

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING & WORK SESSION
November 6, 2024
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCIL PRESIDENT CONDOLEO	COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO
COUNCILWOMAN 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 7:01 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	Absent
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present

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 23, 2024, Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2024, Mayor & Council Meeting Closed Session Minutes

Approval of the following Resolutions:

- 2024:203 Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Turnout Gear For The Norwood Fire Department Utilizing State Contracts 17-Fleet-00810, 17-Fleet-00809, 17-Fleet-00833 For An Amount Not To Exceed \$56,773.94
- 2024:204 Resolution Authorizing an Award of Contract for Scott Packs for The Norwood Fire Department Utilizing NJ State Contract 24-Fleet-61850 For an Amount Not to Exceed \$190,431.50
- 2024:218 Resolution Authorizing Electronic Tax Sale
- 2024:219 Resolution Awarding Contract for Millbrook Circle Drainage Improvements to Joseph M. Sanzari Inc.
- 2024:220 Resolution Authorizing Neglia Engineering Planning and GIS Services for Third Round and Phase I of the Fourth Round for Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, GIS Mapping, Master Plan Revisions, and Ordinance Amendments
- 2024:221 Resolution Authorizing Requests for Qualifications
- 2024:222 Resolution Authorizing a Change in the Amount of The Purchase of a Pierce Fire Custom Chassis Pumper from Fire and Safety Services from \$718,707.35 To \$831,308.33 through the Houston-Galveston Area Council ("HGAC") Purchasing Program; Contract Fs12-19
- 2024:223 Resolution Authorizing a Person-to-Person Liquor License Transfer - Norwood Liquor License LLC to 86 Beverage Group LLC
- 2024:224 Resolution for Professional Surveying, Engineering, and Bidding Services for Pedestrian Safety Improvements to Piermont Road
- 2024: 225 Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract to Borough of Old Tappan for the Repair of 2015 ODB Leaf Vacuum Unit SN#6953 Model #SCL8007M25 on an Emergency Basis
- 2024:226 Payment of Vouchers

Councilman Foschino pulled resolutions 2024:203, 2024:204 and 2024:225.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the Consent Agenda, and that the October 23, 2024, Mayor & Council Meeting minutes be approved for content and release. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Foschino stated that Resolution 2024:225, authorizing Old Tappan to make repairs to the leaf machine, needs to be increased by \$5,000.00, for an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00. Councilman Foschino advised the governing body that the engine on the ten year old leaf machine has seized and is in need of repair. The

Borough of Old Tappan has lent a spare leaf vac to Norwood until our leaf machine has been repaired.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve Resolution 2024:225. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Foschino would like Resolutions 2024:203, turnout gear for the fire department, to be approved pending confirmation from Chris Battaglia that there are enough capital funds available to cover the purchase.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve Resolution 2024:203 once Mr. Battaglia has confirmed there are enough capital funds to cover the purchase. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Foschino gave background on Resolution 2024:204, the purchase of Scott Packs using the FEMA grant that was awarded. He would like to approve this resolution pending an investigation and confirmation from Chris Battaglia that it is being done correctly.

Mr. Corrison said there is difficulty regarding the trade in portion of the Scott Packs. The Borough cannot resell the Scott Packs due to OSHA regulations.

Councilman Foschino said the Borough should not purchase more than what is needed. There are fixed costs associated with maintaining each Scott Pack.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked if this should be tabled until Mr. Battaglia confirms the purchase can include the trade ins.

Councilman Foschino said we should not wait to make the purchase because the cost of the Scott Packs will increase in December.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve Resolution 2024:204 pending confirmation from Mr. Battaglia that the purchase can proceed with the trade in as quoted. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

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 (7) points above the perfect score and has qualified for State funding.

Bench Engraving Application

Mr. Padovano advised that an application for a bench engraving has been submitted by Laura McLaughlin for a memorial bench for Mr. Peter Rinaldi Sr..

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve the bench engraving application. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

First Environment Proposal

Mr. Tracy advised that the Borough is required to have air permits for the generators as well as a spill control plan. These are both federally mandated and need to be renewed every five (5) years. This proposal will ensure we have the proper permits that are required by the EPA.

It was moved by Mayor Barsa and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the proposal. In the roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Broad Street Bridge Replacement Project

Mr. Loverich advised that a concept development report and public discussions are required to access the grants for the bridge replacement project. The bridge is functional but in less than desirable condition. A grant has been received from the Federal government for a replacement of the bridge. There are two options to replace the bridge. The option for a box culvert has been chosen as it is the most cost effective.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked when the construction would begin. Mr. Loverich said he cannot give a definite timeline but would expect to begin the design phase of the bridge in about a month. The design stage could take a few months and would then need to be reviewed and approved by DOT before construction can begin. The contract has to be awarded by September 2026.

Councilman Ascolese asked how long the bridge will be closed for. Mr. Loverich said it will most likely be closed for two to three months.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked why the grant report said the grant was awarded in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 and asked why the bridge is costing \$800,000.00. Mr. Padovano said there is \$1,000,000.00 awarded in case the project goes over the \$800,000.00.

Norwood Gardens Contract for Window and Door Replacement Work

Mr. Padovano gave background on the project. In 2020-2021 Norwood Gardens came to the governing body and asked for financial assistance in paying for repairs to the building.

Mr. Corrison said that Norwood Gardens should pay the contractor and the Borough should reimburse Norwood Gardens.

Mayor Barsa said there are a few issues with Norwood Gardens and once they resolve these issues he would be ok with releasing the payment. He would like confirmation that Norwood Gardens has the funds to pay the contractor.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

Mr. Padovano said the election went well. The lines were constant but no issues. He would like to see more machines, but that is decided on by the Board of Elections. The Clerk's Association will be submitting a letter to the Board of Elections for more machines.

Mr. Padovano advised Chief Federici has supplied him with a list of the ten (10) street lights to be replaced by Orange and Rockland.

Borough Attorney Report

Mr. Corrison said he is working on the easements for Millbrook Circle that are needed to complete the drainage. He has contacted the homeowners as their cooperation is needed. One of the two affected homeowners are in favor of the easement. He has not received approval from the second homeowner.

Mr. Loverich said he believes the homeowner is located on 15th Street.

Councilman Foschino asked that the affected residents are kept informed.

Borough Engineer Report

Mr. Loverich said the paving on High Street has been completed and the stripping will be completed in the next week.

Councilman Ascolese said they did a very nice job and worked well with the people who live on the street.

Mr. Loverich advised that the bid opening for the pickleball courts is scheduled for December 4th.

Mr. Loverich also stated that the playground should be opened shortly after Thanksgiving.

Councilman Foschino asked if the sidewalk leading from the parking lot to the playground could be cleaned. Mr. Loverich said the contracted will be back in the spring to clean it.

Committee Reports

Councilwoman Hausmann

Councilwoman Hausmann advised that the Environmental Commission is hosting a hike with the Palisades Park Commission on December 1st at 10am. It will be an informative 3-mile hike starting at the Alpine Boat Basin.

Councilwoman Hausmann stated that the food pantry is in need of donations for the Thanksgiving holiday and has requested a message go on the electronic message board and Facebook.

Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese said he attended the Seniors business meeting along with the new library Director. The library is looking to expand their Senior services. The organist from the New York Yankees will be at the library on November 12th at 6pm.

Councilman Foschino

Councilman Foschino stated that the DPW is in full swing of leaf season. There is an abundance of woodchips available for residents. One employee returned from an injury and another went out on workman's comp.

Mr. Tracy advised that the Borough has entered into a shared service with the county for use of equipment.

Councilman Foschino said the Fire Company had the Halloween parade and that it went well. A preliminary meeting was held about Norwood providing fire services to Rockleigh.

Councilman Brizzolara

Councilman Brizzolara said the Borough experienced a rebound in October compared to previous months. There has been a growth in alterations across all subcodes. A property maintenance summons was issued to a neglected property on Dyer Court.

Councilman Kim

Councilman Kim advised that the American Legion luncheon will be held on November 9th.

Councilman Kim informed the governing body that the library has hired a new Childrens Librarian.

The National Merit Scholars will be recognized at the November Northern Valley Regional Board of Education meeting in two weeks.

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 Councilwoman Hausmann. All council members present approved the motion.

Mr. Dominick Congiusti thanked Chief Federici for the donation of donuts for the Halloween parade.

Scott McDermott, 34 Wilson Drive, Sparta, NJ. Mr. McDermott is a representative from Firefighter One. Mr. McDermott stated he has been involved with the fire company for many years helping them in different capacities. Mr. McDermott said he is concerned because the grant will not cover the purchase of the Scott Packs if they move forward with the quote from NJFE. He was asked by the fire company to produce a quote for items the fire company does not currently have. The quote was provided to the fire company. He saw on the agenda that the purchase of the Scott Packs was going to be awarded to a different vendor. He does not feel that the purchase is being done correctly.

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

CLOSED SESSION

2024: 227 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to Proceed in Closed Session – Matters Relating to Contract Negotiations

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn to closed session. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara. All council members present approved the motion.

Councilman Ascolese made a motion to approve the contract extensions for Captain Sal Russino and DPW Director Rob Tracy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Foschino. All council members, with the exception of Councilman Brizzoalra, approved the motion

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk