

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK/EXECUTIVE SESSION
JULY 14, 2021

MAYOR BARSÀ	
COUNCIL PRESIDENT ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO	COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN
COUNCILMAN KIM	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	Absent
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Absent
	Councilman Kim	Absent
	Councilman Rooney	Present

Mayor Barsa took a moment to explain the ordinance which is on the agenda pertaining to cannabis. Mayor Barsa explained that for a resident to see a decrease in their tax bill due to cannabis revenue brought into the borough, revenue has to be at least \$121,000.00. That \$121,000.00 is equal to one tax point which would result in an average tax decrease of \$55.00. Mayor Barsa stated the fact that approximately 60% of our residents voted to legalize marijuana in the State of New Jersey. The purpose of that vote was specifically regarding legalization, not for approval of cannabis-based businesses in town. He explained that the decision of whether to permit or prohibit cannabis businesses of any kind in the borough has been discussed in detail at two prior Mayor & Council meetings. We heard from our Council members, Police Chief, and Borough Attorney as well as anyone from the public who wished to speak on the issue. Mayor Barsa said that the municipality must decide no later than August, as to whether we choose to opt out of allowing cannabis businesses to operate in town. Opting out does not mean the borough can never allow cannabis businesses in town. Opting out grants the governing body the time to gather as much information as possible so they can make an informed decision. Norwood can opt in anytime within the next five years. If Norwood were to opt in before the August deadline, we are

locked in. He also explained that Norwood reached out to municipalities in the Northern Valley and Pascack Valley area to see how those municipalities have voted on this issue. All the towns that responded back in the Northern and Pascack valleys voted to opt out. For a complete list of the towns which were surveyed, and their responses please contact the Borough Clerk's office.

Mayor Barsa wanted to make clear that it has always been his goal to represent the residents of this town to the best of his ability. It the governing body's job to represent the public's best interests and the best interests of the town we all call home.

Mayor Barsa also explained that the borough has not issued two new liquor licenses. Current licenses are being transferred from one entity to another. The borough has not received or asked for any new liquor licenses. Also, the project on Livingston Street brings in tax revenue of approximately \$111, 115.80 per year. The businesses that will be opening in this project, as well as at The Grande, will be bringing employment opportunities to the town.

Mayor Barsa recapped the 4th of July fireworks by saying that they were even more specular than years past. The snack shed was open and did a great job providing food and drinks to the spectators. One hundred percent of the proceeds went directly to Norwood's recreation program. He thanked the Norwood police department, DPW, fire department and all the other towns that helped the event go smoothly.

The Mayor also went on to explain the new Burbio app being introduced to the Borough of Norwood. Burbio is a free app to both the borough and the residents. With Burbio you can access the borough calendar, including all meetings, public school calendar, high school calendar and others with ease. The public can also pick and choose which calendars they would like access to.

The Mayor thanked Councilman Foschino for taking the time to research this and for his continued communication with Burbio to have Norwood be a part of this service.

The Mayor also touched on the hiring of a grant writer for Norwood. Mayor Barsa also explained that registration is currently open for the Norwood Raiders and Cheer, as well as Norwood Soccer.

Lastly, the Mayor stressed that the borough website and the borough Facebook page are the only sources for true and accurate information for borough business. On these pages the public will not find opinions or personal views, but correct information regarding all facets of the borough.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Mayor stated that there are several pieces of correspondence which are available at the Municipal Clerk's office.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance 2021:04 An Ordinance Amending Article IX Titled "Affordable Housing Requirements" in Chapter 233 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood to Include Mandatory Affordable Housing Set-Aside Requirements.

(Public hearing will be held on August 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM)

The Mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Council President Ascolese, second by Councilman Rooney, that Ordinance 2021:04 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on August 11th 2021.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Foschino, Rooney

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance 2021:05 An Ordinance Amending Article VII Titled “Light Industrial” in Chapter 233 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood to Establish an Affordable Housing Overlay Zoning District.

(Public hearing will be held on August 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM)

The Mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Rooney, second by Council President Ascolese, that Ordinance 2021:05 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on August 11th 2021.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Foschino, Rooney

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance 2021:06 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 233 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood to Establish an Affordable Housing Special Needs (A.H.S.N.) Zoning District.

(Public hearing will be held on August 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM)

The Mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Council President Ascolese, second by Councilman Foschino, that Ordinance 2021:06 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on August 11th 2021.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Foschino, Rooney

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance 2021:07 An Ordinance Establishing Salaries or Wages of Officials and Employees of the Borough of Norwood.

(Public hearing will be held on August 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM)

The Mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Foschino, second by Council President Ascolese, that Ordinance 2021:07 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on August 11th 2021.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Foschino, Rooney

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance 2021:08 An Ordinance by Norwood in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey to Amend and Supplement Chapter 233 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood with a New Article Entitled “Article XXI Cannabis” so as to Prohibit the Operation of any Class of Cannabis Businesses within the Geographical Boundaries of the Borough of Norwood.

(Public hearing will be held on August 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM)

The Mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Rooney, second by Council President Ascolese, that Ordinance 2021:08 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on August 11th 2021.

Roll Call

Aye: Ascolese, Foschino, Rooney

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Barsa reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda and asked if any Council Member wished to remove an item. Mayor Barsa asked for a motion approving the Consent Agenda consisting of the following items.

Council President Ascolese had a question on resolution 2021:137. He wanted to know how the amount of the lien on 819 Blanch was determined. Councilman

Foschino explained that the number in the resolution was determined by the amount of time and materials used by the DPW. Council President Ascolese was in agreement.

Approval of the following resolutions:

2021:134 Approving the Hiring of Christopher Jackson as the Construction Office Assistant

2021:135 Approving the Hiring of Paula Tate as Administrative Office Assistant

2021:136 Authoring Redemption of Tax Title Lien for 151 Piermont Road

2021:137 Authorizing Placement of Property Maintenance Lien at 819 Blanch Avenue

2021:138 Approving Refund of Escrow for 9 Lamar Place

2021:139 Approving Refund of Escrow for 19 Janice Drive

2021:140 Approving Refund of Escrow for 100 Piermont Road

2021:141 Approving Refund of Escrow for Field Use to Industrial Rivet & Fastener Company

2021:142 Approval to Submit Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Resurfacing of Walnut Street

2021:143 Approving Construction Management Services Proposal for 2020 Road Program

2021:144 Payment of Vouchers

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Council President Ascolese to approve the Consent Agenda. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL

2021:145 Authorizing Appointment of Municipal Representatives to Bergen County Community Development Regional Committee

The Council chose Councilman Foschino as its representative and Councilman Rooney as its alternate. Mayor Barsa chose Jordan Padovano as his representative and Council President Ascolese as the alternate.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2021:145 authorizing the transfer. The motion was forwarded by Council President Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Rooney. All councilmembers present voted in favor of the motion.

2021:146 Resolution to Appropriate Funds/Authorize Issuance of Debt in the Event of a Funding Shortfall

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2021:146. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Rooney, seconded by Council President Ascolese. All councilmembers present voted in favor of the motion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Resolutions 2021:145 & Resolutions 2021:146
Already discussed previously in the meeting.
- Tree Removal Application – 145 Piermont Road
Councilman Foschino stated this a simple application. The resident is looking to remove 7 dead and dangerous trees from their property, which has a total of 45 trees. With no questions presented, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve the application. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Council President Ascolese. All councilmembers present voted in favor of the motion.
- Eagle Scout Projects
Eagle Scouts Kevin McLaughlin and Peter Stonisch presented their Eagle Scout Service Projects to the Mayor and Council.

Mr. McLaughlin proposed to rename Norwood Duck Pond to “Heroes Pond.” His project would also include the installation of a sign, flagpole with and American flag and POW flag, solar light, medallions for each military branch, and plants. All expenses will be covered by donations and fundraising. The Mayor encouraged Mr. McLaughlin to reach out to the Construction Official Gino Tessaro when he is ready for the installation. Council President Joseph Ascolese advised Mr. McLaughlin to contact the American Legion for support. The Mayor and Council expressed their support of this project, and a motion was made by Councilman Rooney and seconded by Councilman Foschino. All councilmembers present voted in favor of the project.

Mr. Stonisch plans to build three benches and two birdhouses at the pond near Kennedy field as his Eagle Scout Service Project. He plans to reuse and modify the existing concrete slabs for the benches. The birdhouses will also get concrete footing. The Mayor encouraged Mr. Stonisch to reach out to the Construction Official Gino Tessaro when he is ready for the installation. The Mayor and Council expressed their support of this project, and a motion was

made by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Council President Ascolese. All councilmembers present voted in favor of the project.

- Grant Writing

Councilman Foschino brought to the council's attention the Demarest Fire Chief, Jason Faryniak, who is a grant writer for emergency service needs. He works for a flat rate. Councilman Foschino pointed out that because the majority of Norwood's needs for grants stem from our emergency services, he feels this is a good option to explore and that we should reach out to him and have a discussion. Councilman Rooney added that since this Grant writer's specialty is fire, ambulance, and safety and since it is specific to those services, we would not have to go out to bid for this service. Attorney Kevin Corrison added that no grant writer hire needs a bid process. Councilman Rooney added that this grant writer is very reputable and has been doing this service for a while. The council agreed to explore this option at the next meeting.

- Kennedy Park Bench Engraving Program

Councilman Foschino is looking to start a program similar to what Ship Bottom, NJ started. It would allow residents to purchase a bench which would include engraving. Benches would be around the walking path in Kennedy Field. The application would come before the mayor and council for approval. The cost of the bench would be covered by the resident. The cost would be approximately \$900. It is a first come first serve basis. The Borough would not put any money out. Forms would come to the Borough Administrator / clerk and then the council would approve. Motion to move forward with the bench engraving program by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Council President Ascolese. All councilmembers present voted in favor of the project.

- Tiner/Norwood Land Swap

Attorney Kevin Corrison stated we got the estimates from the appraiser. The value of the property we are receiving is greater than the value of the property we are losing. Discussion was held regarding the size, value, and use of the lots among the council, Mayor, Borough Attorney, and Borough Engineer. There will be no landlocked land. It will still be accessible from the road. There are no wetlands on this lot. Council President Ascolese would have to recuse himself when action needs to be taken due to a conflict. Since there will be no quorum without the Council President at this meeting, the matter needs to be tabled. This matter would ultimately have to go to the planning board because a subdivision would be required.

- Borough Administrator Report

No Report

- Borough Clerk Report

Jordan Padovano thanked the Mayor & Council for his appointment to the Borough Clerk position at the last meeting. He stated it is truly an honor to be working for such a great municipality.

- Borough Attorney Report

Borough Attorney is working on readjusting the Police organizational chart. Also working on grass height and property maintenance ordinance. The Jones subdivision might have some action on that. Hopefully the bond will not have to be pulled. There is an issue with the Davies project regarding the streetscape.

- Borough Engineer Report

Paving for 2020 road program will be starting within the next few weeks. Closures will be posted. The result of the bat survey for the Blanch Ave bridge will take around 1-2 weeks to receive. County will be fixing the drainage on Blanch Ave. Dog park documents were submitted to the DEP but will require significant mapping. We may need to reduce the footprint of the property. Neglia took a look at 930 Broadway where a small sinkhole developed. No issues with the sewerage line and the county found a leaking water line. There is an ongoing issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Rooney: The Norwood Fire department had an exceptionally busy month of June. There were 700-man hours put in and 500 hours of that were attending calls. Councilman Rooney stated we owe so much to our volunteers. In terms of finance, Councilman Rooney wanted to remind the public that property taxes are due August 1st. If there are any questions, residents can reach out to the finance department.

Council President Ascolese: Council President Ascolese has the Police Department's report for June. The PBA contract is up in December of this year. The first negotiating session was at the end of June and another scheduled for the end of July.

Council President Ascolese read Councilman Brizzolara's committee report. He stated that the projects on Livingston street will be completed in November of 2021. There are 6 new homes built and the Derecole property sold. This leaves 2 open lots remaining.

Councilman Foschino: Councilman Foschino stated that the Christopher Barron did not submit his monthly report but will submit it for the next meeting, however the DPW report is available. Councilman Foschino commended the DPW and emergency responders for their life saving mission during the June 8th storm. The 14th street circle project is underway with new upgrades to irrigation and new landscaping. There will also be upgrades to Summit Street and the library. The DPW will be coordinated with Neglia Engineering to fix the flooding issue at the library. The first negotiating meeting regarding the DPW contract was held this week and the next meeting will be in August. There was a meeting with Harrington Park regarding their using our composting facility. The Borough Clerk will follow up with the timeline on this issue. Discussion was held on the specifics of the composting facility. 3 primary salt spreaders are down and will be repaired and should get 5 or 6 more years out of them.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Council President Joseph Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Rooney.

Wendy Heffernan – 374 Summit: Commented on the Cannabis Ordinance and is in support of playing it safe and opting out for now.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Rooney and seconded by Council President Ascolese. All councilmembers present approved the motion.

CLOSED SESSION

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion to come before the Council, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Rooney and seconded by Council President Ascolese. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:14PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk

