

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
January 24, 2024
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILMAN CONDOLEO	COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO
COUNCIL PRESIDENT 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 7:01 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 OF THE COUNCIL

Roll Call:	Mayor Barsa	Present
	Councilman Ascolese	Present
	Councilman Brizzolara	Present
	Council President Condoleo	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present

MAYOR’S OPENING ADDRESS

We are officially in the winter season and the fridged temperatures are here. Along with the cold comes the ice and snow. During snow events, please do not park in the street and bring basketball hoops onto your driveway. Also, if there is a fire hydrant near your property, please help the fire department by clearing the snow from around the hydrant in a 3 foot radius. Drive slowly and be careful of ice while walking and driving.

Our Norwood Public School and the Norwood PTO have joined together to bring us an International Festival that will showcase the diverse community we call home. There will be exhibits and presentations by parents and students that will highlight the different cultures that make up Norwood. The event is open to all and will take place this Friday, January 26th, from 6pm-8pm at the Norwood Public School.

This Saturday, the Recreation Committee will hold our second annual Winterfest. Come to Heroes Pond between 4pm-8pm to take part in the festivities. We will hold our cookie contest, have a bonfire for roasting marshmallows, and delicious food available for purchase. If the pond is frozen bring your ice skates.

Our rabies clinic will take place next Wednesday, January 31st, at the community center. We will have a veterinarian available from 5:30pm-7pm to provide free rabies vaccines for your dogs and cats.

CORRESPONDENCE

Grant Writers Report
Building Department Fee Log
Borough Engineer Report

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2024:01 An Ordinance Amending Article IV Titled “Short-Term Rentals” in Chapter 181 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood

Public Hearing for Ordinance 2024:01 will be on February 14, 2024

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilwoman Hausmann, second by Councilman Ascolese, that Ordinance 2024:01 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on February 14, 2024.

2. Ordinance 2024:02 An Ordinance Establishing Salaries or Wages of Officials and Employees of the Borough of Norwood

Public Hearing for Ordinance 2024:02 will be on February 14, 2024

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Ascolese, second by Councilwoman Hausmann, that Ordinance 2024:02 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on February 14, 2024.

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:

December 13, 2023, Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2024, Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2024:42 Resolution Authorizing Professional Services Agreement with Neglia Engineering for The NJDEP Municipal Stormwater Management Program

2024:43 Resolution Awarding a Contract to AJM Contractors Inc. for the Demarest Street Drainage Improvements

2024:44 Resolution Authorizing Construction Management Services Agreement with Neglia Engineering for The Demarest Street Drainage Improvements

2024:45 Resolution Authorizing Construction Management Services Agreement with Neglia Engineering for the Kennedy Park Playground Improvements

2024:46 Resolution Authorizing a Notice of Claim Form to be Used for the Filing of Tort Claims Against the Borough

2024:47 Payment of Vouchers

2024:48 Appointment of Bergen County Department of Health as Blood Borne Pathogen Compliance Coordinator and Trainer

2024:49 Approving Member Appointment to Norwood Fire Co. No. 1 Eric Barker

2024:50 Approving Member Appointment to Norwood Fire Co. No. 1 Timothy Van Saders

2024:51 Appointment of Representative to The County Public Safety Advisory Board

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the amended Consent Agenda and that December 13, 2023, and January 3, 2024, 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.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Kennedy Field Playground Surfacing

Mr. Neglia informed the governing body that the Borough received a Bergen County Open Space Grant in the amount of \$146,730.00. That grant, along with the \$75,000.00 grant that was received a month prior, will cover the cost of the poured rubber surface for the playground. The preconstruction meeting was held today and work will begin in early February, depending on the weather. The equipment for the playground has been ordered.

Mayor Barsa stated that the governing body would like the flooring to be earth tones. Mr. Neglia advised that a color pallet will be given to the governing body to decide on the color.

Councilwoman Hausmann stated that she has applied for a Local Recreation Improvement Grant, listing the pickleball courts, community center kitchen, and additional garden plots on the application.

Mayor Barsa asked that no grants be applied for until the projected has been discussed and approved by the Council. He does not want to spend money on grants if they will not be moving forward with a project.

Councilman Foschino asked if the newest grant was a matching grant. Mr. Neglia said it is a 50% matching grant and the funds are already apart of the money reserved for the playground.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the poured rubber as the surface for the Kennedy Field playground, utilizing the most recent two grants to cover the cost. In the roll call vote, Councilman Foschino voted no, while all other Council members voted yes.

525 Livingston St - Performance Bond Release

Mr. Tessaro advised the governing body that 521 Livingston Street received the certificate of occupancy six (6) months ago and he asked that the performance bond be released. There will be a maintenance bond posted that will be in effect for eighteen (18) months.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the release of the performance bond for 521 Livingston Street. . In the roll

call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Councilman Foschino who abstained.

EMS Ambulance and Vehicle Repairs

Council President Condoleo advised the Council that repairs in the amount of \$1,500.00 are needed on the Suburban to fix steering box and upper control arm axel.

It was moved by Council President Condoleo and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the repairs to the Suburban in the amount of \$1,500.00. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Council President Condoleo also gave a status update on the ambulance that EMS has been waiting on. Braun has been unable to provide the Borough with a VIN number of the chassis that has been set aside for the Borough. The Borough does have the opportunity to cancel the contract without a penalty.

Mayor Barsa said he is not ready to decide to cancel the contract without more information. He has asked the Public Safety Committee of Council President Condoleo, Councilman Ascolese and Councilman Foschino to have a meeting to discuss this and other issues with members of EMS.

Councilman Foschino asked if there is a need for a new ambulance. The county and area hospitals have increased their ambulance fleet. The ambulance EMS is waiting for has cost the taxpayers \$315,000.00 and they have nothing. There are other options, including shared service agreements.

Mr. Barron said the EMS volunteers are the most frustrated as they have been waiting two (2) years for the ambulance. He feels they are almost at the finish line and it would be beneficial to wait for the ambulance. They have been told for the beginning, when the order was placed, to expect delivery in April or May of 2024. That date is still on target. In 2021 they responded to three hundred five (305) calls and in 2023 they responded to six hundred forty (640) calls. This is causing more vehicle maintenance costs for the older ambulances that are in use.

Councilman Brizzolara asked if those call numbers included mutual aid calls. Mr. Barron said it did, that each town covers one day of mutual aid.

Mayor Barsa said he would like an update on the discussions between the Public Safety Committee and the EMS volunteers in two (2) weeks. Council President Condoleo ask Mr. Padovano to schedule the meeting.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Mr. Padovano thanked the DPW for keeping the roads safe during the recent storms. He noted the rabies clinic will be held on January 31st at the community center.

Councilman Foschino asked if the Borough has been given the keys to the swim club. Mr. Padovano replied that the key holder is currently out of the country. Mayor Barsa instructed Mr. Padovano to inform the Swim Club Board that all doors to the swim club must be unlocked by Monday or the Borough will hire a locksmith to unlock them.

Mr. Foschino advised the governing body that he has been informed by the Fire Chief that one of the Tahoe's, which recently had the engine replaced, is now in need of a transmission replacement that will cost \$9,500.00. The Borough of Old Tappan is in need of an engine for a Tahoe and asked to purchase the vehicle from Norwood for \$1.00 as well as making all necessary repairs to the Fire Chief's Tahoe.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Council President Condoleo to approve the sale of the Assistant Fire Chief's Tahoe 367 to the Borough of Old Tappan for \$1.00 and Old Tappan will make all necessary repairs to the Fire Chief's Tahoe 366. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Borough Attorney Report

Mr. Corrison asked the governing body for the length of the swim club lease. Mayor Barsa stated that it should be a one (1) year lease with one (1) year renewal options.

Councilman Brizzolara asked if there has been any progress on the noise ordinance and gave background as to why he was inquiring. He informed the Council that there is a business on Oak Street that services high performance sports cars and they run test at all hours of the day and night.

Mr. Corrison informed the Council that the ordinance states there should be a decibel reading to determine if the noise ordinance is being violated. A summons can still be issued without one and the court would decide the issue.

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.

Mr. Dominick Congiusti, 195 Livingston Street, Norwood, NJ stated that the developers that are building the large buildings should be responsible for purchasing ambulances, fire trucks, and police cars for the Borough as part of the agreement.

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

CLOSED SESSION

2024:52 – Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to Proceed in Closed Session – Matters Relating to Litigation and Employment

Motion by Council President Condoleo, second by Councilwoman Hausmann, and unanimously agreed that 2024:52 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Matters Relating to Litigation and Employment. The meeting was temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 8:37pm.

RETURN TO OPEN

The meeting resumed in open session at 9:16 PM.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the settlement for Police Officer Julie White. 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 the salary increase of \$2,000.00 for the finance clerk. 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 Foschino and seconded by Council President Condoleo. All council members present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk