

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK /EXECUTIVE SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2021

MAYOR BARSÀ

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ASCOLESE

COUNCILMAN ROONEY

COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN

COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA

COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO

COUNCILMAN KIM

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.

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

All members were present at roll call.

Mayor Barsa began the meeting by updating the residents on the mobile testing dates at Bergen Community College, the status of the Blanch Avenue bridge repairs, the status Blanch Avenue paving, help with scheduling COVID vaccine appointments, the new clothing donation bin, the DPW no longer accepts hazardous household waste and longtime resident Muriel Straub is turning 105 years old.

RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to approve the listed resolutions for approval. Councilman Rooney seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor Barsa asked the Council to be sure to get all documents that need to be included on the agenda to Mr. Padovano no later than the Friday before the meeting. This will allow time to set the agenda. Councilman Rooney said he will work on putting the procedure in writing so the Council is on the same page.

Mayor Barsa stated he asked the safety committee to review the procedures for using all town vehicles.

Councilman Rooney advised the Council that there will be a Zoom meeting tomorrow to discuss the budget. There is a first draft that will be examined. He feels the borough is in good shape and the budget is under the 2% increase from last years budget increase. Councilman Rooney would like the department heads to present their capital budget requests to the Council at the February work session.

Mayor Barsa said the Library is requesting the rent agreement be the same as last year.

Page Two

Mayor & Council Work/Executive Session Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2021

Mr. Padovano is working on revamping the website. He is in discussions with the current vendor to see the best way to clean up and streamline the website. He will keep the Mayor and Council apprised of all updates. Mayor Barsa asked the members of the Council to email Mr. Padovano with any recommendations or suggestions they may have.

Mayor Barsa received a rendering of what the Fire Department lettering of the vehicles would look like and he is happy with it. Councilwoman Hausmann asked if they received other renderings from different companies, usually 2-3 choices are presented. Councilman Brizzolara would like to see all borough vehicles uniformed. Chief Krapels said the police cars have guidelines from the prosecutor's office and the Attorney General that must be followed when lettering the vehicles. Mr. Congiusti said he does not want to remove the chevron from the rear of the vehicle. It is reflective and is there for safety. Councilman Rooney made a motion to approve the rendering of the lettering for the Fire Department vehicles. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Council President Ascolese advised the Council that the Planning Board discussed amending ordinance 233-26E, the height of an accessory structure, from 25 feet to 15 feet. When the height is 25 feet it allows for a second story to be added to the structure and that leads to misuse of the structure. Changing the ordinance to 15 feet will alleviate that. If there is a need to have the height at 25 feet the application can go before the Board for a variance. Councilman Foschino made a motion to approve the amended ordinance, 233-26E, from 25 feet to 15 feet. Councilwoman Hausmann seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

Councilman Foschino said he would like to enter into an agreement with the Borough of Old Tappan to use their mechanical services. The labor cost will way below the labor cost of the private sector. Mr. Corriston will look to see if the borough needs to be added to their Certificate of Insurance in case there is an accident. Mr. Padovano had spoken with JIF and was advised that private sector business did need to add the borough to their insurance. Councilman President Ascolese made a motion to approve the shared service with the Borough of Old Tappan for a mechanical contract, with the stipulation that the borough will need to be added to their Certificate of Insurance. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

Councilman Foschino informed the Council that Mr. Tessaro is permitted to designate another borough employee to write property maintenance summonses in his absence. He feels the best person for that job would be DPW Director Rob Tracy. Councilman Brizzolara asked how it is done in other towns. Mr. Tessaro said in some of his towns he has a designee. He would confer with Mr. Tracy before any summons was issued. Mr. Corriston said he is concerned that the designee does not have proper authority to issue the summons on behalf of the borough. A law enforcement officer, as well as other certain borough positions, have the authority to issue a summons. Mr. Tracy would have to issue as a private citizen and probable cause would need to be found by the Court Administrator or Judge.

Page Three

Mayor & Council Work/Executive Session Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2021

Mayor Barsa said the grant writing committee would be meeting soon to discuss the grants that would be beneficial to the borough.

Councilman Foschino said he had a meeting with EMS and some concerns arose. The first is that a new ambulance is needed and will cost around \$300,000.00. This will be discussed more in the capital meeting. EMS would like to come to a rental agreement with the borough, where the borough pays a nominal fee for EMS to house the vehicles. This will help EMS with their operating costs and maintenance of the building. They would also like a clothing allowance given to the qualifying members. Lastly, there is a vacant lot next to the EMS building that they would like to build a garage on to give them more dry space. Mayor Barsa asked Mr. Barron to get all the numbers to Councilman Rooney so they can be added into the budget.

Councilwoman Hausmann said the Environmental Commission combined with the Green Team. They attended a meeting hosted by the NJ Composting Commission that focused on a food diversion program, composting of organic household food waste introduction into a community garden. She would like to see if a composting site could be set up at the DPW or start a community garden across from borough hall. Residents could also have personal composting bins at home that could have a curbside pickup or a drop off site somewhere in town. She would also like to join the NJ Environmental Commission. It is a yearly fee of \$340.00 and they provide free webinars. Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to approve the joining of the NJ Environmental Commission. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

Mayor Barsa said there has been a difficulty scheduling a vaccine appointment, with some locations running out of vaccines. Councilwoman Hausmann said she has been working on having a vaccination site in town and there are certain steps that need to be taken. A pharmacist, doctor and location are the biggest hurdles. She feels the community center would be a good location. For the Moderna vaccine a freezer will be needed to store the vaccines.

Mr. Jacobs gave updates on the borough projects. The borough is applying for a grant that would cover the cost of the construction and professionals of the new playground. Smith Soudy has been chosen as the contractor for the road program. They are applying for a grant that will cover some of the cost. Suez will also be responsible for some of the cost due to water main work they will be completing. The Closter engineer sent the design for the bridge repair to the county and are awaiting permits. In regards to the MS4 compliance, the borough must collect 12 points per year. There are many ways to go about this and he will work with the borough to make sure we are in compliance. The construction on Oak Street will start in about 2 weeks. The Knickerbocker field needs to be taken out of service so work can begin when ready. Councilman Foschino asked who is responsible for clearing the McClellan Street sidewalk of snow, the borough or the Buckingham. Mr. Jacobs said he will speak to Mr. Fede and find out.

Page Four

Mayor & Council Work/Executive Session Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2021

Mr. Evan Chrenko, an eagle scout, gave the council a brief description of what he would like to do for his eagle scout project. He would like to place bat boxes around Kennedy Field, attached to the light poles. Mayor Barsa directed him to speak with Mr. Tracy and Neglia Engineering to make sure everything is done properly.

Mr. Corriston said his report will be discussed in closed session.

Mr. Buginsky said they recently held the rabies clinic as a drive-thru clinic and it work very well. They were able to license 56 pets.

Council President Ascolese said he is working with the labor attorney to change the wording in the employee handbook to read that a part time employee should be paid for a holiday if they were scheduled to work that holiday. It has been past practice to follow that procedure and they would like to continue that.

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Ermin Suljic said he felt having a vaccination site in the borough was a great idea. He also wanted to bring to the Council's attention that one of the dugouts was blown over. Mayor Barsa advised him that the borough is aware of the situation and all dugouts have been roped off and are off limits. The engineer is conducting a study to see if they all need to be replaced.

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

At this time the Mayor and Council went into closed session.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Buginsky, Deputy Borough Clerk