

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK /EXECUTIVE SESSION
February 24, 2021

MAYOR BARSÀ

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ASCOLESE

COUNCILMAN ROONEY

COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN

COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA

COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO

COUNCILMAN KIM

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Norwood was held on the above date at Borough Hall and with Zoom access to the meeting.

Mayor Barsa stated that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, pointed out the exits and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

All members were present at roll call.

Mayor Barsa opened the meeting by advising the public of nearby locations that were offering the COVID vaccine, that he was working on trying to have a vaccine location in town, Norwood was named a 2020 Healthy Town to Watch by the Mayors Wellness program and the passing of Senatore Gerald Cardinale.

RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL

Councilman Foschino made a motion to approve the resolutions listed on the agenda. Councilman Brizzolara seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to open the meeting for the public hearing on the adoption of ordinance 2021:01, to amend Chapter 199 to establish minimum stormwater management requirements and controls for major developments. Council President Ascolese seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

There was no one in the audience who wished to speak.

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to close the meeting for the public hearing on the adoption of ordinance 2021:01, to amend Chapter 199 to establish minimum stormwater management requirements and controls for major developments. Councilman Rooney seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to the adoption of ordinance 2021:01, to amend Chapter 199 to establish minimum stormwater management requirements and controls for major developments. Council President Ascolese seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Congressman Josh Gottheimer said the most challenging part of grants is actually getting the municipalities to apply for them. The money is there to be used for projects that comply with requirements and the borough will save taxpayer money.

Councilwoman Hausmann said the fire department submitted a list of seven items for 2021 capital. Six of those items qualify for grants. She asked if the items should be removed from the capital list before applying for the grants. Councilman Rooney said all items stay on the capital list because it is unsure when the grant money, if approved, will be received. The grants will be a reimbursement to the borough for the funds spent on those items.

Councilman Rooney updated the borough on the status of the 2021 budget. Due to COVID, the deadline to adopt the budget has been moved to April. The borough is in great financial shape. The borough did not spend as much last year due to COVID. Those funds will carry over into borough surplus for this year. Council President Ascolese asked if the funds for the Blanch Avenue bridge repairs will come from a combination of the 2021 and 2022 budgets. Councilman Rooney replied he wasn't sure, but it had to be fully funded by the 2021 budget and the money was there.

Mayor Barsa advised the Council that the summer recreation program asked to use the fields for the summer camp program if the school does not allow them access. All Council members agreed that the summer camp could use the fields.

Mayor Barsa said the Northern Valley Soccer Club had been previously granted permission to use borough fields for their programs and that will continue. The request by Northern Valley Lacrosse for field use will be tabled because the recreation sub committee has not yet reviewed the application.

Mr. Buginsky advised that the 2021 pet licenses are due and a donation box for old cell phones has been set up in borough hall.

Mr. Corrison said he spoke with Mr. Saffron regarding the police pension issue and it does not apply to Norwood since they are in a different classification.

Mr. Jacobs said he had a preconstruction meeting to discuss the road program. Concrete work should be starting in April, with everything completed in about two months. The drainage construction on Oak Street will begin this week. Due to a past storm, one of the dugouts at Kennedy Field collapsed. After inspection, there were about five other dugouts that were built with the same construction. All those dugouts need to be removed. He is coordinating with the DPW to get quotes on replacing the dugouts. Councilman Hausmann asked if a discussion could be had on giving Kennedy Field a complete upgrade. Councilman Foschino said the football and soccer fields were updated last year and the softball and little league fields were also done. Councilman Rooney said the shed is an eyesore and that should be looked at.

Page Three

Mayor & Council Work/Executive Session Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2021

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

Mr. Ermin Suljic said he was very happy to hear the playground will be renovated to be all inclusive. He sees the benefit of turf fields because the kids lose out on practice time in October and November when the fields get very wet. Lastly, he asked where the information about active COVID cases comes from. Mayor Barsa responded the Office of Emergency Management is given those numbers and they updated the borough.

Mr. Allen Rapaport said it's great news that the borough will start applying for grants and he is willing to be a part of the grant committee. He also advised the Council that there are grants reserved for just the northern valley and not many towns apply for them. The borough should take advantage of those.

Mr. Frank Ballante advised the Mayor and Council that he would like to make them aware of what happened to him when he was a volunteer for Norwood EMS. He was accused of making a fake emergency call and was suspended indefinitely from volunteering. Chief Krapels acknowledged that he did receive an email from Mr. Ballante. Councilman Brizzolara said he did not receive an email but if it could be forwarded to him, he would be happy to read it and have a conversation with Mr. Ballante. Mayor Barsa asked Chief Krapels to please forward the email to the entire Council.

Council President made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting to go into closed session. Councilman Brizzolara seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Buginsky, Deputy Borough Clerk