

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2022
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE
COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOSCHINO
COUNCILMAN KIM

COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN
COUNCILMAN SULJIC

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 7:00 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	Absent
	Councilman Suljic	Present

The mayor thanked all the candidates for their tenacity and willingness to volunteer their time to the residents of Norwood. He also congratulated Councilman Anthony Foschino, Ed Condoleo, Julie Lee, and Jennifer Eisberg for their wins.

Our Norwood Public School volleyball team has won their second consecutive championship in the Northern Valley Elementary School Tournament. They had tough competition but once again came out on top. Congratulations to all players and coaches on this impressive win.

Mayor Barsa announced that the recreation football and soccer teams were both in the playoffs this past weekend. He wished the Raiders Senior team luck when they play in the semifinals. Also, soccer also had multiple teams advance to the playoffs.

Mayor Barsa stated that the next Mayors Wellness event will be held November 10th at 1pm in council chambers of Borough Hall. The Diabetes Foundation will be there to provide information on understanding a diagnosis, the risks associated with it, and guidance on diabetes specific nutrition.

Santa Claus is coming to town. On Wednesday, November 30th Santa will arrive on a firetruck to light the town Christmas tree. Please join the mayor at 6pm on Livingston Street for candy canes and hot chocolate.

Mayor Barsa wished all of Norwood residents, families, and friends a healthy and happy Thanksgiving.

Finally, Mayor Barsa reminded residents to show respect, to honor, and to thank the many men and women who have served in all branches of the armed forces for Veterans Day. Norwood is forever grateful for your bravery and sacrifice.

CORRESPONDENCE

Building Department October Fee Log
Norwood Police Department October Report
Norwood Fire Department October 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 Resolutions:

2022:182 Authorizing Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle

2022:183 Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayment for Block 119, Lot 9.01

2022:184 Certifying Members of The Norwood Fire Department No. 1 & EMS Squad Who Successfully Qualified for the L.O.S.A.P. Incentive Program

2022:185 Appointment of Valley Health Systems for Alcohol and Drug Testing Services

2022:186 Payment of Vouchers

Approval of Resolutions 2022:182 through 2022:186 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

- DPW Hires

Councilman Ascolese explained that the personnel committee met with DPW Rob Tracy to discuss the DPW personnel. There are two separate issues to be discussed. The first item to be addressed is the hiring of a new laborer for the DPW. The second item to be addressed is the creation of a new non-union position, to be referred to as a “DPW assistant director.” This position would consist of management responsibilities when Rob Tracy is out of the office on vacation or sick time. The position cannot be in the union because it involves management.

Rob Tracy explained that the number of manhours in the DPW has been reduced in the past couple years because of employees finding other jobs. He would like to see that number increase. Councilman Brizzolara asked for some examples of the different tasks that the laborers in the DPW are expected to complete. Rob Tracy explained that they would be tasked with dead tree remediation, sidewalk improvements, concrete work, storm drain / basin maintenance, and snow plowing.

Councilman Ascolese mentioned that the personnel committee agreed that hiring another full-time laborer would be a good idea.

Regarding the second issue, Councilman Ascolese explained that the new management position would be to step into the management role, when Rob Tracy is not at work, and when Rob Tracy is at work, this position would have another set of responsibilities.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked if this position would be called a foreman. Councilman Ascolese explained that a foreman is a union position, and the reason that this cannot be a union position is because a foreman cannot discipline the laborers. It would be better if this position is more of a management position outside of the union.

Councilman Suljic asked if the assistant director be driving a truck and Councilman Ascolese responded by saying only in a state of emergency. Attorney Kevin Corrison asked if the foreman position will remain unfilled and Councilman Ascolese affirmed it would. Councilman Ascolese also mentioned that he wants approval for the assistant director position from the council first, and then salary can be discussed.

Motion by Council President Foschino and second by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the hiring of a full-time laborer for the DPW. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Motion by Councilman Brizzolara and second by Councilwoman Hausmann to authorize the new position of assistant DPW director. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

- EMS Lease Agreement

Attorney Kevin Corrison stated that the lease agreement was drafted and reviewed, the only item that needs to be decided on would be the length of time the lease would be active for. Council President Foschino added that his only concern is the current trend of voluntarism falling. Council President Foschino suggested moving forward with a short-term lease.

Motion by Council President Foschino and second by Councilman Ascolese to authorize a 5-year lease agreement. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

- Dog Park Change Order

Borough Engineer Loverich explained that the change order that was discussed at a prior meeting has been reduced in price by the contractor. The original change order was reduced by \$3,500 which brings the total amount to \$22,050.

Motion by Council President Foschino and second by Councilman Ascolese to approve the change order. The vote for the motion is as follows:

Council President Ascolese	Aye
Councilman Brizzolara	Aye
Councilman Foschino	Aye
Councilwoman Hausmann	Aye
Councilman Kim	Absent
Councilman Suljic	Nay

Motion carries.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked the mayor if he would be willing to organize a ribbon cutting procedure on Friday morning. Mayor Barsa stated that Engineer Michael Neglia is fine with opening the dog park for the ribbon

cutting ceremony, but then closing the park after so some of the safety issues can be addressed. The ribbon cutting will be held on Friday morning.

- Borough Administrator/Clerk Report

The Borough will be hosting the annual rabies clinic on January 31st at 5:30pm at the community center.

- Borough Attorney Report

No report.

- Borough Engineer Report

Borough Engineer Loverich stated that the Walnut Street paving project has no work scheduled currently. Neglia Engineering is working with the contractor to get started as soon as they can. Councilman Suljic stated that the contractor needs to start paving as soon as possible because of the weather. Councilwoman Hausmann wanted to know why there has not been any paving work completed yet. Borough Engineer Loverich explained that Neglia Engineering have not gotten a start date from the contractor yet. Mayor Barsa added that the contractor stated that they will try and get some streets done this year but will have to come back for Hemlock. Councilwoman Hausmann asked why no roads were paved this year yet. Councilman Ascolese explained that the roads that are featured in the road program are usually always paved the following year. Mayor Barsa also mentioned that Michael Neglia is looking at various drainage issues in town.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Hausman:

The Zoning Board did not have a meeting because there were no applications.

The Board of Health met on November 7th. Bergen county reviewed multiple repeat violations from a business in town. Summonses were issued by the Board of Health. The Board of Health does not prefer to give out summonses, but rather educate businesses in how to better comply with the current regulations. Ms. Angie Alberti met with the Bergen County Department of Aging to help set up a memory screening on September 28th at Foxhill.

The Environmental Commission presented the prospective tree preservation ordinance to the Mayor and Council at the last meeting. Hopefully the council will work with the Environmental Commission towards an acceptable ordinance. The Environmental Commission hikes take place every Sunday and the attendance is very strong. Thank you to Rob Tracy for waiting until the first frost of the season to dismantle the community garden.

Councilman Suljic:

Councilman Suljic had nothing to report.

Councilman Ascolese:

The senior club met this month. Their Christmas dinner will be on December 11th. Councilman Ascolese thanked Borough Administrator / Clerk for placing their advertisement for membership on the message board.

Council President Foschino:

Leaf pickup started at the DPW. Plows are prepared, and the salt and calcium are ordered.

Fire Department will be bringing Santa Claus around town on 12-10-22 and there will be a live tracker on Facebook.

EMS has no report.

Councilman Brizzolara:

There is an influx of solar panel installations in town. 2 large homes are being built on Piermont Road. 5 homes are under renovations on the east hill. Lamb Court is complete and there will be new café going in the Grande building. The new liquor store will be open for the holidays. Congratulations to Council President Foschino and Ed Condoleo for their election win. And congratulations to Angie Alberti and Rahul Vaghasia for running a positive campaign.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Ed Condoleo – 81 Summit Street

Mr. Condoleo stated that he is very honored to serve the people of Norwood again and looks forward to working with the Mayor and Council.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 7:48PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk