

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK /EXECUTIVE SESSION
June 23, 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.

Roll call was taken. Councilman Rooney was absent.

Mayor Barsa opened the meeting by giving updates on the Blanch Avenue bridge repair, paving of Blanch Avenue and Livingston Street, the status of the Daibes project and The Grande, and the all-inclusive playground. Lastly, he congratulated the graduating class of Norwood Public School and Northern Valley Old Tappan High School.

Mayor Barsa advised the Council that the auditor caught an error. There was a duplicate resolution number use. Resolution 2021:116, supporting the continued support of the Greenway Project, will be renumber to 2021:121.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Barsa pulled resolution 2021:125, awarding the contract for solid waste collection and disposal to Interstate Waste Services of New Jersey Inc.

Councilman Brizzolara made a motion to approve the consent agenda, minus resolution 2021:125. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

Mayor Barsa informed the Council that the borough has an option of a one year garbage contract or a three year garbage contract. He feels that the three year contract is best because the borough received excellent rates and they would be locked into those rates for three years. There is also an option for extend the contract for two years at the same rate.

Councilwoman Hausmann made a motion to approve resolution 2021:125, awarding the contract for solid waste collection and disposal to Interstate Waste Services of New Jersey Inc, for a period of three years with an option to extend the contract for two additional years. Councilman Brizzolara seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor Barsa said the borough hall is a very busy on a day to day basis and he can see the need for hiring a part time employee. Mr. Padavano told the Council that after reviewing all the resumes there are two that he feels would be a good fit with the borough. One would be in the construction office part time and would also handle property maintenance and tree issues. The other would be in the Administration office but can float if needed. Each position would be twenty hours per week.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to approve the hiring of part time help. Council President Ascolese seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

Mayor Barsa reminded the Council that a decision to opt in or opt out of the marijuana law needs to be submitted by August 22nd. His vote is to opt out at this time so the borough can watch and learn from other towns that have chosen to opt in. Councilman Brizzolara said he does feels it would be good for the borough to allow businesses to set up in a warehouse, but not for the purpose of selling. He would also like to hear from the residents and get their feelings. Councilman Kim said if they opt out they can opt in at any time, but if they opt in now they are in for a five year period. Councilwoman Hausmann said the industrial park would be a great location for businesses that want to process and package the product for wholesale. She did note that she does not feel any residents would want a store that sells cannabis in downtown Norwood. Councilman Brizzolara asked to hold the vote until after the public comment portion of the meeting.

Councilman Foschino reviewed the tree removal application for 75 Dyer Court. He reviewed the application and visited the site. The trees in question are split and infested with insects. The property is large and there are enough trees on the property that the removal of these trees would not cause a detriment to the neighbors.

Council President Ascolese made a motion to approve tree removal application for 75 Dyer Court. Councilwoman Hausmann seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Councilman Foschino said he would like to have the borough hold an appreciation barbeque for all borough employees and volunteers in September or October. The fire department has agreed to host the event. There are left over funds for the fireworks budget that can be used to pay for the event.

Councilwoman Hausmann made a motion to approve the employee appreciation barbeque. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Corriston said he was able to find a law that allows the borough to hire a grant writer without having to go out to bid. The borough should consider at least two companies before making a decision.

Page Three

Mayor & Council Work/Executive Session Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2021

Chief Krapels advised the borough that a senior officer that is part of the administration staff will soon be retiring. He would like to be proactive and have this officer start training his replacement so the department will continue to run efficiently after the change in staff. He would like to promote officers to a Captain and Lieutenant, two Sergeants and hire two new officers. Councilwoman Hausmann made a motion to allow the organization of the police department. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Padavano said the election went well and thanked the poll workers. The website is currently in the migration phase with the host company. He also thanked Suzanne Solomon for organization a donation of face masks for the first responders.

Mr. Buginsky said he is now accepting donations for Norwood Day. A letter will be going out with the estimated tax bill sin the next week.

Mr. Jacobs informed the Council that the concrete work for the 2020 road program is complete. The work for the sidewalks on Broadway from Piermont Road to Chestnut Street will begin shortly. The contract for the Blanch Avenue bridge has been awarded to CMS Construction.

Councilwoman Hausmann made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Council President Ascolese seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Stephen Carretta, from Washington Township, gave the Council a brief description of a cannabis business he is involved in that sells the product, but also focuses on education the youth about drugs and the general population about the safe way to use marijuana.

Mrs. Nancy Congiusti asked what the status of the all-inclusive playground was.

Mr. Jacobs said they are waiting to hear if the grants were approved. The grants will cover the cost of all aspects of the playground.

Ms. Sheila Fischer was disconnected and was unable to reconnect.

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

Councilman Foschino made a motion to opt out of the all aspects of the marijuana issue. Council President Ascolese seconded the motion.

Page Four

Mayor & Council Work/Executive Session Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2021

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
FOSCHINO	X			
BRIZZOLARA		X		
HAUSMANN		X		
ASCOLESE	X			
ROONEY				X
KIM	X			
MAYOR (tie)				

Council President Ascolese made a motion to adjourn the meeting for closed session.
Councilwoman Hausmann seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Buginsky, Deputy Clerk