

**MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
SINE-DIE/REORGANIZATION
JANUARY 6, 2025
7:00 PM**

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.

Daniella Ashbahian sang the National Anthem, followed by the invocation by Father Dao.

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

Mayor Barsa acknowledged and thanked all dignitaries in the audience.

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 for consideration.

- 2024:241 Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Refund
Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Due to Veteran Exemption
- 2024:242 Resolution Approving Member Appointment to Norwood Fire
Co. No. 1 Alexander Orecchio
- 2024:243 Resolution Authorizing Budget Transfers for Calendar Year
2024
- 2024:244 Payment of Vouchers
- 2024:245 A Resolution to Adopt Procedures for Administration and
Inspection of Federal Aid Highway Projects
- 2024:246 Approving Change Order No. 1 – Kennedy Field Basketball
Court Improvements
- 2024:247 Resolution Closing The Contract With Your Way Construction,
Inc. For The Kennedy Field Basketball Court Improvements

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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

As we leave 2024 behind us and reflect on the past year, I couldn't be happier at what we have accomplished. You are only as good as the people behind you, those that help you move forward. I want to thank you all for your contributions to the borough. Thank you to all of our volunteer recreation coaches, and members of our various boards, committees, and commissions.

A special Thank you to all our borough employees and volunteer first responders –

Chief Chris Federici and the entire Norwood Police Department, thank you for your continued efforts to have Norwood remain one of the 100 safest municipalities in the nation. I, and other members of the governing body, have had multiple residents contact us to let us know what a superb job our officers are doing. They continue to better themselves by attending training while also continuing to provide our community with outstanding service.

Director Robert Tracy and the Public Works crew, thank you for another year of keeping our town looking beautiful and our roads safe. You are always there when called upon and your dedication to the borough does not go unnoticed.

Thank you to outgoing Chief Michael Congiusti and all members of our volunteer fire department. They had a very busy year, responding to just under 290 calls. Congratulations to Rich Hess on your promotion to Fire Chief.

Thank you to EMS Chief Chris Barron and all of our EMS volunteers. During this past year, our EMS members have been taking advantage of new training opportunities that have come along.

Thank you to my administration staff, Jordan Padovano and Lindsay Volpitta, construction department personnel, Gino Tessaro, Laurie Engle and Chris Jackson, our finance office staff, Chris Battaglia, Lori Gonzales, and Joann Voccola, the municipal court, Judge Robert Travers, Janet Gallagher, Annmarie Colwell, Laura Nunnink, and Lou DeAngelis, Board of Health secretary Debbie Whalen, and our tax assessor Robert Brescia.

I have received many communications from residents, businesses, and other towns regarding the knowledge and professionalism of our staff. The compliments I have received range from the efficiency of our daily operations to those employees that go above and beyond to help our residents. All departments help each other, lending a hand when needed.

A successful municipality also relies on its professionals. Thank you to our borough attorney, Kevin Corrison, our borough engineer Michael Neglia, our Planning Board attorney Robert Regan, and our labor attorney Jason Saffron. They are all assets to our borough. We have one of, if not the best, run municipalities in the

county and that is because of our staff, professionals, and resident volunteers. The people employed by the Borough, and all our volunteers, are not just employees, we are all a family. Many of our employees and professionals are Norwood residents and those that aren't, feel like they are. They all take pride in their work and their town.

Our Council is made up of a group of people who all want the same thing, the best possible Norwood for our residents.

Councilwoman Hausmann had a wonderful year working with the Environmental Commission and expanding the community garden to make it ADA compliant. Also, as Board of Health liaison, she brings valuable information back to our meetings.

Councilman Kim has been an important part of the Greenway Trail, Board of Education, and library. His enthusiasm for his positions shines through as he takes his liaison positions very seriously. He also volunteers his time to help with any project within the borough.

As liaison to the finance department, Councilman Condole has been an integral part of helping to keep the borough financially responsible and fiscally sound. In his position as EMS liaison, he worked closely with the Chief Barron to make sure that EMS has everything they need to operate efficiently.

Councilman Foschino has used his extensive knowledge to help take our Department of Public Works to the next level. Also, as Council liaison to the Fire Department, he worked with Chief Congiusti to apply for and utilize grants for new equipment. Councilman Foschino is also our liaison to the Recreation Committee, which had another productive year. We had successful sports seasons and another great month of summer camp. The second annual Winterfest was a success with a great turn out. Our 3rd Winterfest is scheduled for January 18th.

Congratulations to Councilman Ascolese and Councilman Brizzolara on their election victories.

Councilman Ascolese has begun his 7th term and will continue to be a sounding board for all of us. As part of our Planning Board, and liaison to our Police Department and Seniors, his contributions are immeasurable.

Councilman Brizzolara has begun his 8th term. Working closely with our Construction Official he has been an essential part of the team, helping to have that department run in an efficient manner.

We also had our 18th Annual Norwood Day celebration. I began this event in 2007 and we have not yet missed a year. There are never any taxpayer funds used for this event. It is fully funded by the generous donations of our residents and local businesses. Norwood Day has always been a day that we all come together for fun and laughter with our friends and family, making new connections with our neighbors.

We have completed many important improvements in 2024. Hemlock and High Street were both milled and paved. Demarest Street had new drainage and curbing installed. Drainage improvements have begun on Millbrook Circle and should be completed in January.

The new playground at Kennedy Field is complete. We look forward to warmer weather when it can be enjoyed by all of our Norwood children.

Lastly, and most importantly, I would like to thank our residents. Norwood is a community made up of caring people from all walks of life. We are a thriving suburb with a small-town feel. When looking to purchase a home, buyers focus on 3 top categories; the school system, safety, and having a fiscally responsible borough that has a history of minimal tax increases. Norwood hits all those marks and then some. Our school system is first-class, our police department and first responders provide us with unparalleled safety and the borough continues to be financially secure. I am honored to represent you as your Mayor.

CLOSE MEETING SINE—DIE

The mayor adjourned the meeting SINE—DIE. Meeting closed at 7:14pm.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano announced the receipt of the Certificates of Election for Councilman Ascolese and Councilman Brizzolara.

Oath of Office was administered to Councilman Ascolese and Councilman Brizzolara by Mayor Barsa.

The mayor swore in the new officers for the Ambulance Corps:

Chief Chris Barron
Deputy Chief Trudy San Jose
1st Lieutenant Jack Renke

Roll call of the 2025 Council

Mayor Barsa	Present
Councilman Ascolese	Present

Councilman Brizzolara	Absent
Council Condoleo	Present
Councilman Foschino	Present
Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
Councilman Kim	Present

SELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Councilman Condoleo made a motion to elect Councilman Condoleo as Council President. Councilman Ascolese seconded the motion. The Borough Clerk took a roll call vote for Councilman Foschino's nomination. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Ascolese	Aye
Councilman Brizzolara	Aye
Councilman Condoleo	Aye
Councilman Foschino	Aye
Councilwoman Hausmann	Aye
Councilman Kim	Aye

With the majority vote, Councilman Foschino was made Council President for 2025.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items are routine and will be enacted with a single motion; any items requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda; all Consent Agenda items will be reflected in full in the minutes.

- 25:01 Approving the Rules and By-Laws dated July 2, 1969, supplemented and approved for 2025
- 25:02 Approving the Rules of Order
- 25:03 Mayor and Council Meeting Annual Meeting Notice
- 25:04 Minutes of Meetings need not be read by the Borough Clerk at Council Meetings
- 25:05 Designation of Official Newspapers
- 25:06 2025 Official Holidays
- 25:07 Establishing a Cash Management Plan
- 25:08 Fixing the Rate of Interest and Year End Penalty for non-payment of taxes
- 25:09 Appointment of Lori Gonzalez as Assistant Treasurer for the year 2025
- 25:10 Appointment of Lindsay Volpitta as Deputy Borough Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector for the year 2025
- 25:11 Appointment of Jordan Padovano as Insurance Commissioner for the Bergen County Joint Insurance Fund for 2025
- 25:12 Appointment of Robert Brescia as Municipal Housing Liaison for the year 2025
- 25:13 Appointment of Janet Gallagher as Court Administrator

- 25:14 Appointment of Laura A. Nunnink, Esq. as Municipal Prosecutor for the year 2025
- 25:15 Appointment of Sgt. John Kuder as Emergency Management Coordinator for the year 2025
- 25:16 Appointing Kevin C. Corrison of Breslin & Breslin PA as Borough Attorney for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2025
- 25:17 Appointment of Boswell Engineering as Special Conflict Engineer for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2025
- 25:18 Approval of 2025 Temporary Budget
- 25:19 Appointing Steven Wielkott of Wielkott and Company as Borough Auditor for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2025
- 25:20 Appointing Steve Rogut of Rogut, McCarthy, L.L.C. as Bond Counsel for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2025
- 25:21 Appointing Victor Fadini as Risk Manager for the Borough of Norwood for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2025
- 25:22 Appointing Dart Computer as IT Consultant for a one-year term to expire on 12/31/2025
- 25:23 Appointing Acari and Iovino Architects PC as Borough Architect for a one-year term to expire on 12/31/2025
- 25:24 Appointing Neglia Engineering as Borough Planner for Affordable Housing for a one-year term to expire on 12/31/2025
- 25:25 Appointing Helene C. Herbert, Esq. as Special Counsel for Tax Appeal Conflicts for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2025
- 25:26 Appointment of Andrew Fede to Serve as Special Counsel to the Borough of Norwood for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2025
- 25:27 Appointing Jason Shafron as Labor Attorney for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2025
- 25:28 Appointment of the County of Bergen as its Animal Control Officer for 2025
- 25:29 Authorizing a Public Health Shared Services Agreement between the Borough of Norwood and the County of Bergen for Employees Assistance Program
- 25:30 Appointing Supporting Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force
- 25:31 Approving Inter-Boro Mutual Aid Group with various municipalities
- 25:32 Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Closter for the Use of the Police Firearms Training Facility
- 25:33 Appointing Laurie Engel as TACO for the 2025
- 25:34 Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing (HGAC)
- 25:35 Confirming the appointment of Jordan Padovano as Public Agency Compliance Officer in accordance with the New Jersey Administrative Code's Requirements
- 25:36 Authorizing Animal Cruelty Agreement with Bergen County
- 25:37 Establishing Petty Cash for the Borough

- 25:38 Adopting A Form Required To Be Used For The Filing Of Notices Of Tort Claims
- 25:39 Appointing Neglia Engineering as the Borough Engineer for a three term to expire on 12/31/27
- 25:40 Appointment of Debbie Whalen as Board of Health Registrar
- 25:41 Appointment of Kauker and Kauker as Planner for 3rd Round of Affordable Housing
- 25:42 Appointment of New Jersey Technical Services as the Borough Elevator Inspector
- 25:43 Authorizing Contract with Donald Helmstetter Professional Services as Borough Appraiser
- 25:44 Resolution Appointing a Chief Financial Officer
- 25:45 Resolution Appointing Professional Services as Planning Board Attorney
- 25:46 Appointment of William McGuire as Deputy Registrar

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

XVII. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS

Board of Health:

- Kerri Congiusti – 3 year term to expire 12/31/27
- Angie Alberti – 3 year term to expire 12/31/27
- Barbara Fanelli – 3 year term to expire 12/31/27
- Suzanne Soliman – 3 year term to expire 12/31/27
- Marjorie Scott – 3 year term to expire 12/31/27
- Vacant (Alternate 1) - 2 year term to expire 12/31/26
- Vacant (Alternate 2) – 1 year term to expire 12/31/25
- Debbie Whalen – Board of Health Secretary 3 year term to expire 12/31/27

Recreation Committee:

- Frank Fanelli – (At Large) 3 year term to expire 12/31/27
- Matthew Alberti – (At Large) 3 year term to expire 12/31/27

Historic Preservation Committee: 1 Yr. Terms Expire 12/31/2024

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| David Elling | Marjorie Scott | James Elling |
| Birgitha Tray | Richard Williams | |

Green Team Committee: 1 Yr. Terms Expires 12/31/2024

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Mayor James Barsa | David Hausmann |
| Annie Hausmann | Christopher Barron (EMS representative) |
| Anthony Foschino | Eric Schuck (DPW / Recycling representative) |

Joanna Kao
Jonathan Zipper
Paul Haberman

Michael Congiusti (FD representative)
Sal Russino (PD representative)

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee: 1 Yr. Term, Expires 12/31/2024

Mayor Barsa	Janet D'Ercole
Councilman Ascolese	John Jost
Martha Kleinlaut	Paul Elenio

Special Patrolmen:

Class I

Christopher Campo
Richard Sposa
Thomas Tracy

Police Clerk/Matron:

JoAnn Voccola

Police Physician:

Park Medical Group

Towing Services:

D.T.R. Towing LLC
DeMauro Towing, Inc
Emerson Towing Inc
NorthStar Towing
Rich's Automotive

Bureau of Fire Safety Inspectors:

William McGuire Kenny Sheppard

Crossing Guards for 2025

Paul Wiegartner	Tzuyi Peter Lin
Linda Dudzienski	Harry Ahn
Larry Grassi	Robert Kuenzler
Alice McCausland	Michael Cheringal
Roger Girardin	Robert Wojcik
Rita Paton	Robert Canas
Karin Weissbach	

Alternate:

Maura Canas
Nicholas Karayanis
Francisco Barillas

Superintendent of Roads
Mike Neglia

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to approve the Mayoral appointments to various boards and committees and the Council committee assignments. Councilman Ascolese seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

XVII.I. COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Finance

Condoleo (Chair)
Kim
Ascolese

Personnel

Ascolese (Chair)
Brizzolara
Condoleo

Property/Zoning

Brizzolara (Chair)
Kim (Construction)
Ascolese (Planning Board)

Public Health

Hausmann (Chair)
Brizzolara
Ascolese

Public Safety

Ascolese (Police)
Foschino (Fire)
Condoleo (EMS)

Public Utilities

Brizzolara (Chair)
Hausmann
Kim

Public Works

Hausmann (Chair)
Condoleo
Foschino

Shared Services

Barsa (chair)
Ascolese
Foschino

Grant Writer

Hausmann (chair)
Ascolese
Kim

Mayor Barsa offers the following appointments not subject to council approval:

Planning Board:

Chris Jackson	Class II, Term Expires	12/31/2024
Joseph Ascolese,	Class III, Term Expires	12/31/2024
Travis Harper	Class IV, Term Expires	12/31/2028
Paul Haberman	(Alternate 1) Term Expires	12/31/2026

Environmental Commission:

Karin Rosenthal – 3 year term to expire 12/31/2027
Robert Westhelle – (Alternate 2) 2 year term to expire 12/31/2026

Mayor Barsa made his appointments to the Planning Board, Environmental Committee and Council liaison appointments.

Mayor Barsa to announce his Liaison Appointments for 2025:

Board of Education.....	Foschino/Kim
Board of Health	Hausmann
Community Development	Hausmann
Community Outreach/Food Pantry	Hausmann
Environmental Commission	Hausmann
Greenway Trail	Kim
Historic Preservation	Condoleo
Library	Kim
Recreation.....	Foschino
Seniors	Ascolese
Senior Advisory Board	Ascolese
Shade Tree.....	Hausmann

COMMENTS AND REMARKS

Councilwoman Hausmann congratulated Councilman Ascolese and Councilman Brizzolara on their reelections and Councilman Foschino on becoming Council President. She looks forward to a new year and doing more for the people of Norwood.

Councilman Condoleo congratulated Councilman Ascolese and Councilman Brizzolara. He feels all members of the governing body work well together and is looking forward to a new year.

Councilman Ascolese thanked the governing body and said he enjoys what he does and is a part of. He feels with Councilman Condoleo as finance chair the Borough is in great financial shape.

Councilman Foschino congratulated Councilman Ascolese and Councilman Brizzolara. He appreciates everyone on the council and is looking forward to the new year serving with them. Councilman Foschino also said he enjoyed his time as the DPW liaison.

Councilman Brizzolara said he is proud to serve with this governing body and all members are professional and bring a different skill set to the dais. He is looking forward to another great year.

Councilman Kim said he became a part of the Council in 2020 and cannot believe it has already been 4 years. He feels this governing body is a tight machine and has faith in the upcoming year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilwoman Hausmann made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Councilman Ascolese seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Councilwoman Hausmann seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Hausmann seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.