

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK/EXECUTIVE SESSION
MAY 25, 2022
7:00 PM

MAYOR BARSÀ	
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 7:00 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 President Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Absent
	Councilman Kim	Present
	Councilman Suljic	Present

The mayor acknowledged the devastating attack on Robb Elementary School. He stated that the Borough of Norwood stands with the Robb Elementary School community and the families of the children and teachers who lost their lives. Norwood shares in their grief and wish them comfort in this difficult time.

The mayor welcomed the newest Councilman, Ermin Suljic, to the dais tonight for his first Mayor and Council meeting. Mayor Barsa stated that Councilman Suljic is very involved in our community and will bring a new perspective to meetings. He looks forward to working with him and discussing his ideas.

This weekend is the official kick-off to summer. Pools will be open, barbeques will be cooking, and kids will be playing outside. As the community welcomes the warmer months and enjoy spending more time outside, we must also remember and honor the

men and women who gave their lives for freedom. Memorial Day is so much more than a day off from work. It is a day of reverence and respect for the members of the Armed Forces who put the freedoms of a nation over the preservation of their own lives. The American Legion Post 272 will be having its annual Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 30th beginning at 11am. The parade will follow the normal route, beginning at the public school and ending at Memorial Park. Please join the community as we honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Mayor Barsa explained that mother nature had other plans for our Movie Night, and it was canceled. The Recreation Committee has already begun trying to reschedule a new date, which will be shared as soon as it's confirmed.

The mayor explained that on Saturday Norwood held our first annual Project Clean and Green. Council President Anthony Foschino and DPW Director Rob Tracy arranged for this to be incorporated into our shredding event. There was a large turnout and those who attended left prepared to recycle and help keep the environment healthy.

Mayor Barsa explained that the PTO Carnival is back. From Thursday, June 2nd to Saturday, June 4th the carnival will be at Kennedy Field. This is a great event with the proceeds going to the Norwood Public School.

PUBLIC HEARING

Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Application – Phase 2 of the Kennedy Park Improvements

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Application. 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 Councilman Ascolese to close the meeting to the public. All Council Members present voted for the motion.

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:

May 11, 2022, Mayor & Council Meeting

May 19, 2022, Mayor & Council Special Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2022:104 Authorize Tax Collector to Prepare and Issue Estimated Tax Bills for 3rd Quarter 2022 Taxes

2022:105 Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayment for Block 127/Lot 3 (391 Rivervale Ave)

2022:106 Authorizing Submission of the 2022 Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Municipal Park Improvement Grant Application

2022:107 Authorizing the Borough to Enter into a Bergen County Trust Fund Project Contract with the County of Bergen for the Kennedy Field Basketball Courts & Playground Improvements Project

2022:108 Payment of Vouchers

Approval of Resolutions 2022:105 through 2022:107 and approval of the May 11th & May 19th Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes was motioned by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The following resolution was removed from the consent agenda as requested by Councilman Brizzolara:

2022:104 Authorize Tax Collector to Prepare and Issue Estimated Tax Bills for 3rd Quarter 2022 Taxes

Councilman Brizzolara had a question regarding the use of the word “estimated” and why we are not issuing the “actual” tax bills. Mayor Barsa explained that since the municipality gets the local budget done earlier, and the borough is still waiting on the school and county budget to pass, the mayor and council can only approve estimated tax bills at the moment. Councilman Brizzolara was satisfied with the explanation.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve resolution 2022:104. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The following resolution was removed from the consent agenda as requested by Councilman Brizzolara:

2022:108 Payment of Vouchers

Councilman Brizzolara wanted to know what certain items in the bill list were. The first item was in page one of the bill list which was titled DART COMPUTER SERVICES INC. Councilman Brizzolara wanted to know what that bill is for.

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano explained that Dart computers is the Information Technology (IT) company that the Borough hired at the beginning of the year. Mr. Padovano also explained the fee structure and why this bill is higher than most.

The second item was in page five of the bill list which was titled ROBERT WOGISCH LANDSCAPE. Councilman Brizzolara wanted to know what that bill is for.

Borough Engineer Michael Neglia explained that Robert Wogisch is the contractor who won the project for the baseball field. Michael Neglia then explained the differences between the different kinds of clay used on baseball fields.

It was moved by Council President Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve resolution 2022:108. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

2022:109 Authorizing Change Order for Knickerbocker Baseball Field Improvement Project:

Neglia explained that the increase for this project was due to having to rebid the project twice and the additional fees that comes along with that.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve resolution 2022:109. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

It was explained by Council President Foschino and Michael Neglia that on April 27th the council approved the purchase of the fencing for the Kennedy field improvement project based on the quote provided by Emerson Fence for \$36,954.00. The DPW was unaware that the price on that invoice was for galvanized or silver fencing. The DPW and Neglia have recently learned that if we want Emerson Fence to install the same fencing but in black to match the new structure of the Dugouts, it would be an additional \$5,976 dollars. It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the increase of \$5,976 dollars for black fencing. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Neglia Engineering 2022 Municipal Capital Improvements Program:

Councilman Suljic had a question about paving roads through the Riverside Co-op. Neglia explained why that would not be advantageous to the borough.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve Neglia Engineering's 2022 Municipal Capital Improvements Program. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Block Party Request – 74 Kensington Avenue:

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the block party for 74 Kensington Ave, with the added stipulation that any bounce houses or attractions be placed on private property. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Shared Service Agreement with Harrington Park – Norwood Compost Facility:

Council President Foschino explained that this proposed shared service agreement between Norwood and Harrington Park will go until December 31st, 2026, with a 2% increase each year to be paid to Norwood.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Council President Foschino to approve the Shared Service Agreement with Harrington Park. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Affordable Housing:

An update on the proposed affordable housing project was given by Borough Attorney Kevin Corrison and Special Counsel Andrew Fede. Kevin explained that the plans are ready to go, and the borough needs to find a contractor. Andrew has been in touch with United Way, and they are willing to help. Councilman Brizzolara added that Tom Toronto at United Way has a stellar reputation and thinks he will be an asset to the borough. The mayor always believed that the development would be built on the left side of McClellan and not the right side. Councilman Brizzolara wants to know why the right side of the street was agreed upon. Michael Neglia explained that the right side of the street is the only section of that area that is not wetlands. He also said that he will bring the wetlands map back to the mayor and council for a visual. The mayor feels that the location of the facility should be reevaluated.

Norwood Public Library (Video):

A video featuring the new library additions after a 2019 flood was shown in the council chambers.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Report:

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano announced that Congressman Gottheimer has selected his Federal Appropriations and Norwood's Broad Street Bridge Project has been listed in the amount of \$1,000,000. Generally, the recipients of the Community Project Funding will be contacted by the appropriate agency or office that oversees the account. This won't happen until the appropriations bill in which your project was listed is signed into law. The timing varies between departments and agencies – some may start the process within several weeks, other may take several months after the bill's enactment into law. The borough will not see anything until beginning of 2023. The \$1,000,000 is the amount that Congressman Gottheimer is requesting to be set aside for Norwood's project; however, this is subject to change until the final bill is signed into law.

Primary Election is June 7th and polls are open from 6:00am to 8:00pm. If there is any interest in being a poll worker, please contact the Clerk's office for more information. The ballot drop box is out front of borough hall for those who have a mail-in-ballot but do not trust the mail.

Borough Attorney Report:

No report

Borough Engineer Report:

The dog park construction will be starting in September 2022. Neglia expects to have the road program out to bid in June 2022. Mike will reach back out to the County regarding painting of parking lines on Livingston Street.

Council President Foschino proposed a storage unit for the DPW. It will be investigated by Michael Neglia to be potentially located on Brook Street to store unused seasonal DPW equipment.

Also, Council President Foschino wants to revisit the idea of a walking trail behind the swim club and brought it up to Neglia.

The mayor and council agreed that any Facebook posts regarding the dog park are to be approved by Neglia and Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano before being posted.

Council President Foschino asked for the swim club lease to be pulled to see if the borough holds any liability on that property. Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano will pull the lease and find out.

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

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 Foschino. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

APPOINTMENT

Mayor Barsa appointed Jim Elling to the Environmental Commission.

CLOSED SESSION

2022:110 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Attorney-Client Privilege Matters

Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Council President Foschino, and unanimously agreed to approve 2022:110 Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Employment Matters be approved. The meeting temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 8:13 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN

The meeting resumed in open session at 8:32 PM.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve resolution 2022:111 Authorizing Settlement of the 2021 Tax Appeal Regarding 403 Crocus Hill. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve resolution 2022:112 Authorizing Settlement of the 2021 Tax Appeal Regarding 308 Daffodil Drive. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Foschino to approve resolution 2022:113 Authorizing Settlement of the 2021 Tax Appeal Regarding 306 Daffodil Drive. 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 Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Foschino. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:33PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk