

MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
WORK/EXECUTIVE SESSION  
APRIL 27, 2022  
7:00 PM

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|                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE        | MAYOR BARSÀ           |
| COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOSCHINO | COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA |
| COUNCILMAN KIM             | COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN |

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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 |
|            | Councilman Ascolese        | Absent  |
|            | Councilman Brizzolara      | Present |
|            | Council President Foschino | Present |
|            | Councilwoman Hausmann      | Present |
|            | Councilman Kim             | Present |
|            | Vacant Seat                | N/A     |

Mayor Barsa stated that Councilman John Rooney has made the decision to resign from the Council. Councilman Rooney would have been finishing his fourth term on the Council this year. John was instrumental in the budget process and served as Norwood’s Fire Commissioner. A resident since 1990, John has volunteered in many positions throughout the town, from Boy Scouts to a position on his church’s council. It was an honor and a privilege to work alongside Councilman Rooney. Always a gentleman, John did what he felt was best for the Borough, never acting based on political affiliation. This will be a big seat to fill, and it is the mayor’s hope that those new to the Council will learn from Councilman Rooney. The mayor wished Councilman Rooney all the best in his future endeavors and thanked him for the dedication he has shown to the Borough.

The mayor announced that today is Administrative Professionals Day, and he began by thanking the staff at Borough Hall. Everyone in the building contributes greatly to the operations of the Borough and their hard work and dedication to the town and the residents is seen in not only the efficient way the day-to-day operations are run, but also by the relationships the staff has formed with residents throughout the years. They all go above and beyond to help in any way they can, and their efforts are recognized and appreciated.

Mayor Barsa announced that Norwood had a very successful Mayors Wellness Community Clean Up event this past weekend. He thanked the Environmental Commission for working closely with

planning the event. With crews picking up trash at Kennedy Field and cleaning up the garbage that has made its way into the trees behind the library, there were quite a few bags of litter to dispose of. The mayor also thanked Council President Foschino for donating two of his trucks and drivers for the duration of the events to help dispose of the filled trash bags.

Mayor Barsa stated that Tonight, he will be signing our 2022 Arbor Day Proclamation. This year Arbor Day is Friday April 29th. Trees play a vital role in the health of the environment and in our physical and mental health. The Borough will continue our efforts to protect the trees in our town and promote the planting of new trees whenever possible. To help teach the importance of trees he will be joining the 3rd grade at Norwood Public School this Friday in planting a new sapling.

The mayor stated that May is National stigma free month and next Wednesday, May 4th, he will be unveiling the “Norwood is Stigma Free” sign at Kennedy Field. He wanted all residents to know that the borough will not tolerate any type of labeling, bullying or negative characterizations of anyone for any reason. Following the unveiling there will be a two mile walk around the path.

The mayor announced that property taxes are due May 1st, with a 10-day grace period. Taxes can be paid in person during business hours, through the mail, left in the secure drop box in the front vestibule or online through our Borough website.

The mayor announced that baseball and softball season is officially underway. Games began Monday night, and the start of the season parade is this Saturday, April 30th. The parade will begin at the firehouse at 9am and end here at Kennedy Field. There will then be a full day of baseball and softball games.

Lastly, Mayor Barsa reminded residents of Norwood’s poster submissions for our first annual Project Clean and Green and currently being accepted. This year’s theme is “What Does Recycling Mean to You”. All children in the 5th through 8th grade are eligible to enter. Posters can be dropped off at the Clerk’s office in Borough Hall.

### PROCLAMATION

Mayor Barsa announced the proclamation being made tonight to declare April 29<sup>th</sup> as Arbor Day in Norwood.

Councilman Brizzolara stated that he greatly admired Councilman Rooney. He always received the most votes in any election. His questioning attitude while maintaining a jovial demeanor was something he held in high regard.

Councilman Brizzolara also stated that the desire for the council to hold a special meeting, without an emergency forcing such, is unprecedented. The next council meeting is on May 11<sup>th</sup>, which is two weeks away. Councilman Brizzolara feels that 2 weeks is more than enough time to decide on a name to fill the vacancy. Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to hold the decision to replace Councilman Rooney at the next meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann.

In a roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brizzolara, and Hausmann

Absent: Councilman Ascolese

Nays: Council President Foschino and Councilman Kim

There being two (2) ayes and two (2) nays the vote goes to the mayor in the event of a tie.

The mayor voted nay to the motion. Motion was not carried.

Council President Foschino made a motion to hold the decision to replace Councilman Rooney at a special meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Kim.

In a roll call vote:

Ayes: Council President Foschino and Councilmembers Kim, and Hausmann

Absent: Councilman Ascolese

Nays: Councilman Brizzolara

There being three (3) ayes and one (1) nay the motion was carried.

The special meeting to decide on Councilman Rooney's replacement will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

#### PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2022:04 Bond Ordinance to authorize the making of various public improvements and the acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery and new automotive vehicles, including original apparatus and equipment, in, by and for the Borough of Norwood, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, to appropriate the sum of \$2,586,000 to pay the cost thereof, to make a down payment, to authorize the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation and to provide for the issuance of bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds.

It was moved by Council President Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Foschino to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Council President Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve Ordinance 2022:04.

On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Council President Foschino, and Councilmembers Brizzolara, Hausmann, and Kim

Absent:, and Councilman Rooney

Nays: None

There being six (4) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2022:04 was approved.

#### 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:

April 13, 2022, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2022:80 Resolution of the Governing Body's Certification of Compliance with the U.S.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (Tabled from 4/13/22)

2022:90 Authorizing a Contract with Bruno Associates, Inc. for Grant Writing

Services

2022:91 Payment of Vouchers

Approval of Resolutions 2022:80, and 2022:90 through 2022:91 and approval of the April 13, 2022 Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes was motioned by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Bench Engraving Approval:

Motion by Councilwoman Hausmann and second by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the bench engraving application. In the roll call vote, Council President Foschino abstained from the vote and all remaining Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carries.

Shared Service Agreement with Harrington Park – Norwood Compost Facility:

Council President Foschino wanted to table the discussion until a meeting with Harrington Park can be arranged and this topic further discussed. The mayor agreed.

Borough Purchasing Card:

CFO Christopher Battaglia explained that a purchasing card is similar to a credit card designed for municipalities. The card can be customized to be as strict or as lenient as the Borough prefers. Employees would have to gain access by request only to the Borough Administrator / Clerk. There is also a rebate program associated with the card. This card would replace employee reimbursement that we are currently operating under. Councilwoman Hausmann feels like this would be a great idea to reduce vouchers, and suggested that DPW Director Tracy get his own card, and the rest of the borough operated under the card to be kept by the Borough Administrator / Clerk.

Motion by Councilman Brizzolara and second by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve moving forward with a purchasing card. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carries.

Possible Resolution Opposing A1294/S2103 and its Impact on Flood-Prone Properties:

Mayor Barsa explained bill A1294 / S2103 that is currently making its way through the legislature in New Jersey. It was explained that this new bill would allow applicants to circumvent zoning laws in municipalities. Borough Attorney Kevin Corrison further explained that a resolution from the borough would be like sending a message to the legislature that we are not in support of the bill.

Motion by Councilwoman Hausmann and second by Councilman Brizzolara to approve moving forward with the resolution. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carries.

### Budget Items

Councilman Brizzolara had some questions regarding the 2022 budget, specifically increases in the following accounts, Construction Code Official S&W; Aid to Volunteer Ambulance Corp, Other Public Works Functions, Vehicle Maintenance, Buildings & Grounds, Recreation, and Sewer Processing and Disposal.

Mayor Barsa explained that the increase in salaries and wages in the construction office was a result of the new hire. The ambulance corps is now going to be receiving rent for their building as well as the clothing allowance, much like the fire department.

Council President Foschino answered Councilman Brizzolara's questions regarding the increases in the DPW budget, with explanations. Councilman Brizzolara was satisfied and had no further questions.

Council President Foschino questioned Councilwoman Hausmann with the increase in the Environmental Commission's budget, specifically the \$2500 increase that is labeled "community gardens", and a stipend for an intern.

Councilwoman Hausmann explained that the intern would be to help the environmental commission with their social media accounts, as well to assist them with fact finding and new reporting. It would be a paid position. The council agreed that if they will be getting paid it, they should be treated as an employee to the borough. Councilwoman Hausmann stated that she will bring it back to the Environmental Commission.

Councilwoman Hausmann also explained that the \$2500 for the community garden would be for more plots at the library location. Council President Foschino stated that he would let DPW Director Tracy know that there is an additional \$2500 towards construction of the community garden. He also stated that it would be good for the DPW and Environmental Commission to work together on this project. Councilwoman Hausmann agreed.

Councilwoman Hausmann had questions about the increase of the Bergen County Utilities Authority budget. Michael Neglia stated that this increase is across many municipalities and that he will reach out to BCUA and get a conversation started about the increase.

#### Borough Administrator/Clerk Report:

Voter registration deadline is May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked a question about the borough's bronze status award from the Joint Insurance Fund and how that can be improved. Chief Krapels answered as the Safety Liaison and explained that since the borough missed our December quarterly meeting due to Covid, we fell below on the points scale.

#### Borough Attorney Report:

There was an issue with the DPW and an OSHA violation which was resolved.

There is a pending litigation going on with Jones property and a neighboring property which can be discussed further in closed session at the next meeting.

#### Borough Engineer Report:

Engineer Michael Neglia reported that the dugouts are coming along, and Plescia Roofing is doing all the work for free. The fencing quote came in today and Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano understandably did not add this item to the agenda due to timing. In the interest of timing, I would ask the governing body tonight to approve this quote and to move forward so we can get the fencing installed before the season. Motion by Council President Foschino second by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve moving forward with the fencing resolution. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carries.

Neglia continued in saying that the Knickerbocker field could potentially be opened in June. The engineer will not release the field until the grass seed has taken hold.

The dog park project is currently out to bid, and the timing of the work is all dependent on the arrival of the fence and supplies. There will be no construction during the months that the swim club is open.

#### 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 councilmembers present voted in favor of the motion

Ed Condeleo – 81 Summit Street

Complimented the council on a job well done for the budget. With spiking inflation now, it is a tough process to go through during these times. I would suggest trying to maximize the revenue

side of things. I recall replacing the pump stations when I was on the council. Michael Neglia explained that the other pump station was replaced.

John Rooney – 223 Rockland Ave

Thank you all for the kind words. I believe the purchasing card is a good idea and is a very efficient way of doing business.

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

### CLOSED SESSION

2022:92 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session  
– Employment Matters

Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Council President Foschino, and unanimously agreed that 2022:92 Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to proceed in Closed Session – Employment Matters be approved. The meeting temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 8:38 PM.

### RETURN TO OPEN

The meeting resumed in open session at 10:00 PM.

Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilwoman Hausmann, and unanimously agreed to make Matthew Rooney a police officer for Norwood pending the passing of all tests and the police academy. All councilmembers present approved the motion via a roll call vote.

Motion by Council President Foschino, second by Councilman Brizzolara, and unanimously agreed to make Matthew Dottino a police officer for Norwood pending the passing of all tests and the police academy. All councilmembers present approved the motion via a roll call vote.

### 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 10:01PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano  
Borough Clerk