

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING & WORK SESSION
November 8, 2023
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILMAN CONDOLEO	COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO
COUNCIL PRESIDENT HAUSMANN	COUNCILMAN KIM

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 7:03 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 Condoleo	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Council President Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present

MAYOR’S OPENING REMARKS:

I would like to thank everyone who came to the polls yesterday to vote. Every election day is an opportunity for your voice to be heard and your voice matters.

I am honored and grateful for your support and for allowing me to continue as your Mayor for 4 more years. I am excited to continue working towards our shared goals. I assure you, my dedication to the well-being of our community remains steadfast.

I would also like to congratulate Councilwoman Hausmann and Councilman Kim, I look forward to serving another term alongside you both.

All of our Norwood senior citizens qualify for the senior van. This is a free service offered by the Borough to help with transportation to the senior meetings, Northvale Shoprite, and doctor's appointments in the surrounding towns. If you would like to take advantage of this service, please contact my Administration staff and they will be happy to help you.

This Sunday, November 11th, is Veterans Day. On Veterans Day we honor all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. We are forever grateful for the bravery and sacrifice of the men and women who have served our country from all branches of the military. We will be holding a ceremony at 11:30pm at the Kennedy Field War Memorial to honor our Veterans and show our never ending appreciation.

Thanksgiving is only two short weeks away. Whether you're having a large celebration with family and friends or having something small and quiet, make sure you cherish the time spent with loved ones. I wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

It's already that time of year when we are planning the annual Christmas Tree lighting and Menorah lighting.

Join me on Wednesday, November 29th at 6pm when Santa Claus comes to town to light our Christmas Tree and visit with the children.

The following week we will hold our annual Menorah Lighting on the front lawn of Borough Hall. On Thursday, December 7th, beginning at 6pm, join us as we celebrate the first night of Chanukah. There will be hot chocolate and donuts at both events.

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:

October 25, 2023, Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2023, Mayor & Council Meeting Closed Session Minutes

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2023:198 Approving Appointment of Alternate School Guard Suzanna Vitez

2023:199 Authorizing Requests for Qualifications

2023:200 Authorizing Budget Transfers for Calendar Year 2023
2023:201 Authorizing Contract with Tobar Excavating Inc. to Operate the Compost Facility
2023:202 Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Fiscal Year 2024 American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant Program
2023:203 Payment of Vouchers

Councilman Ascolese stated he would need to abstain from Resolution 2023:201.

It was moved by Council President Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding Resolution 2023:201, and that the October 25, 2023, Mayor & Council Meeting minutes be approved for content and release. The October 25, 2023, Mayor and Council Closed Session Meeting Minutes were also approved. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve Resolution 2023:201. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Councilman Ascolese who abstained.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Best Practices Survey

Mr. Padovano advised the governing body that he legally needs to state that the annual Best Practice Survey has been completed. The Borough scored seven and a half (7.5) points above the perfect score and has qualified for State funding.

Land Donation B76/L7 & B77-L12

Mr. Corrison explained that the noted lots were encyclopedia lots, and the Borough will need to have a judgment search completed and then file the deed. Mr. Corrison advised the governing body that every time a piece of land is donated to the Borough it costs the Borough approximately \$1,200.00 in fees to accept the land. He suggested having an application process that would make the donator responsible for some, if not all, of the associated fees. Mayor Barsa asked his staff to gather information, including how many lots were donated to the Borough during the past five (50) years. Once this information is available the council can have a more informed discussion regarding the process.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve the donation of block 76 / lot 7 and block 77 / lot 12. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Mr. Padovano stated there were some minor issues in District two (2) when the polls opened, and the machines were down for roughly ten (10) minutes. A technician from the county was able to fix the machines and there were no further issues. Mr. Padovano also thanked all the board workers for their hard work throughout the day. Council President Hausmann asked if anything was being done regarding issues that arose yesterday. Mr. Padovano advised that the Bergen County Municipal Clerks Association was putting together a subcommittee to review all issues and address them with the County Board of Elections to avoid them in the future. Mayor Barsa informed the governing body that he received phone calls as the polls were opening advising him of the issues. He is very upset with the way things were handled and will be sending a letter to the County Board of Elections tomorrow.

Borough Attorney Report

Mr. Corrison did not have a report, however, he stated that the attorney representing Norwood EMS has not returned his phone calls.

Borough Engineer Report

Mr. Loverich stated he has been in contact with the contractor who will be paving Hemlock Court and has been told that the paving will be finished before Thanksgiving. The signage issues for the Livingston Street pedestrian safety improvements have been resolved and a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible. The bid pick up for the Kennedy Field playground is this Friday, November 10th and the bid opening is scheduled for Thursday, November 30th at 10am in Borough Hall. The bid pick up for the Demarest Street improvements will be Tuesday, November 28th and the bid opening has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 19th at 10am in Borough Hall.

Committee Reports

Council President Hausmann

Council President Hausmann told the members of the governing body that the garden has been closed for the winter. The hikes will continue on Sunday mornings at 10:30am. All Board of Health from the Environmental Health Specialist can be found in the Board of Health office. About half of the food establishments in town have responded to the grease trap ordinance and have turned in receipts. Lastly, the Borough was awarded a grant in the amount of \$207,710.00 for the phase two (2) improvements to Summit and High Streets.

Councilman Condoleo

Councilman Condoleo said the Borough has used approximately seventy-two (72) percent of the budget and we are in good shape to finish out the year.

Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese reported that the Seniors Club had their business meeting this past Monday and they are happy with the community center renovations. The TV that was delivered for the community arrived cracked and has been returned. The Borough is waiting on a new TV to arrive.

At the last Personnel Committee meeting it was agreed that beginning in January all Borough employees would be required to take online JIF classes. Each employee will be given access to a personalized portal where their class completion certificates will be stored. Mr. Padovano gave examples of some classes, such as drug and alcohol abuse education, office safety, sexual harassment, ethics in local government, and many more.

Councilman Foschino

Councilman Foschino informed the governing body that after twelve (12) weeks 361 is now back in town. Councilman Foschino thanked the Rockleigh Fire Department for allowing Norwood to keep their apparatus in the Norwood firehouse. The Assistant Chief's truck will be going to Old Tappan for repairs. During that time the Assistant Chief will borrow a vehicle from EMS. Santa will be visiting Norwood with assistance from the Fire Department on December 9th.

Over the past three (3) weeks DPW has collected over one thousand (1,000) cubic yards of leaves.

The DPW renovated the entranceway landscaping to Cobblestone Crossing. They removed what was there, added irrigation and sod, had the bricks power washed, and redesigned the landscape layout.

The replacement fencing for field one (1) and two (2) at Kennedy Field has begun.

The DPW received prior approval for a capital purchase of a utility truck. There is one (1) available at All American Ford, who is under contract.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Council President Hausmann to approve the purchase of a 2023 Ford Utility Truck with an eight (8) foot regular cab and four (4) wheel drive in the amount of \$65,635.00. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Brizzolara and Council President Hausmann compliment the DPW on the great job they are doing with leaf pickup.

The DPW is gathering quotes for solar-powered speed signs. Once the information is received Councilman Foschino will discuss it with Chief Krapels.

The flag football team, made up of first and second graders had an undefeated season. The Recreation Committee will be forming a subcommittee for the 5K and they are looking for volunteers.

Councilman Foschino informed the governing body that along with Gene Huelster, they met with representatives from Harrington Park to discuss the shared service between the recreation sports team. Councilwoman Chung, the Council liaison to Harrington Park recreation, along with the Recreation Director and Recreation Chairman attended the meeting. There were questions that needed to be answered regarding how the registration fees were spent. Another meeting should be scheduled soon. Councilman Foschino and Mr. Huelster would like to see all registration fees collected by the Borough.

Mr. Corrison said he was part of a discussion that included the CFO and the best course of action would be to have all money collected by the Borough. The individual sports would be able to have booster clubs to fundraiser.

Mayor Barsa is in agreement that Harrington Park should be contributing to the programs. When the Harrington Park Mayor becomes available, he will schedule a meeting.

Mayor Barsa allowed Mr. Huelster of 277 Rockland Avenue to speak during this portion of the meeting. Mr. Huelster gave a brief description of the October meeting that was held with Harrington Park.

Mr. Corrison suggested having Mr. Battaglia present during an upcoming work session to discuss taking all Borough recreation programs complete under the Borough's umbrella. Mayor Barsa said this can be listed for the January work session.

Councilman Brizzolara

Councilman Brizzolara advised that five (5) new homes are being built in town and there are only two (2) vacant storefronts on Livingston Street. Electric charging stations will be installed in the Dunkin Donuts parking lot. There is a light pollution issue from Livingston Street that is affecting the High Street residents. We are waiting on a start date from Rockland Electric regarding the streetlight upgrades.

Councilman Kim

Councilman Kim thanked all who came out to vote and said he is looking forward to another three (3) years on the Council. Students from both Northern Valley Old Tappan and Northern Valley Demarest had higher than average SAT scores.

The Northern Valley Greenway entered into a contract with a company to promote the project. On November 4th there was a clean up on the Greenway site sponsored by the Rotary.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

There was no one present who wished to speak.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Condoleo. All council members present approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk

