these assessments. Some of these appeals are for multiple years. We are defending against the fair market value. By having them withdraw two years protects the Borough against a larger settlement.

Councilman Brizzolara asked about Resolution 2025:181 and the corrective action plan for the dog licenses. Mr. Padovano explained that the Borough has to remit a percentage of the collective pet license fees. The Clerk's office has been sending the check to the State who then returns the check with no explanation. The auditor agrees that the Clerk's office is handling the matter correctly.

Councilman Brizzolara said that Resolution 2025:183 is a Resolution that is going through all municipalities in this area regarding a data center being built on the Old Tappan border. He feels this should be a full discussion item and voted on at the following meeting. He has been given information from Rockland Electric which states the information in the resolution is not accurate. Councilman Brizzolara asked

Mr. Corrison if he should abstain from the vote due to his employment. Mayor Barsa said this will be put on the December agenda as a discussion item.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to open the meeting to the public for discussion on Resolution 2025:183. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

David Rosen, 10 Buckingham Place , Old Tappan, spoke with to the Old Tappan Mayor and Council regarding concern that go beyond Old Tappan. It's a regional issue related to power and the recent rise of AI and the significant amount of data centers being built around the county. There is a huge facility of 150,000 sq ft on 34 acre site off Corporate Drive in Orangeburg. It was a Verizon data center. There is an Orange and Rockland substation on that property that services the new building. The current facility has 30 megawatts. It can be increased to 45 megawatts. Councilman Brizzolara said Orange and Rockland never has gone above 1627 megawatts. Rockland County is responsible for half the electric load that Orange and Rockland covers. On the hottest day of year it has not gone above 1600-1700 megawatts. One megawatt can run about 1,00 homes. There are also concern for environment. It will be within 70 ft of reservoir watershed property. Councilwoman Hausmann said the fans run 6-9 hours per day.

Councilman Foschino asked for the results for the bids for the Mills Avenue project concerning Resolution 2025:188. Mr. Padovano said the winning bid came in at \$147,000. Mr. Neglia said there will be minimum drainage improvements. Mr. Foschino said he is being told there are still issues and he would like to meet at Mills Avenue to have a meeting. He feels the issue could be coming from Blanch Avenue.

Councilman Condoleo asked to pull Resolution 2025:187 to discuss the payment for Appraisal Systems. Mr. Padovano said we have paid about 60% of the total amount owed and that all residential and commercial properties have completed the first round.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Recreation Committee Revised By-Laws

Mr. Corrison said he reviewed the Recreation Committee by-laws and after a few corrections he feels they are fine to approve.

It was moved by Council President Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the updated Recreation Committee by-laws. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Alpha Dog Solutions

Mayor Barsa said he feels it's important to start looking at website companies to give our website an lift. He would like to receive quotes from a number of companies to revamp the website. Council President Foschino said he would like to have these quotes for the next meeting. Councilwoman Hausmann said there is grant money available for the website and the process should not be rushed.

Proposed No Parking Area on Chestnut Street

Chief Federici gave background on the parking issue on Chestnut Street. A business owner is having difficulty receiving deliveries due to parking on both sides of the curve and has asked for no parking along the curve. Chief Federici reviewed the area and has developed a parking plan that would better fit the area. Mr. Neglia said he agrees with the Chief regarding the turning radius. He also suggests there is no parking on the street during snow because the plows will have difficulty navigating the street. Mr. Neglia said they will take Chief Federici's recommendations and work on a plan.

Composting Facility

Mayor Barsa said the Borough has been notified that the current vendor will be vacating the composting facility next week. Councilman Ascolese recused himself from the discussion and any vote regarding this matter. Mayor Barsa said we need to bring someone in on an emergency basis to turn the leaves as they are piling up. Councilman Brizzolara asked if Neglia Engineering can help find a replacement. Mr. Neglia said they have been in discussions with Hartman Excavating, who runs the Northvale composting facility, and he would be the best bet to run the Norwood facility for the interim. The RFQ will be hard to write due to the residents of Northwoods and preserving their quality of life. Mr. Corrison feels we might not need an RFQ because the contractor will be paying us. Council President Foschino asked to make a motion to approve Hartman Excavating to come in on a six month period to continue the current contract and keep us in compliance with the DEP. Mr. Corrison said if he is paying us all we need to do is enter into a contract.

It was moved by Council President Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve Hartman Excavating as the interim operator of the compost facility for a period of six months. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Reports

Councilwoman Hausmann

Councilwoman Hausmann said the Board of Health started chair pilates with the seniors. They are going to add more classes in the new year and will be funded by the Board of Health. She asked to appoint Suzzane Sterk to fill a vacant Board of Health position.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the appointment of Suzanne Sterk to the Board of Health. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The 2026 Board of Health meeting dates were approved and will be sent to the clerk.

The DPW is in the midst of leaf season. The Borough should consider installing cameras at the compost facility to better monitor the area. Two of the four leaf machines have been broken. There are two leaf machines out on the road. Councilwoman Hausmann asked if there is a way to alert the public not to put rocks or tree limbs into the leaf piles. She suggested giving warnings to homeowners who put this material in with the leaf piles. Mr. Corrison said he could look at the leaf ordinance. Councilman Brizzolara suggested doing a Nixle message to the streets each week that will be the scheduled pickup location.

The Environmental Commission had a great Mocktail event. There was pumpkin decorating, cornhole, and other games. She will be asking for an increase in the budget for next year.

Councilwoman Hausmann thanked Chief Federici and the Norwood Police Department for hosting the Narcan training event.

Councilman Condoleo

Councilman Condoleo congratulated Council President Foschino and newly elected Sue DeBiosa for their recent wins. The budget is in good shape and the contingency account is also in good shape. About 84% of the budget has been spent at this point. He would like to see the revenue vs budget report as part of the agenda packet.

Councilman Condoleo said that EMS has had record calls through the 3rd quarter. They have managed their vehicle budget very well. They have received two new CPR devices.

Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese congratulated Council President Foschino and Sue DeBiase for their recent win. He also said that Councilman Condoleo's budgets are outstanding, and it was a pleasure working with him. He advised that he attended the Seniors business meeting. On behalf of the Personnel Committee, he said they approve for the DPW to continue one of the part time employees to continue working for three months due to a full time employee taking paternity leave.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve one DPW part-time employee to continue working from January through

March and to be rehired in April. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Council President Foschino

Council President Foschino said that the final payments for the new engine were approved and the truck should hopefully be delivered Friday of next week. They are looking into a grant for GPS for the Scott Packs. Julie Lee, Stephanie Machin, and Omar Pederaza were elected to the School Board. Members of the governing body attended a very nice ceremony for Veterans Day. There was an incident at the school for a student being held over for a long time after dismissal. The teacher's contract has finally been settled. Council President Foschino asked Mr. Neglia and Chief Federici if he has been contacted from the school regarding the referendum or if they will be involved in the project. Mr. Neglia said discussions have started again to improve the rear of the school. It is extremely costly to do any improvements there. The Police Department and county will have to be significantly involved. Any pickup or drop off area will have to be off the county road which would need to reconfigure the fields. Chief Federici said he has not been approached about this project. Council President Foschino said any project impacting residents should involve the Planning Board, Borough Engineer, and Police Department. Mayor Barsa said they were having a drainage issue on Tappan Road right behind school and there are large puddles that do not go away for week.

Councilman Brizzolara

Councilman Brizzolara said the construction in town is flat compared to last year. There are three new businesses in town, two are in glam studios. The third is a tutoring center. The construction of 5 single family homes continues to progress. The ethics course will be offered at the League of Municipalities.

Councilman Kim

Councilman Kim informed the governing body that there were 8 National Merit semifinalists from NVOT. The annual college fair was held. The SAT results mean score was 1238 for NVOT. Martha Kleinhuth has decided not to renew her position on the library board after 17 years. The HVAC has been delivered. The BCCLS 2026 budget has passed and is similar to last year. It is estimated that 2027 BCCLS budget will increase substantially. There were 10,692 books were loaned through BCCLS and the library borrowed about 1,000 less.

Borough Engineer Report

No report

Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Mr. Padovano congratulated Council President Foschino and Ms. Sue DeBaise on their recent wins. He also thanked Councilman Condoleo for his time on the council. Mr. Padovano read the Best Practice Survey statement and said the Borough is already 4 points ahead of a perfect score.

Borough Attorney Report

No report

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Sue DeBiasa, 500 Summit Street, Norwood thanked the governing body for the well wishes. She also advised that the plans for the referendum can be found on the NPS website.

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 council members present approved the motion.

CLOSED SESSION

2025:190 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to Proceed in Closed Session – Matters of Employment

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to close the regular meeting and go to closed session. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Condoleo and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann. All council members present approved the motion.

RETURN TO OPEN

The meeting resumed in open session at 11:00 PM.

It was moved by Council President Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the hiring of Joseph Lesho as the new police officer for the Norwood Police Department. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Condoleo. All council members present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 11:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk