MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
September 9, 2026
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILWOMAN DEBIASA	COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO
COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN	COUNCIL PRESIDENT KIM

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 7:02 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 OF THE COUNCIL

Roll Call:	Mayor Barsa	Present
	Councilman Ascolese	Present
	Councilman Brizzolara	Present
	Councilwoman DeBiasa	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Council President Kim	Present

MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

September 11th changed our nation forever. We remember the lives that were lost, the families who were forever changed, and the countless first responders and heroes who showed extraordinary courage and selflessness.

But September 11th also reminds us of the strength we have when we stand together. In the days and weeks that followed, our country became more united,

neighbors looked out for one another, and communities came together with compassion, kindness, and a shared sense of purpose.

Tonight, I would like to reaffirm the importance of being a united community. We may not always agree, but we can always choose to respect one another, support one another, and stand together when it matters most.

In honor of that spirit of unity, I would now like to read a proclamation recognizing and reaffirming our community's commitment to unity and togetherness.

Mayor reads Unity Proclamation

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2026:12 – Tree Ordinance

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2026:12 will be October 14, 2026

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve ordinance 2026:12, the Tree Ordinance. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2026:09 – Salary Ordinance

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to open to the public for comments on ordinance 2026:09. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve ordinance 2026:09. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

2. Ordinance 2026:10 - An Ordinance Authorizing a Special Emergency Appropriation N.J.S. 40a:4-53

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to open to the public for comments on ordinance 2026:10. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve ordinance 2026:10. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

3. Ordinance 2026:11 - Ordinance for the Adoption of the 2026 Capital Bond

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Foschino to open to the public for comments on ordinance 2026:11. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve ordinance 2026:11. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

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 12, 2026, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following resolutions:

2026:147 Resolution Authorizing the Escrow Refund for 537 Broadway
2026:148 Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Fy-2027 Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities
2026:149 Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Outstanding Checks More Than 180 Days Old
2026:150 Appointment of Kyriakos Siolos as School Crossing Guard
2026:151 Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Refund Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Due to Veteran Exemption
2026:152 Resolution Conditionally Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to 4 Clean-Up Inc. for Curb and Sidewalk Improvements at 485 Tappan Road in an Amount Not to Exceed $47,750.00
2026:153 Resolution Appointing Ted Lee as Representative to the Northern Valley Greenway
2026:154 Payment of Vouchers

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the consent agenda, and that August 12, 2026, Mayor & Council meeting minutes be approved for content and release. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Per Diem Plumbing Inspector

2026:155 Resolution to Hire Per Diem Plumbing Inspector

Councilwoman Hausmann asked whether something had happened to the current plumbing inspector that necessitated a replacement. Mr. Padovano advised that this is a just-in-case scenario if the current inspector is unavailable.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Council President Kim to approve resolution 2026:155, hiring of a per diem plumbing inspector. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

125 Dyer Court Tree Removal Application

Mr. Padovano said the Construction Office reviewed the application and felt the trees were healthy. That number of trees requested to be removed is above the threshold of the current ordinance which requires the applicant to come before the governing body.

Councilwoman DeBiasa suggested adding the type of species of tree to the application. She would also like the Environmental Commission to review the application before voting.

Councilman Brizzolara thanked Mr. Padovano and Mr. Jackson for providing the caliper information that was missing on the application. He also said there is no reason listed on the application as to why the trees are requested to be removed.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked if Dyer Court was in the flood zone. She is aware that many homes do not have basements due to the water conditions, and she knows many people who live on Dyer that have had serious issues due to the water.

Councilwoman Hausmann and Councilwoman DeBiasa agreed that more information is needed before a vote can be taken.

Mayor Barsa asked Mr. Padovano to contact the applicant and request that he appear at the next Mayor and Council meeting. He also advised all members of the governing body to forward any questions regarding the application to Mr. Padovano.

Councilman Foschino suggested that going forward the applicant is always present at the meeting when the application will be discussed.

Summer Camp Counselor Salary Study Update

Mr. Padovano advised that he spoke with the surrounding towns to find out what they pay their summer camp counselors. All pay their counselors minimum wage, $15.92. We currently pay the counselors approximately $12.00 an hour. It will be a difference of about $250.00 per counselor.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilwoman DeBiasa to approve paying summer camp counselors at the minimum wage rate. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

DPW Full-Time Hires

2026:156 Resolution to Hire Full-Time DPW Laborer
2026:157 Resolution to Hire Full-Time DPW Laborer

Mr. Padovano informed the governing body that he, the DPW Director, and the Assistant DPW Director conducted the interviews.

Councilman Brizzolara asked if a productivity study could be performed in the DPW as it would be helpful to see how employees are already being used. Mr. Padovano said staffing levels this year are at an all-time low compared to prior years. Councilman Brizzolara said the study would show the percentage of how they spend their time and the work that is being completed. Mayor Barsa advised Councilman Brizzolara to contact the department head and ask for the study.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve Resolutions 2026:156 and 2026:157, authorizing the hiring of two full-time DPW employees. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman DeBiasa

Councilwoman DeBiasa said the next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for October 5th.

Councilwoman DeBiasa advised that the Construction Office issued 37 permits, representing a 28% increase compared to the 29 permits issued during the same month last year. Despite the increase in the number of permits issued, permit revenue decreased by approximately 40% compared to August of last year.
Home sale activity also experienced a modest increase, with 11 resale certificates issued in August, compared to 6 issued during the same month last year.

There were no property maintenance issues in the month of August.

The Construction Office has issued demolition permits for 711 Broadway and 400 Livingston. No other permits for those properties have been issued at this time.

Currently, there are seven new single-family homes under construction, including one major alteration.

Councilman Brizzolara

Councilman Brizzolara proposed a discussion item for the October meeting. He would like to start a military banner program, similar to the other surrounding towns. Councilman Brizzolara was inspired to begin this program after seeing his relatives featured on banners in the Borough of Northvale. He will supply Mr. Padovano with the information he received from the Borough of Northvale. He has also discussed this with the American Legion which is interested in helping with this program.

Councilman Brizzolara made the following statement:

In response to Mayor Barsa's recent social media post about the DEP revelations, I want to correct the record. This administration has a pattern of calling something "misleading" or "divisive" whenever it cannot refute the facts. The facts here are not in dispute. At the August 12 public meeting, the composting operator was asked who authorized the remediation work. He told the entire governing body it was "the DPW, the directors." But Borough policy requires Council liaison approval for any work over one thousand dollars. Council Liaison Hausmann did not authorize this work. In fact, she was never briefed about the DEP violations or the compliance project. Someone here bypassed Borough policy and acted without legal authority. No one on the governing body has stepped up to take ownership of that decision, or the decision to have a Borough employee waive a DEP hearing and sign a settlement. The Mayor is the Borough's chief executive. Why didn't the Mayor sign it himself? After all, it's a settlement with an important state agency. Our employees have been placed in the position of appearing to be decision makers for choices they did not make and had no input on. That is not fair to them, and it is affecting morale. There are those here who try to denigrate proper governance and process to conceal activities by saying "what's the big deal here?" I agree with the premise. But if it's truly no big deal, then why did you hide the DEP violation and settlement from the Council and our residents? You cannot have it both ways. The Barsa administration has also withheld information the Borough has in its possession, including the DEP settlement agreement itself, despite this issue going on at the composting facility for 20 months now. I am asking the Barsa Administration one final time: share the DEP settlement agreement with this governing body and our residents. And tell us who actually authorized this work, since the DPW directors do not have the legal authority to authorize it themselves. Our DPW employees deserve better than being left to answer for decisions that were never theirs to make.

Councilwoman DeBiasa asked if Mr. Padovano did not sign the document would the borough have to pay or be held liable. Mr. Corriston said it is common practice to include people in lawsuits that are not liable. If it had been litigated, we could have been held liable, but it was resolved by the operator of the facility. Councilwoman

Councilwoman DeBiasa said that the lesson learned was that the governing body should be made aware of all issues moving forward.

Councilman Foschino

Councilman Foschino stated that the fire company responded to a 4-vehicle crash along with the Norwood PD and EMS. A car traveling on Livingston Street ran a red light and overturned onto other vehicles. Chief Federici said he was told the operator said he hit the gas instead of brakes, accelerating into the intersection. Councilman Foschino asked if there is any way for the county to add signage exiting from Harrington Park into Norwood that an intersection is coming up. Chief Federici said he would contact the county. Councilman Foschino said all 3 ambulances and all 3 fire trucks were on the scene. It is a hard pill to swallow when spending money, but it is worth it.

Councilman Foschino advised the governing body that the DPW is almost done with painting the lines on the roadway. There are 5 spots left on county roads, and they are hopeful the county will paint those. Blacktop should be completed by the end of September. The leaf machines are all ready to go, and the snow equipment is starting to be serviced.

Councilman Foschino advised the governing body that he was asked by the DPW union to allow staggered hours, with some employees beginning at 6am. During the summer months until Labor Day, the DPW employees come in early to beat the heat. They have suggested keeping that schedule throughout the year with some employees coming in at 6am and some coming in at 7am. There are many benefits to this such as getting an early start on salting where the crossing guards are and focusing on safety with the equipment. There will be no cost to the Borough, and it will make the department more efficient.

Mr. Schuck said this will help with ice remediation prior to the start of the school day, getting the equipment set up for the day, getting an early start on picking up blacktop so it is ready to go, starting on field maintenance, emptying garbage around town, and staying out of the heat in the summer. They would alternate between 3 to 4 employees coming in for the early shift and the others coming in at their regular time. It would then switch the following week.

Councilwoman DeBiasa asked if a supervisor would also come in for the early shift. Mr. Schuck said there will be a supervisor on each shift.

Councilman Ascolese asked if the entire department would be coming in early. Mr. Schuck said the number of employees coming in early would be based on the work for that week. It will most likely be 3 or 4 employees on the early shift.

Councilman Ascolese suggested a trial run for a month or two to see if it works before making a permanent change. Councilman Foschino said the decision to keep the flex schedule should be made by the Director and Assistant Director.

Councilman Brizzolara asked if this would conflict with anything in the contract. Mayor Barsa advised Mr. Padovano to have something in writing from the union stating they approve the flex schedule.

Councilman Foschino said he would like a discussion item added to the next meeting, to dedicate the north portion of Summit Street to the Plescia family.

Councilman Foschino said the DPW has received quotes to extend the pickleball fencing and they are ready to move forward. He also noted that a second roller brush is now missing from the pickleball courts. Due to the high cost of the roller, the Borough cannot keep replacing them. A new solution is needed.

Councilman Foschino said he received a call from Chief Barron who informed him that a purchase order will be needed by September 30th to hold the price of the Striker lift for the ambulance. As of October 1st, the price will increase by 8% to 10%.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve the issuance of a purchase order for the Striker lift. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Foschino informed the governing body the EMS would like to buy a UTV and trailer from the Tenafly EMS for a cost of $10,000.00. Chief Barron has advised that the purchase would take most of their remaining funds. Councilman Foschino said he spoke with the PTO President, and the PTO has generously donated $2,000.00 towards the cost of the purchase. Michael Portanese, owner of Gaeta Sanitation and Norwood resident, has donated $1,000.00 towards the purchase. Michael Westphal, owner of Westphal Waste Service and Norwood resident, will donate $1,000.00 towards the purchase. Frank Decarlo will donate $1,000.00 towards the purchase. B. Foschino and Son will donate $1,000.00 for the purchase and Barsa Insurance will donate $1,000.00 for the purchase in honor of Nat Mufson. Councilwoman Hausmann advised Chief Barron to contact the American Legion and apply for their grant program.

<u>Council President Kim</u>

Council President Kim said the library and Greenway did not have August meetings. He attended the NVOT orientation night. About 200 families attended. He also attended the NVOT Korean Parents Association night with about 50 other families. Council President Kim thanked Andrew Talpin for his many years working on the Northen Valley Greenway and welcomed Ted Lee as the new Representative.

Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese stated he attended the Seniors Club monthly business meeting. The seniors said the bus service is running very well. Mr. Padovano said on a busy day there are about 7-8 passengers and on a lighter day about 2-3 passengers, but it is used every day. Both Mr. Padovano and Ms. Volpitta have already developed great relationships with the seniors who call to book rides.

Chief Federici informed the governing body that during the World Cup Norwood had 3 patrol officers representing the Borough on various teams. We had members assist on the Rapid Deployment Force (Ptl. Rooney), Rapid Deployment Team (Ptl. Moltzen), and SWAT Team (Ptl. McMackin). They all contributed to the safety of the players and spectators. The county sent a letter thanking them for their service. The county will also be reimbursing the Borough for the funds used to pay these officers for their time worked.

Councilman Ascolese thanked Mr. Padovano and Ms. Volpitta for their hard work on the Senior Appreciation Dinner. The seniors had a wonderful time.

Councilwoman Hausmann

Councilwoman Hausmann advised the governing body that the concrete work at the community garden is completed. A pad was installed for the new larger shed, and concrete was laid throughout the garden to accommodate ADA beds and make the pathway safer.

Councilwoman Hausmann said the next Mocktail Mixer is scheduled for September 24th, from 6pm to 8pm, at the community garden. Carroll Van Cleave will play acoustic music while residents show off their artwork. She invited everyone to join the event for a fun night with pizza, music, and art..

Councilwoman Hausmann said she hopes to hear by the end of the year if the police department receives the grant for the radios. She has also submitted 3 grants applications for ADA compliant raised garden beds.

Councilwoman Hausmann said she recently drove an electric street sweeper, and it was a lot of fun. There is a grant for the diesel monitorization program called Stop the Soot that Mr. Schuck has been working with. He has prepared a cost saving analysis. We are currently waiting to hear from Bruno and the DEP. This would be part of next year's capital budget. The cost to fix the current sweeper is up to $40,000.00. The only stipulation of the grant is that the old sweeper can be sold or used once the new one is received as it is not up to standard.

Councilwoman Hausmann made the following statement:

I would like to make a statement regarding comments Mayor Barsa has made at the last two meetings, specifically about the leaf composting facility, my former role as liaison to the DPW, and what I knew about these events.
I had no knowledge of the DEP violation, the issues at the leaf composting facility, or the subsequent cleanup. I was never asked to review anything related to this facility, and I was never presented with a quote, proposal, or invoice for the work.
I did not know Matt Hartman had been given the job, or that Tobar had left, until those matters were announced from the dais. My understanding of Borough policy is that the DPW Administrator cannot authorize an expenditure over $1,000 without appropriate approval, including approval from the liaison. I never approved of this work. I was not consulted, I was not asked to review anything, and I was not shown any bill, including the remediation invoice, until it appeared in the agenda packet in July. The first time I learned the full scope of this situation was right here, from the dais, because of Councilman Brizzolara's investigation into the chain of events. I find it hard to believe anyone in the DPW would knowingly authorize an expenditure of this size without following the required process. DPW Director Rob Tracy has always understood that even routine purchases require approval and a signature; he cannot buy toilet paper without one. A $35,000 expenditure would not be treated any differently, I know he would NEVER give authorization to move forward w/o authorization from someone up here. It was not ME as liaison and I have to conclude that it was someone else up here, it is the only thing that makes any sense. The governing body, and more importantly the taxpayers, deserve a clear understanding of how this happened, who authorized the work, and why the proper process was not followed. Stop throwing employees of the Borough under the bus, it's not a good, professional or fair look and everyone knows it. I had no knowledge of or involvement in these decisions, and I would ask that my name stop being referenced as though I did. Respectfully.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT

Mr. Padovano explained the flooding issue on Meadow Lane. A resident is experiencing severe flooding. Their house is right along the easement. Mr. Loverich originally mentioned this in January and recommended conducting a drainage and flooding mitigation study to help alleviate the issue. Councilman Brizzolara asked for an approximate cost. Mr. Padovano said he did not have that information, and it would most likely be similar to what we have done in the past.

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve the drainage and flooding mitigation study. All council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Padovano gave background to the First Environment proposal that was in the agenda packet. This is a standard annual renewal for a consulting agency for

environmental issues. Neglia Engineering does not have an environmentalist on staff. First Environment assists with the Soil Remedial Action Permit which pertains to the underground storage tank (UST) formerly located at the DPW. They are under state contract, and no additional quotes are required.

Councilwoman DeBiasa asked how the Borough became noncompliant if the purpose of hiring First Environment was to keep us in compliance. Mayor Barsa asked Mr. Padovano to contact the vendor for a report as to what happened.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to authorize Mr. Padovano to proceed with the purchase if a reasonable explanation is received from the vendor. All council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilwoman Hausmann requested that all contracts be maintained in a spreadsheet and reviewed to monitor upcoming expiration dates. Mayor Barsa instructed Mr. Padovano to prepare the spreadsheet.

Mr. Padovano advised the governing body that the NPS PTO has requested use of Kennedy Field on October 3rd from 6pm-10pm for a movie night fundraiser. All forms and insurance have been received.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve the use of Kennedy Field by the NPS PTO for a movie night. All council members present voted in favor of the motion.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY
No report at this time.

BOROUGH ENGINEER
No report at this time

PUBLIC COMMENT
Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was made by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese. All council members present approved the motion.

Lee Wallin, 2 Austin Avenue, said he appreciates everything the governing body has done for the quality of life for the residents. He asked the council to move forward with a study to eliminate the noise from the trains. He has spoken with Montclair as they have been able to eliminate most of the train horns. The way to stop this would be to install 4-way gates to the Broadway and Blanch crossings. He understands that this is a complicated and expensive process and would appreciate anything that can

be done. He asked if there is a way to have a breakdown of what it would cost each home to fund the study.

Mayor Barsa said over the years he has held multiple meetings on this topic. He believes the towns to the north and south would support this. Mayor Barsa asked Councilwoman Hausmann to reach out to Congressman Gottheimer's office and to see if there are any grants available for the study.

Councilwoman Hausmann said she had looked into several years ago with other towns. Councilwoman Hausmann said she has a lot of information on the topic, and it works best when other towns are involved. There are a lot of grant money for noise pollution.

Mayor Barsa instructed Mr. Padovano to list this as a discussion for the October or November meeting.

Dominick Congiusti, 195 Livingston Street, advised the governing body that Scott Roberts has achieved 50 years of service as a member of the Fire Department. There will be a dinner held in his honor on October 17th at Coronetta in Piermont. Mr. Congiusti also asked for the DPW to pickup the hot dog rolls for town day at Rockland Bakery. Mayor Barsa advised Mr. Schuck to have that taken care of.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to close the meeting to the public. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution 2026:158 – Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Council to Proceed in Closed Session – Matters of Litigation

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to close the regular meeting and go to closed session. The motion was made by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Council President Kim. All council members present approved the motion

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann. All council members present approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk