

MINTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE
COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOSCHINO
COUNCILMAN KIM

COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN
COUNCILMAN SULJIC

CALL TO ORDER

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 7:11 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
	Councilman Ascolese	Present
	Councilman Brizzolara	Present
	Council President Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present
	Councilman Suljic	Present

MAYOR’S OPENING ADDRESS

Mayor Barsa announced on that morning he held a groundbreaking ceremony for Norwood’s new Dog Park. He offered some background on the dog park by saying that the project began in 2019 when Janine Foschino brought the idea to the council. He acknowledged that it was a long road but Neglia Engineering once again came through securing the required DEP permits. The mayor also thanked the Norwood swim club which graciously allowed use of a portion of their parking lot for the project as well as thanking resident Alexandra Fruhling for taking part in the process. The mayor wished her good luck in working towards her Girl Scout Gold Award.

Mayor Barsa announced that the Norwood Food Pantry, located in the Church of the Holy Communion, is always accepting donations. Currently, the greatest need is for

condiments, canned fruit, coffee, and health and beauty aid products. There is a donation box located in the front vestibule of Borough Hall that is accessible 24 hours a day.

Mayor Barsa stated that Norwood's blood drive was a great success, with over 30 people donating. There were 32 pints collected which equates to saving 96 lives.

Norwood's Movie Night at Kennedy Field has been scheduled for Friday, October 14th. The original Ghostbusters movie will begin at 7:30pm.

The mayor stated that he began Norwood Day 15 years ago, and it has grown into an event that residents look forward to every year. He explained that Norwood Day is fully funded by the donations made by our generous residents and local businesses. There is no taxpayer money spent on this event. Because of the generosity of our donors, each year the borough is able to add something new, something that will distinguish this year's event from previous years. This year Norwood will have a very special musical guest. The Broadway cast of Jersey Boys will be in the borough to perform 10 of their top hits. Their set will begin at 2:30pm and they will be followed by the Sensational Soul Cruisers.

Mayor Barsa announced that the Norwood Recreation Committee has brought back the 5K race. The race will take place on Sunday, September 25th, the day after Norwood Day, and will begin at 9am. Anyone can register online at runsignup.com or in person the day of the race.

Mayor Barsa announced that for the next Mayors Wellness event, Healthy Norwood have teamed up with the American Cancer Society to host Making Strides Against Breast Cancer at Kennedy Field. This event will take place on Sunday, October 16th at 9am. This is the first time the American Cancer Society has hosted this event in our area.

CORRESPONDENCE

Building Department August Fee Log

Norwood Police Department August Report

Norwood Fire Department August Report

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:

August 10, 2022, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

- 2022:143 Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayment for Block 80, Lot 1
- 2022:144 Authorizing an Electronic Tax Sale
- 2022:145 Authorizing Refund of Certificate of Continued Occupancy Fee for Block 89, Lot 5
- 2022:146 Authorizing Amendment of Resolution 2022:71 for the Correct Amount of Change Order No. 2 for the Blanch Avenue Bridge Construction Guiderails Changes
- 2022:147 Certification of the Annual Audit by the Governing Body
- 2022:148 Employment of Peter Moylan as Alternate School Crossing Guard
- 2022:149 Employment of Tzuyi Lin as Alternate School Crossing Guard
- 2022:150 Approving the Corrective Action Plan for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021
- 2022:151 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement Between the Borough of Norwood, the Board of Education, and the Northern Valley Regional High School Board of Education
- 2022:152 Authorizing an Approval of Dennis Delaney's Application and Acceptance as a Junior Member of the Norwood Fire Co. No. 1
- 2022:153 Authorizing an Approval of Nicholas Varni's Application and Acceptance as a Junior Member of the Norwood Fire Co. No. 1
- 2022:154 Authorizing the Approval of Change Order No. 1 – Norwood Roof Replacement Projects
- 2022:155 Awarding of Contract to Smith-Sondy for the Walnut Street Improvements Project
- 2022:156 Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriations – Northwoods Road Paving Project
- 2022:157 Awarding of Contract to Smith-Sondy for the 2022 Municipal Road Program
- 2022:158 Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement Between the Borough of Norwood and the Northwoods Condo Association of Norwood, Inc.
- 2022:159 Payment of Vouchers

Councilman Brizzolara wanted to pull resolutions 2022:146, 2022:147, and 2022:150 from the consent agenda. Councilman Suljic wanted to pull 2022:155 through 2022:159 off the consent agenda.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Council President Foschino to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda after resolutions 2022:146, 2022:147,

2022:150, and 2022:155 through 2022:159 are removed, as well as the minutes be approved for content and release. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Brizzolara wanted an explanation from Michael Neglia about the change order for 2022:146. Michael Neglia explained that the guiderails within the plans that were designed by Boswell Engineering conflicted with a water main that was at the site. The contractor needed to put an expansion footing to help with the problem, which resulted in the change order. Councilman Suljic asked Michael Neglia if the costs for the project were being split by Norwood and Closter. Michael Neglia explained that is correct and that the water main was not in the location that it was in the drawings.

Councilman Brizzolara explained that since he only received a copy of the audit on Monday, he would like more time to review it before he votes on 2022:147 and 2022:150. The mayor explained that the Norwood CFO could not be at the meeting, but he will attend the next meeting. The mayor instructed Borough Administrator / Clerk to table resolutions 2022:147 & 2022:150 to the meeting on September 28th, 2022.

Councilman Brizzolara wanted to know what certain items in the bill list were. The first item was on page four of the bill list which was titled TREE PRUNING SERVICES – 130 Briarwood. Councilman Brizzolara wanted to know why the bill is \$5,500. DPW director Robert Tracy explained that that bill is that amount because the trees that were at that location were lifting the sidewalk. The tree service took down five trees and grinded the stumps which was reflected in the larger bill.

The second item was on page four of the bill list which was titled RAPID PUMP & METER SERVICE. Councilman Brizzolara wanted to know if there was a problem at one of our pump stations. DPW director Robert Tracy explained that the brook street pump station is old and need frequent maintenance.

The third item was on page five of the bill list which was titled TANIS CONCRETE. Councilman Brizzolara wanted to know why the \$3,700 invoice dates back to April 30th, 2022. Councilman Brizzolara explained that he doesn't need an answer right away and feels that may be a question better suited for the finance department.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve resolution 2022:146. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Suljic had a suggestion on the bill list item entitled HARTMAN EXCAVATING LLC. He suggested that the borough do better planning at obtaining topsoil. Councilman Suljic feels that we can get our topsoil from our dump in

Norwood and not pay other companies for it. Councilman Suljic also feels that the cost we incur from Rich Tree Service could be encumbered in the next contract for the dump, so we are not continuously paying the bill. Council President Foschino explained the borough of Norwood and the Borough of Harrington Park dump the grindings from the wood chipping in Norwood's dump. As a result, the borough shares a cost for the grinding.

Ermin also had a question regarding the rate of pay for the officers who do security at the school. Chief Krapels explained that the borough offers the school a discounted rate of pay for officer working in the school. The chief also explained the different rate of pay for officers working on road details, officers working in the school, and "flaggers."

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Foschino to approve resolution 2022:159. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Suljic wanted an update on the status of the shared services agreement with Northwoods. Borough Attorney Corriston explained that Northwoods has some issues to bring back to their board. He explained that the council can vote on the agreement subject to attorney review and an execution of the agreement. Any changes to the contract would have to be a material change for it to require another council vote. Councilman Suljic feels that mixing private and public entities is not a good idea because of the liabilities. He does like the contractor and the price, but he feels pressured to vote without carefully reviewing the project. Councilman Suljic feels that the council should be more careful moving forward.

Councilman Suljic wanted to address some concerns with the sidewalk on Hemlock. He feels that the design and layout of the walking path doesn't make much sense based on where it begins and ends. Councilman Suljic also wanted to know why certain alternate bids were accepted and others were not. Michael Neglia explained that there will be no tree removal in order to install the sidewalk. The path will be winding back and forth, and it will be hidden. Neglia Engineering will never start work without ascertaining all the necessary permits from any government agency. Neglia Engineering may be able to use the existing DEP permits that were taken out when Northwoods was built in order to save the borough money. Michael may have to get a permit before construction is started. Neglia is trying to get as much work for the borough done before the season shuts down. Councilman Suljic thanked Michael Neglia for his time.

Michael Neglia explained the bond ordinance procedure as per the NJ statute.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve resolutions 2022:155 through 2022:158.

Roll Call:	Councilman Ascolese	Aye
	Councilman Brizzolara	Aye
	Council President Foschino	Abstain
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Aye
	Councilman Kim	Aye
	Councilman Suljic	Abstain

Motion Carries

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council President Foschino:

Council President Foschino did not receive an EMS report from Chief Barron. Council President Foschino mentioned they will be sitting down with the borough of Northvale EMS to discuss their need to use Norwood's ambulance.

Council President Foschino had nothing to report from the Fire Department.

Council President Foschino mentioned that September is National Preparedness Month. The goal is to raise awareness of the importance of being prepared for emergencies that could happen at any time. He mentioned that Ready.gov is a very useful website that provides information to help people be prepared in case of an emergency or disaster. Council President Foschino asked Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano to put the links on the Borough website and Facebook page.

Council President Foschino reminded residents that he and DPW Director Tracy implemented the use of the Recycle Coach app. It's a free app that can be downloaded for an iPhone or android device.

Council President Foschino explained that he recently sat down with Director Tracy and Chris Jackson to review the shade tree ordinance. They were able to revise the current ordinance to make it more streamlined and beneficial to residents. It was agreed upon that the Shade Tree Committee and the Environmental Commission would work together to revise the ordinance. Council President Foschino announced he will be scheduling a meeting between both entities to finalize a revised ordinance that will hopefully simplify the process for not only residents but employees as well. Council President Foschino was hopeful that a draft ordinance will be ready and listed as a discussion item at the next council meeting.

Council President Foschino also requested that the shared service agreement with Harrington Park for field maintenance be placed on the agenda for the next work

session. The shared service with Harrington Park has expired and before moving forward with a new agreement Council President Foschino believes the council should discuss the matter further.

The DPW met with the library to help with roof and waterflow issues. They are also having issues with their HVAC system, as well as the parking lot pavement. The borough pre-approved contractors have been contacted regarding the problems. There may need to be some emergency appropriations to help pay for these problems.

The Recreation Committee purchased 4 new soccer goals to be split between Kennedy and Trackside fields. There were some logistical issues with the 5K planning. Council President Foschino thanked Alan Gettis and Mitch Rosenthal for pointing the recreation committee in the correct direction.

Councilman Brizzolara:

Councilman Brizzolara stated that the Immaculate Conception Church on Summit Street recently took out some permits to do renovations to the church, parking lot, and entrance. There are two large residential building projects are happening on Piermont. There is a new pharmacy going in on the ground level of The Grande opposite the dentist's office. A liquor store will be occupying a storefront at the new smaller building at 521 Livingston St.

Councilman Kim:

Councilman Kim thanked Council President Foschino and Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano for meeting with the library and helping them with the problems they are having. The first in-person greenway meeting will be taking place on September 15th. Councilman Kim explained that the roofs and pavement were repaired at the Northern Valley Regional High School. Councilman Kim stated that some members of the public spoke out against sex education curriculum. Parents will be able to opt out of the curriculum. Also, vape sensors will be installed in the bathrooms at the high school.

Councilman Kim explained the mandated training implemented at Norwood Public Schools. He also explained the different retirements and new hires taking place within the school. The updated curriculum was voted on and passed. The most significant change was the requirement to implement the health and PE standards that were adopted in 2020, which includes sex education from Pre-K to 8th grade.

Councilwoman Hausman:

The Zoning Board of Adjustment met on August 17th to review further requests from Valley Transportation related to expanding the bus parking lot. The application was approved.

The Board of Health met on September 12th. The nurse health consultant program moved from the Library to Foxhill complex. The Blood Borne Pathogen training for the Norwood EMS is 90% complete. Health inspection reports were reviewed.

The Environmental Commission's area of the community garden in town is in full bloom. Councilwoman Hausmann invited the community to go and take what is needed. There will be a community garden day on September 17th. Councilwoman Hausmann thanked Karin Rosenthal and Brielle Olshan for working tirelessly on garnering help from the students at the valley program and from residents at Spectrum for Living. Those two organizations will be on a watering schedule during the week. The local participation has been very rewarding to see.

The hikes are going strong every Sunday and there is a very nice turnout each week. The hikes will be moved to 11:30am starting in the month of October. The EC is looking into scheduling a naturalist to come and lead a hike.

Phil Maljevic from the EC and George from Bryan Electric will be present at the September 26th meeting to present the Electric Vehicle charging station information to the council.

The EC has been working on the tree ordinance for over a year. The EC will make a presentation on the newly proposed clear cutting / tree preservation ordinance on October 26th as agreed upon by the mayor. The EC has done their due diligence and reviewed different tree ordinances from surrounding towns. Councilwoman Hausmann explained that when this topic came up last, it was agreed without objection by the mayor and council to hear the presentation from the EC on October 26th. At that meeting is when input will be taken from the governing body and residents alike. Councilwoman Hausmann feels that having meetings outside the scope of the EC is disrespectful. Councilwoman Hausmann wanted to hear from each councilmember about how they think this revision of the ordinance should be handled.

Councilwoman Hausmann also was honored to be invited to the new teacher appreciation dinner hosted by the Board of Education on September 12th. Councilwoman Hausmann asked Chief Krapels about the removal of a crossing guard during the school day. Chief Krapels explained that a crossing guard decided to quit the job at 2:00pm. He further explained that he used to have a 20-person crossing guard unit, which has since dwindled to 10. He has been in communication with the Superintendent to let the parents know that this is a temporary situation. Chief Krapels is working on reassessing and realigning, but for the immediate problem they are looking to replace. A discussion was held regarding the advertising of crossing guards' positions and the hiring process.

Councilwoman Hausmann questioned the correlation between the reduction in ticket issuance with the influx of motor vehicle accidents.

Councilman Suljic feels that Council President Foschino has a lot of projects going on and that he is doing a great job. He does not see the shade tree Committee adequately fitting in with this ordinance. A discussion was held on what constitutes a shade tree. He does not feel that the shade tree Committee should have cross interference with the efforts of the environmental commission.

Councilman Ascolese feels that the EC has done the work for this long, the council should hear from them first and then merge the two ideas.

Councilman Kim does not know the details and specifics. He feels that two ideas are better than one and the 2 groups should work together. If the October date is already committed to, then the council should respect that.

Councilman Brizzolara feels that if the council is on a path to hear the ordinance in October, then we should stay on that path. Councilman Brizzolara doesn't see the rush behind moving it up a month. He stated that the Shade Tree Committee is non-functioning, and they should bring their opinions in October.

Council President Foschino stated that the reason it is important to have the Shade Tree Committee involved in the process is because Rob Tracy will be the one enforcing the new ordinance. The Shade Tree Committee met to have come up with a better ordinance that does not bog down our employees with paperwork and labor. Council President Foschino explained that the draft ordinance that was received from the Environmental Commission was 17 pages long. Council President Foschino does not agree with charging residents escrow if they want to take down a 6-inch caliber tree. Council President Foschino feels that under the new draft ordinance, the borough is taking ownership over the residents' trees. The mayor and council agreed that the Environmental Commission and Shade Tree Committee would work together and be transparent together. Council President Foschino stated that he invited Brille Olshan to the meeting, but she never received them. He read from the Mayor and Council meeting minutes from the meeting on September 22, 2021:

The tree ordinance in town needs some fixing. The ordinance was originally designed to limit clearcutting in a specific neighborhood of Norwood. Mayor Barsa asks the Council how they would like the ordinance revised. Council President Ascolese feels that this was to prevent homeowners from taking down all the trees on their property. Discussion held on the definition of clear cutting. Council President Ascolese feels that this ordinance doesn't limit clear cutting, but just prolongs it. Councilwoman Hausmann stated that every town has a shade tree ordinance.

As liaison to the Environmental Commission, the EC feels that they should look at the ordinance and come up with a plan of attack and bring ideas back to the council. Councilwoman Hausmann feels that with the new membership on the EC, it would be a very worthwhile endeavor to have them look at the ordinance. Mayor Barsa would like to have the Environmental commission look at the ordinance with the help of the Shade Tree Committee. Discussion held on the patrolling and enforcement of the ordinance. Councilwoman Hausmann would like to see the clear-cutting ordinance go into the new residents packets that are handed out.

Motion by Councilman Brizzolara to throw the ordinance to the Environmental Commission and the Shade Tree Committee and have them revise it. Second by Councilman Foschino. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

Councilwoman Hausmann stated that she discussed this with Council President Foschino at the League of Municipalities Conference in November of 2021. Councilwoman Hausmann said that Council President Foschino insisted that the Shade Tree Committee be separate because the Shade Tree Committee has to cut down trees and Council President Foschino has to sign the invoices. Councilwoman Hausmann stated that she has given Environmental Commission updates at every meeting since then and no councilmembers ever said anything regarding the ordinance. Councilwoman Hausmann told Council President Foschino to bring up any issues with the ordinance on October 26th. Council President Foschino stated that he tried to bring the two groups together on this issue and it did not get resolved.

Councilman Suljic:

Councilman Suljic welcomes to mayor to give him more assignments. The playground equipment subcommittee has concluded their research and is ready to meet with the larger committee at the end of September.

Councilman Ascolese:

Councilman Ascolese explained that the town will be creating an action plan that will be useful for future grant applications. He also stated that the Personnel Committee will be bringing up a topic next month at the work session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

Sherine Solomon – 188 Kensington

Spoke about the crossing guard post that was left empty. She let the chief of police know that at least 6 children cross at that post. There is no enforcement at the intersection, and she is worried about her children having to walk in the road due to the lack of sidewalks in the area. She also stated that if Northvale can advertise for crossing guards, why can't Norwood.

Ellen Siegel – 414 Dogwood

Requested an appointment with Michael Neglia to review the Hemlock walking path plan.

Rosemary Engmann – 76 Briarwood

Wanted an update on the crosswalks and sidewalks needed in town, specifically on Piermont and county roads. Michael Neglia is making a request to the county to place a crosswalk by the Dunkin Donuts on Livingston. They are also requesting a crosswalk near Briarwood. The crosswalk by Kennedy Field will be included with the playground redesign project but will also need county approval. The Borough is trying to apply for funding for the Piermont projects which can take some time.

Angela Alberti – 328 Westwind

Clarified any confusion regarding the nursing visits from the county. The nurses are meeting monthly at the senior club meetings, then move to Foxhill which is closed to the public.

Allen Rapaport – 844 Hemlock Court

Wanted to address the Northwoods conversation as the associations board president. Borough Attorney Kevin Corrison and Northwoods' attorney John Roman have been in contact. Mr. Rapaport ensured the association will do everything they need to do to protect the residents. Mr. Rapaport wanted to clarify that the Northwoods Organization is a very solvent organization and can afford to pay for these types of projects. He stated that it is the residents' democratic right to be questioning of any elected official or borough professional. Mr. Rapaport emphasized that Neglia Engineering will do everything correct and is willing to meet with any resident and they will never start a project without having all the necessary permits.

Mr. Rapaport does not understand the tree ordinance debate. He gave some background on the original tree ordinance. He feels that Council President Foschino's idea of involving employees in the process is a great idea and he also feels that Councilwoman Hausmann's idea of involving the residents is a great idea as well. He feels that the entire council should make it work.

Phil Maljevic – 193 Piermont

Feels that Norwood Day donation requests can be publicized more. The mayor explained that donation requests go in the mail with the tax bill. Mr. Maljevic wanted to make sure the 5K race is on the website as well. Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano ensured that it is on the borough website's homepage. Mr. Maljevic also wants the information regarding the Recycle Coach app that Council President Foschino mentioned in his committee report linked to the borough's online sites. Council President Foschino mentioned that the information is on the DPW Facebook page and website. Mr. Maljevic wants to know more from Councilman Kim about the Greenway project. Mr. Maljevic also was not aware that a shade tree committee existed and wants to know more about it.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk