

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
JULY 13, 2022
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

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	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present
	Councilman Suljic	Present

The mayor announced that as part of the Mayors Wellness program, Norwood will also be hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross. The blood drive will take place in the community center on Wednesday, September 7 from 2pm-7pm. Anyone potential donors can go to the Borough website or Facebook page for the link to make an appointment to donate.

Mayor Barsa reminded residents that August 21st is National Senior Citizens Day and to recognize and honor our Borough seniors, Norwood will be hosting a picnic for them at Kennedy Field. All residents aged 55 and over are welcome to join on Sunday, August 21st from 11am-2pm at Kennedy Field for a special lunch.

CORRESPONDENCE

Building Department June Fee Log

Norwood Police Department June Report
Norwood Fire Department June Report

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:

June 22, 2022, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

- 2022:131 – Authorizing Salaries for Borough Employees
- 2022:132 – Authorizing Surveying, Engineering Design, and Bidding Services Agreement with Neglia Engineering for the 2022 Municipal Capital Improvements Program
- 2022:133 – Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 1 – Knickerbocker Baseball Field Improvements Project
- 2022:134 – Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for EMS Vehicle 329 Light Tower Replacement
- 2022:135 – Payment of Vouchers
- 2022:136 – Authorizing the Approval of the Bergen County Municipal Snowplow Agreement
- 2022:137 – Authorizing Neglia Associates for the Advertisement for Receipts of Bids for the Walnut Street Improvements

Councilman Ascolese _____
Council President Foschino _____
Councilman Kim _____

Councilman Brizzolara _____
Councilwoman Hausmann _____
Councilman Suljic _____

Approval of Resolutions 2022:131 through 2022:137 and approval of the June 22nd 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, with Councilman Kim abstaining.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Field Usage Application – Northvale Adult Softball League

Motion by Council President Foschino and second by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve field use application. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

- Field Usage Fees – Norwood Whalers

Council President Foschino stated that he spoke with a representative from the Norwood Whalers, and they are willing to follow the ordinance and pay for their field use. The mayor stated that even though field two was on the application, they will be given field one since they have historically played field one. With the Knickerbocker field still out of commission, field one gives them the most space for an outfield. If a scheduling problem arises, they will be set up on field two.

- Block Party Request – 28 John Circle

Motion by Councilman Ascolese and second by Councilman Brizzolara to approve block party application. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

- Dedicated Street Signs – Procedure and Location

Mayor Barsa explained that this program is to help honor families from Norwood who have served a certain amount of volunteer time or families who have had a history of service in Norwood.

Councilwoman Hausmann stated that she feels the vetting process that should take place when new names are being considered should fall to the historic preservation committee. The historic preservation committee has extensive knowledge of the different families in town and the history of their service to the borough. Councilman Brizzolara suggested a criteria list be designed. Councilman Ascolese has no problem going through the historical society. Council President Foschino feels that we should not have criteria and the decisions should remain with the governing body to simplify matters. Councilwoman Hausmann feels that the stakeholders in the town should have a say. Council President Foschino feels that involving too many parties would create a delayed response and action.

The mayor feels that all of the boards and committees in town are welcome to recommend names to their council liaisons. Then the liaisons will bring the

names to the council. Borough Attorney Corrison feels that if criteria are set, it must be done in the form of a resolution or ordinance. Councilman Kim feels that legislative intent might become a factor and the council must be careful of any negative reaction to that. Councilman Brizzolara likes the idea of citizen involvement and collaboration. He feels that the historic preservation committee can add value to this program, and a slower deliberation time can be helpful not hurtful.

The mayor instructed Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano to gather information from other towns who have this program. He wants to know how they decide on the different names that get selected.

- **Military Banners**

Council President Foschino explained the process of a resident purchasing a banner similar to the programs in Emerson and Northvale. Council President Foschino feels that the resident purchasing the banner does not necessarily need to live in town. Councilman Ascolese feels that the town should budget for the program and not have people pay for the banners. Councilwoman Hausmann and Councilman Brizzolara agree. Council President Foschino feels that the town already pays for too many programs. Councilman Ascolese feels that Councilman Brizzolara brought up a good point in saying that the family should be in Norwood. Councilman Brizzolara feels that all the financial concerns will be alleviated if the council budgets for it next year. Mayor Barsa feels that it is a great idea to put it in the budget, but we first need to gauge interest. A discussion was then held on the criteria for each applicant. Borough Attorney Corrison reminded the council that if the resident pays, then the borough cannot set criteria. Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano stated that both his hometown and the previous municipality he was employed with both had the residents pay for the banners.

The mayor instructed Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano to place a flyer on the website and Facebook and try to gauge public interest in the topic.

- **Arcari & Iovino Professional Services Proposal – ADA Restrooms**

Motion by Councilman Suljic and second by Council President Foschino to approve the Arcari & Iovino Professional Services Proposal. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

- 2022:138 – Authorizing Design, Public Bidding and Construction Administrative Services of Arcari & Iovino for the Norwood Kennedy Park Restrooms Upgrade

Motion by Councilman Ascolese and second by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve resolution 2022:138. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

- Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano stated that he has received some calls today from residents saying that Verizon services in town were slow and calls weren't going through. He spoke with Verizon, they let him know that they are upgrading service in the borough and working on the tower that is in town. This may affect service at times throughout the day, but normal service will return once the work is completed.

- Borough Attorney Report

Jones Court is going well. Gino issued the TCO for one house. The retention issue was solved.

- Borough Engineer Report

Borough Engineer Loverich explained that the Blanch Ave bridge project is closed. The Knickerbocker field fences are down, and the stone dust is being installed. The sod on the field is adhering well.

The road program is still being designed and Neglia is working with Northwoods.

Councilman Ascolese was concerned for the future of high-powered gas lines coming to Norwood and their installation tearing up freshly paved roads. Mr. Loverich will look further into the issue.

Councilman Suljic mentioned that there is an existing sidewalk for about 1500 feet near the Blanch Ave bridge but there is a stretch of missing sidewalk leading up to the bridge. He stated that he feels that there should be a sidewalk all the way to the bridge and maybe this could be part of a future project. He also stated he would like to see paving being performed during the summer while school is out of session. Councilman Suljic

questioned the paving in Northwoods and what should and should not be paved by the town and to view the original agreement. Mayor Barsa asked if the Borough Administrator could search for the original developer's agreement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Hausman:

The Zoning Board Approved application for Restaurant at The Grande.

The Board of Health reviewed all food establishments for the month of May. A copy of the report is filed in the BOH office. President Barbara Incognito Fanelli and Ms. Whalen attended the Memory Care Presentation given by Act Now Foundation of Bergen County. More events are being planned with the County. Norwood Swim Club and The Northwoods Pool were granted licenses to operate for the 2022 season. The Healthy Norwood / Mayor's Wellness event at the Norwood Swim Club event regarding sun safety went well on June 11. A health fair is being planned at Foxhill for a tentative date of July 20th. The Borough administrator, Jordan Padovano is working on getting speakers in the Healthcare Universe to make presentations. The date is subject to change regarding availability.

The Environmental Commission hikes are scheduled through end of August and beyond, they are well attended, and the EC is always learning. There is quite a bit of history up on the trails regarding the Revolutionary War and a Post Emancipation settlement that sits in our backyard. We are reaching out to an expert on these historic landmarks to schedule a hike with an historic learning experience attached for the fall. The Environmental Commission is in talks with Bryan Electric, and there are multiple grant opportunities opening soon including one from Rockland Electric and the State. The EC will look at others and they feel this will be a minimum cost to the Borough. Councilwoman Hausmann requested from the mayor that a presentation be placed on the August meeting agenda. The mayor agreed.

The Tree Preservation Ordinance is just about ready to be presented to the Governing Body, the EC will be submitting before the August meeting. Councilwoman Hausmann asked the mayor if the EC can present and discuss. The mayor agreed. The EC got great input from Chris in the Construction office which they will be incorporating into the presentation.

Ramapo College offers a Capstone Course and has agreed to meet with the EC to potentially help us out with a ERI or Environmental Resource Inventory. This survey gives a comprehensive report on the environmental resources of the area. These surveys are essential to Environmental Commissions and Norwood is very fortunate of the EC's growing relationships with surrounding likeminded initiatives.

The EC would like to thank the DPW on their hard and expeditious work to complete the Garden. The EC currently has 2 plots and 2 residents with adjoining plots have joined forces to make the 4 plots for all Community Members to participate due to the lack of gardens vs residents. The EC had a planting day on July 5 where about 8-10 families showed up to help plant all the beds, since then the EC has interest from quite a few more families and are planning another Community Day at the Garden because there is much work to be done. At this point the EC has about 12 – 14 families involved/interested. The Environmental Commission has partnered with the Valley Program, 8-10 kids ranging in ages 14-21 are helping to water the garden each morning at 8:30, they started this week. The EC has a schedule of residents who take turns watering each evening at 5 – 5:30. Everyone is very excited and enthusiastic about this program, and they are getting new interest each day. Councilwoman Hausmann thinks it is important to have these community plots because there obviously cannot be a plot for everyone who wants one, so inviting those who are on the wait list or have reached out via our social media outreach is working out extremely well.

Allen Rappaport cannot do the EC so Barbara Vanderbeck will replace him if the mayor will do so. The EC doesn't have a resident from the Senior housing Foxhill on the Commission and Barbara has accepted so I am hoping this can be done at the August meeting.

Councilman Suljic:

Councilman Suljic spoke with CFO Battaglia and reports that the audit was extended.

Councilman Ascolese:

The senior club is very happy with the new roof work. Councilman Ascolese also stated that the seniors meeting was on the 1st Monday of the month, and they had a county sponsored speaker discussing memory care with was great. The grant writer is working with the town for some beautification grants that will be in the works.

Councilman Kim:

On June 17th the NPS had their graduation ceremony. There is a scheduled 3-week summer program with ELA and math courses. The school made various new hires such as custodians and a new music teacher. The Korean school in Tenaflly is renting some of our classrooms on Friday nights and early Saturday mornings. The Korean parents in the Northern Valley High School donated hydration stations. Hebrew language courses are to be offered soon.

The Library HVAC is not working. Councilman Kim explained that the Library Board would like me to make a request that that issue is looked at. Council President Foschino explained that the problem was addressed already. Councilman Kim also explained that there is a small pothole in the library parking lot that could be a danger to some residents.

Greenway is sending a grant request to the federal government. The NJTPA mentioned Greenway as a pending project which is good news. Lastly, Councilman Kim gave credit to the mayor for the golf outing that he helped organize. The outing helped raise a lot of money.

Councilman Brizzolara:

Councilman Brizzolara stated according to Gino, the building department is slower than usual this month. Permits were issued for pools and generators. Two homes sold on Jones court. Gino is dealing with a resident on high street with flooding problems.

Council President Foschino:

Council President Foschino explained that a special meeting for Recreation was held to review an application for use of Kennedy Field. The application was approved and listed on tonight's agenda as discussion item. (Northvale Adult Softball League) Council President Foschino also stated that the recreation sports teams gave scholarships to graduating Norwood seniors that were in the recreation program and continued with the sport throughout high school. All together 11 scholarships were awarded.

Scott Roberts from the Fire Department was given the car that the PD donated to the FD for his county coordinator responsibilities. Hose testing was approved.

The community garden is now open, and all plots have been filled. Council President Foschino thanked all those who were involved in the project, especially our DPW. They once again came through for the residents of Norwood, saving the Borough upwards of \$11,000.00 by completing this project themselves. The garden is a beautiful addition to our library landscape and a great way for our resident gardeners to connect with one another.

There was an issue with the new roof installation at the DPW building. They were driving roof screws into the electric conduits in the ceiling. The borough electrician responded, and all will be fixed.

There was a tree on Briarwood which was lifting sidewalks and creating a safety hazard. The DPW will make repairs to the sidewalk.

An updated praising our DPW was posted on Facebook and has since received a phenomenal response, with over 1900 views. Norwood DPW and borough pages are getting positive responses from other surrounding towns as well.

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 councilmembers present voted in favor of the motion

Ed Condeleo – 81 Summit Street

Mr. Condeleo feels that the Borough really looks great. He heard from Councilwoman Hausmann that the Italian restaurant was approved for The Grande. Mr. Condeleo wanted to know what kind of health code approvals are made and how is it generally done. Mayor Barsa explained that this is a county process that we contract with. If they are opening that means they got all the approvals that they need.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk