

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
MAY 11, 2022
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE
COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOSCHINO
COUNCILMAN KIM

COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN

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 7:01 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	Present
	Councilman Kim	Not Present

This past Sunday was Mother’s Day and the mayor personally feels that one day a year is not enough to honor the women in our lives who have been there taking care of us, showing unwavering support, providing unconditional love, and making us feel safe and protected. Happy Mother’s Day to all the women who have been a positive influence and instrumental in the upbringing of a child and putting the needs of a child above their own.

Mayor Barsa stated that he has been in contact with Rockland Electric for some time, regarding the de-energized power lines and towers that run through John Circle, Dale Court, and Somerset Road. He reached out to the Mayors of the neighboring communities who are also affected, and on their behalf, he communicated the concerns and expectations to Rockland Electric. He announced that beginning in 2023 Rockland Electric will be removing the power lines as well as all the wood and steel structures that support these lines. The lines will be removed in 2023 and the structures will be removed in 2024. At the completion of the project, the right-of-way

will be restored and returned to its natural state. He said he will share all the information he receives with residents as the project develops.

Mayor Barsa announced that there are several fun community events coming up in the next few weeks. On Friday, May 20th, the Recreation Committee is hosting our first movie night at Kennedy Field. The Sandlot will begin at 8:30pm and Rockland Kettle Corn will be there selling popcorn. Bring blankets or chairs and find a place on Kennedy Field to enjoy the show.

Mayor Barsa stated that Saturday, May 21st, is the first annual Project Clean & Green hosted by Council President Foschino and the DPW. Stop by the DPW lot to pick up a recycling can, free yard waste bags, and a free reusable shopping bag. Our annual shredding event will also be taking place at this time. The event will run from 9am-1pm. Don't forget to submit your poster for the recycling poster contest. Posters must be submitted by this coming Monday, May 16th.

The mayor announced that our next Mayors Wellness event will be held on Saturday, June 11th from 11:30am-12:30pm at the Norwood Swim Club. The event will focus on water safety and is open to all residents, regardless of if you are a member of the swim club.

Mayor Barsa announced that tonight, he will be signing a proclamation in support of National Department of Public Works week. The public works employees are the unsung heroes of our town. They are at every emergency, keep our town looking beautiful, get our fields ready for play, and keep our roadways clear and safe for travel. Thank you to DPW Director Rob Tracy, and the entire public works crew for all you do for our community.

Mayor Barsa wished Councilman Rooney all the best in his future endeavors and thanked him for the dedication he has shown to the Borough. The Mayor & Council presented John Rooney with a plaque commemorating his commitment to the Borough and his community.

CORRESPONDENCE

Field Usage Recommendation Letter – Chodae Church

Motion was made by Council President Foschino seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to grant field usage to Chodae Church. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

Building Department April Fee Log
Norwood Police Department April Report
Norwood Fire Department April Report

PROCLAMATION

National Public Works Week

Mayor Barsa announced the proclamation being made tonight to declare the week of May 15 through May 21 as National Public Works Week in Norwood

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 2022:05

An Ordinance to Exceed the 2022 Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and Establish a Cap Bank

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. 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. It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve Ordinance 2022:05. On the roll call vote:

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

Absent: Councilman Kim

Nays: None

There being four (4) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2022:05 was approved.

Approval of Resolution 2022:94 Authorizing the 2022 Municipal Budget to be Read by Title Only

Motion by Councilwoman Hausmann, second by Councilman Brizzolara, and unanimously agreed that 2022:94 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the 2022 Municipal Budget to be Read by Title Only be approved. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Upon the public portion of the meeting, the governing body will approve the 2022 Municipal Budget (Resolution 2022:95)

Mayor Barsa began by thanking Mr. Steve Wielkatz, Chris Battaglia, Former Councilman John Rooney and all Borough employees for working so hard on what he

believed to be a wonderful budget with minimal increases while leaving the Borough of Norwood in great financial shape.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public to address comments regarding the 2022 Municipal Budget. The motion was made by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann with all Council Members present voting aye. No one wishing to be heard, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Approval of Resolution 2022:95 Adoption of the 2022 Municipal Budget

Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Council President Foschino, and unanimously agreed that Resolution 2022: 95 - Adoption of the 2022 Municipal Budget be approved. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

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

Absent: Councilman Kim

Nays: None

There being four (4) ayes and no nays Resolution 2022: 95 was approved.

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:

April 27, 2022 Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2022:83 Authorizing the Hiring of Andrew Cowley as Part-Time Laborer for the Norwood DPW (Revised)

2022:96 Authorizing Redemption of Tax Title Lien for Block 176, Lot 1.01, CT331

2022:97 Authorizing the Implementation of a Procurement Card Program for the Borough of Norwood

2022:98 Authorizing Agreements with Chief of Police and Captain of Police with the

Borough of Norwood

2022:99 Opposing A1294/S2103 and its Impact on Flood-Prone Properties

Councilman Ascolese _____

Councilman Brizzolara _____

Council President Foschino _____

Councilwoman Hausmann _____

Councilman Kim _____

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

2022:100 Payment of Vouchers

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda and the minutes be approved for content and release. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

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 CSX TRANSPORTATION INC. Councilman Brizzolara wanted to know what the borough is paying CSX for.

The second item was in page one of the bill list which was titled NORTH EAST FIRE & SAFETY INC. Councilman Brizzolara wanted to know why the invoices for these bills are 6 months old.

The third item was in page one and three of the bill list which was titled PERRENIAL SERVICES LLC. Councilman Brizzolara wanted to know why the invoices for these bills are dated 2021.

Councilman Brizzolara stated that he doesn't need the answers tonight, but if he can get the answers by the next meeting that would be great.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Foschino to approve resolution 2022:100. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Brizzolara:

Councilman Brizzolara stated that Norwood's construction code official Gino Tessaro could not attend tonight's meeting. The Jones' development will begin laying the asphalt for the road next week. The large old house sold. The Grande is negotiating with promising new prospects. 521 Livingston St will have a liquor store and Adams bagel shop opening soon. There is only one more home left to sell on Helen and Lamb Court.

Council President Foschino:

Council President Foschino began by thanking the DPW for the outstanding job they did on the removal and installation of the new dugouts. They saved the Borough upwards of \$40,000.00 by handling the removal of the old dugouts and installing the concrete pads for the new ones.

Council President Foschino acknowledged the fantastic work they have done with prepping and preparing Kennedy Field for our baseball and softball season. The fields look great and are freshly lined each day for games.

Council President Foschino announced that a week from this Saturday the DPW will be hosting our Project Clean & Green. This is a wonderful time to properly dispose of batteries and cell phones as well as pick up free yard waste bags and a free reusable shopping bag. The shredding event will also be taking place at that time. Project Clean & Green will run from 9am to 1pm.

Council President Foschino announced that the improvements to the community garden have begun with necessary tree work starting tomorrow. Very soon the application will be made available on the DPW Facebook page and Borough website for all those who are interested in reserving a pot.

Council President Foschino stated that every Monday the Borough has been promoting a local business on their Facebook page and we have received a positive response for these posts from the members of our community. He and Mayor Barsa would like to take this a step further and help to promote economic growth within the borough. Local businesses are the backbone of Norwood; they provide job opportunities, goods for residents and help with the boroughs ratable tax base. There are several new opportunities available, and we would like to assist in attracting new businesses into town

Councilman Ascolese:

Councilman Ascolese updated the public that the Norwood Senior club meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. He stated that the seniors have a really active program.

Councilman Ascolese stated that there was a lot accomplished by the grant writer. There were several federal appropriations grant applications submitted, one open space grant application was submitted, and a fire department grant application was submitted. All are awaiting news of award.

Councilwoman Hausmann:

There was one zoning application approved at the zoning board meeting for an inground pool pending all criteria and guidelines are met. The Board of Health is now utilizing the services of the Bergen County Health Department to host programs in the Borough. May is also Mental Health Awareness Month. Councilwoman Hausmann announced that there was a Stigma Free sign unveiling followed by a walk around Kennedy Field. Thank you to all who came out and participated.

The Mayors Wellness Campaign and the Environmental Commission joined forces and hosted a successful community clean-up event at the end of April. There was an enormous number of discarded masks found on the library property. Please dispose of the masks properly.

The Environmental Commission hikes are every Sunday and get started at Ruckman Road and Anderson Road in Closter. The EC are also looking into utilizing grant opportunities that may benefit the Borough.

Councilwoman Hausmann explained that the Environmental Commission are in communication with the DPW for space at the community garden to provide an area for all the residents of Norwood to go to participate in a more modern community garden. If someone wants a piece of food, they can have one. Councilwoman Hausmann thanked the DPW for their hard work in the clearing of the space.

Council President Foschino explained that there will be a space at the southern end of the community garden for the Environmental Commission to have for their modern community garden concept.

Councilwoman Hausmann thanked Council President Foschino for that explanation, and she also thanked Director Tracy and DPW laborer Congiusti for saving the fig trees that were down at the garden.

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 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 Councilwoman Hausmann. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

CLOSED SESSION

2022:101 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in
Closed Session – Pending Litigation

Motion by Councilman Ascolese, second by Councilman Brizzolara, and unanimously agreed that 2022:101 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Pending Litigation be approved. The meeting temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 7:54 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN

The meeting resumed in open session at 8:07 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:08PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk