

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
MARCH 9, 2022
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE
COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOSCHINO
COUNCILMAN KIM

COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN
COUNCILMAN ROONEY

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
	Council President Ascolese	Present
	Councilman Brizzolara	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present
	Councilman Rooney	Present

Mayor Barsa let residents know that social media is an incredibly important tool in supplying information in an efficient and timely manner. The morning after all Borough meetings an update showcasing the highlights of each meeting will be published on the Borough Facebook page and my Facebook page. For those that do not have Facebook, this information will also be posted on the Borough website.

The mayor explained that the Blanch Avenue Bridge is in the very final stages of completion. Weather permitting, the remaining water main work, restoration, and guide rail installation should be done within the next week or so. Pending approval of the final inspection the bridge should hopefully be opened by the end of next week. This was a long process for everyone, and we appreciate the patience and understanding you have all shown during this time. There will be a ceremony at the bridge to celebrate and commemorate this occasion.

The mayor explained that on February 25th Captain Perry Buongiorno worked his last shift with the Norwood Police Department. Captain Buongiorno dedicated 38 years to serving our residents. He wished Captain Buongiorno all the best in everything the future holds.

The mayor announced that Norwood have been designated a silver award winner, a Healthy Town to Watch, by the Mayors Wellness Campaign for the second year in a row. This is no small feat as some towns do not qualify for any awards. The Mayors Wellness events keep growing. The mayor thanked Yoga6 for hosting our last event and Council President Foschino for stepping in and welcoming everyone in his absence. The next event will be hosted by another local business, Fit Body Boot Camp. On Saturday, March 19th, at 11:00am they will be having a half hour boot camp style class. This is a great opportunity to try something new. Everyone is welcome and the class can be modified to all fitness levels.

Mayor Barsa let residents know that he had his first Wednesday Walk with the Mayor. It was a bit brisk, completed 2 miles in about 45 minutes. He will be walking every 1st and third Wednesday at Kennedy Field at 6pm and would love to walk with residents.

This Saturday the Recreation Committee is holding their 1st Annual Winter Festival at Heroes Pond. There will be a food truck, bonfires, music, and games. Come down and have some fun. Recreation will also be holding their first movie night on Friday, May 20th at Kennedy Field. More information will become available as the date gets closer.

Northern Valley Old Tappan High School was named one of the top 10 best Bergen County public high schools in New Jersey. This is a great honor and a testament to the hard work and dedication of our teachers and students. Congratulations on this great accomplishment.

Spring is almost here and that means it's daylight savings time. Remember to set your clocks ahead on Sunday, and to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

CORRESPONDENCE

The mayor stated that there are several pieces of correspondence which are available at the Municipal Clerk's office including the following:

Building Department February Fee Log
Engineer's Report

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 2022:02 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 245 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood to Establish New Dates Regarding the Issuance of Retail Food Establishment Licenses by the Norwood Board of Health

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilman Ascolese, that Ordinance 2022:02 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on March 23, 2022.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Brizzolara, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim, Rooney

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

Ordinance 2022:03 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 199 to Establish Stormwater Management Requirements and Controls for Major Developments

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilman Rooney, that Ordinance 2022:03 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on March 23, 2022.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Brizzolara, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim, Rooney

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

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:

February 23, 2022, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2022:45 Authorizing an Award of Contract for Radio Equipment for the Norwood EMS

2022:48 Authorizing Contract with Neglia Engineering for Professional Services as Borough Engineer (Revised)

2022:69 Approving Refund of Escrow Block 102 Lot 2 (470 Summit Street)

2022:70 Payment of Vouchers

2022:71 Change Order for Blanch Avenue Bridge

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Rooney:

Councilman Rooney announced that the Norwood Fire Department will be sponsoring an Easter Egg hunt on April 3rd at Kennedy Field at 1:30pm. Councilman Rooney stated that the budget is coming along and looking to introduce the bond ordinance at the March 23rd meeting and a separate bond ordinance for the fire truck. Councilman Rooney said that some of the items in the capital budget that we pushed off would make great opportunities for a grant writer. Councilman Rooney announced that since his son is in the beginning stages of the hiring process for the Norwood PD, he will be resigning as Councilman and will be recusing himself on any votes regarding police matters moving forward. This decision comes with a heavy heart and Councilman Rooney will miss working with the rest of the council.

Council President Foschino:

Council President Foschino updated the mayor and council on the EMS report and stated that the ambulance is down for repairs. Council President Foschino announced that the Borough has been recognized as a 2021 recipient of the Tree City USA Program Award. Council President Foschino also gave an updated on the DPW-built police closet and the lights on Livingston Street. Council President Foschino announced that the DPW will be looking to hire 2 part time employees. Council President Foschino announced that the annual shredding

event, brought to the Borough by the Bergen County Utilities Authority, is scheduled for Saturday, May 21st, and will be held in the DPW lot. This year he would like to incorporate it into a new community day hosted by the DPW and calling it Project Clean & Green. The DPW will be giving out reusable bags that say Norwood Recycles. There will also be an area set up to dispose of rechargeable batteries and cell phones. Residents will be able to pick up their free yard waste bags and a recyclable barrel. There will also be a table set up for our residents to sign up for the delivery of wood chips, leaf compost, & firewood and for a bench as part of the bench engraving program. There will be DPW trucks out for the kids to climb inside and explore. There is going to have a poster contest which will be open to any Norwood child in grades 5-8. Winners will be announced at the event on May 21st. Lastly, Council President Foschino announced that the tree disbursement program will be too expensive for the borough at this time

Councilman Brizzolara:

Councilman Brizzolara announced that the Jones project on the corner of Broadway and Tappan is running according to schedule and when the weather improves the road will be put in. Councilman Brizzolara also stated that there is a lot of interest in Livingston real estate.

Councilman Kim:

Councilman Kim congratulated the country of South Korea for the election of their new president. Councilman Kim updated the council on the Board of Education meetings, & the status of the mask mandates in school. The Norwood Public School is looking for substitute teachers. The Board of Education is reviewing the policy regarding vape / drugs. Councilman Kim stated that the library will be hosting Korean language classes. Regarding the greenway, Councilman Kim stated that there is a constant problem of garnering interest for the project. The project also comes with a large price tag and the CSX company is unwilling to cooperate.

Mayor Barsa mentioned that the mayors of the municipalities which the tracks go through will be meeting with Congressman Gottheimer's office on the 15th of March to discuss the possibility of a lightrail. The mayor asked Borough Administrator / Clerk to fill Councilman Kim in on any updates.

Councilman Ascolese:

Councilman Ascolese wanted to make a push to increase the budget for the Norwood Senior Citizen Club and stated that they are doing a great job and need all the help they can get.

Councilwoman Hausmann:

Councilwoman Hausmann stated that there was no zoning board meeting, and the Board of Health has received their blood-borne pathogen training. Councilwoman Hausmann announced that another meeting was held with Bryan Electric regarding the electric vehicle charging stations. They are waiting on prices and will be making a pitch to the council soon. The tree preservation committee has had 2 meetings already and is taking the ordinance line

by line and making improvements to later present to the Mayor and Council. Councilwoman Hausmann announced that on April 3rd and 9th the borough will be hosting a composting class in the community center. Councilwoman Hausmann stated that the food pantry got reusable bags donated in preparation for the bag ban. Also, the High School donated a lot of food to the food pantry and had a clothing drive which were sent to the Ukraine. Councilwoman Hausmann stated that the Environmental Commission hikes are going great. She is happy to see cars parked at Kennedy Field again. Councilwoman Hausmann thanked Councilman Rooney for all the great help and mentorship he has offered.

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 Rooney. 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 Councilman Rooney. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Foschino. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 7:49PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk