

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL

July 8, 2026

7:00 PM

MAYOR BARSÁ

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 7:01 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 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 REMARKS

On Wednesday, July 29th, from 1pm-6pm, the American Red Cross will be conducting a blood drive in the community center. Walk-ins are welcome though reservations are preferred. To register for a time slot, please visit the website for the American Red Cross at www.redcrossblood.org.

While our 4th of July celebration and acknowledgement of the 250th anniversary of America did not go as planned due to the severe weather, protecting the safety of our residents, visitors and staff was my top priority and I feel I made the right decision

to cancel the festivities. The 250th anniversary of our country is a milestone that celebrates our nation's history and the sacrifices made for our freedom. We look forward to a fantastic fireworks show that will take place on Norwood Day, September 26th, and that will honor this historic occasion. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our Norwood Police Department, DPW, Fire Department, and EMS for their assistance with the event. I would also like to thank them for responding to the many emergency calls which resulted from the intense weather conditions that developed quickly. And as always thank you to our residents for your patience and understanding.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2026:08 – An Ordinance of the Borough of Norwood Amending Chapter 222-3 of the Borough Code Entitled “Violations and Penalties”

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2026:08 will be August 12, 2026

It was moved by Council President Kim and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve ordinance 2026:08, an Ordinance of the Borough of Norwood Amending Chapter 222-3 Of the Borough Code Entitled “Violations and Penalties”. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2026:07 – An Ordinance of the Borough of Norwood Amending Chapter 222-32 Of the Borough Code Entitled “Schedule I: No Parking”

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Council President Kim to open to the public for comments on ordinance 2026:07. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

It was moved by Council President Kim and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve ordinance 2026:07. 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:

June 10, 2026, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following resolutions:

2026:116 Resolution Approving Camp Counselors for Norwood Summer Camp
2026:117 Resolution Approving Fourth of July Fireworks Contract with July 4 Ever Fireworks Inc.
2026:118 Resolution Refunding Permit Fee to 11A Meadow Lane
2026:119 Resolution Authorizing Neglia Engineering and Management Services for the Improvements to 485 Tappan Road
2026:120 Resolution Authorizing the 2026-2028 Snowplow Contract with Bergen County
2026:121 Resolution Authorizing to Enter into a Shared Service Agreement for Interboro Regional Police Communications Network
2026:122 Resolution Authorizing EAP Program for Calendar Year 2027
2026:123 Resolution Authorizing Inclusion in the Bergen County Community Development Program Municipal Cooperative Agreement Resolution for Fiscal Years 2027, 2028, and 2029
2026:124 Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with the County of Bergen to Supersede the cooperative Agreement Dated July 1, 2024, and Amendments Thereto Establishing the Bergen County Community Development Program Municipal Cooperative Agreement Renewal Resolution for Fiscal Years 2027, 2028, and 2029
2026:125 Resolution Approving the Shared Service Agreement with the Borough of Fort Lee for Conflict Inspectors
2026:126 Resolution Covenanting to Comply with The Provisions of the Internal Revenue Code Of 1986, As Amended
2026:127 Resolution Approving Block Party at 74 Kensington Avenue
2026:128 Awarding Contract for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal
2026:129 Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Refund Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Due to Veteran Exemption
2026:130 Resolution Authorizing Settlement of Tax Appeals of Na Young Kim
2026:131 Resolution Appointing TaeHo Shin as a Part-Time Senior Van Driver
2026:132 Payment of Vouchers

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve the consent agenda, and that June 10, 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

Tree Ordinance

Mayor Barsa asked that an aerial video showing Norwood's trees be displayed during the discussion.

Mayor Barsa stated that the governing body has discussed moving forward with the State ordinance, noting there are a few items on that ordinance that can be changed by the municipality. Several council members put together a proposed ordinance. Other council members put together a different ordinance. Both were reviewed by the governing body.

Councilwoman Hausmann said she worked with Councilwoman DeBiasa and Councilman Brizzolara on the ordinance and their suggestions were formulated in conjunction with the Environmental Commission. The Environmental Commission was tasked by the governing body to draft an ordinance in 2022. They have substantially cut back on the ordinance, not wanting to treat homeowners like suspects. It is the applications with real community impact that they are concerned about. There are seven requirements they would like left in the finalized ordinance.

Councilwoman Hausmann would like the Environmental Commission to be a part of the application review process. She said it would be nice to include them as it makes sense. She also said the fine cannot be \$100.00. The state ordinance states the fine cannot be less than the cost of the tree that is being replaced. She would also like to see the landmark tree provision and borough appointed tree expert left in the final ordinance. The tree expert would be paid from money received for the tree fund and not come from tax money. Councilwoman Hausmann also asked for the replacement window be six months, not 12 months and for developers to pay a higher in lieu of fee as they are clearing lots, building and moving on. Lastly, she would like to include the hours of tree work Monday-Friday 8am to 4pm, Saturday 10am-4pm and no work on Sunday.

Councilwoman DeBiasa said she is very happy that the diameter was increased to 10 inches. It is more protective and a great provision.

Councilman Foschino said there are some items he is not in agreement with. He does not feel it is necessary to involve the Environmental Commission in the review process. They are not employees of the Borough, and they are not tree professionals. He also does not agree with the increase in fines. He does not want to hurt the residents. Councilman Foschino believes the landmark tree provisions would be impossible to implement. He can see both sides to the argument of having developers pay a higher in lieu of fee. Councilman Foschino agrees there should be no work on Sundays, with the exception of emergencies. He also feels that the replanting window should be extended to 12 months because the time of year the replacement would occur could impact the planting and obtaining the materials.

Councilman Foschino said he is not happy about the misinformation that is being spread and it has him concerned. The public needs to know that there are no tree professionals on the Environmental Commission. Councilman Foschino asked

Councilwoman Hausmann if any members of the Environmental Commission are LTE or LTCO certified. Councilwoman Hausmann said they are not certified.

Councilman Foschino also said a statement was made on a social media post about tree applications disappearing into a drawer. He asked what applications disappeared into a drawer, when it happened, and who made them disappear. Mr. Padovano said he has not heard from any residents asking where their tree application is. Mayor Barsa asked who made that comment. Councilman Foschino said the comment was made on a Facebook post on the Hausmann and Rooney for Norwood Council page. Councilman Foschino read that part of the post into the record, "A 45-day clock on permit decisions, with a public council vote if the Borough doesn't act. No more applications disappearing into a drawer."

Councilwoman Hausmann apologized for posting that. Councilman Foschino said he received many calls asking which employee was doing this with the applications. If a public employee did what was said, it would be a criminal act. There are only a handful of employees in Borough Hall. He understands it is the political season, but nothing should be done at the expense of the employees. This was irresponsible, reckless and false information that should not be spread to the residents. It makes for a hostile work environment, and this is not what Norwood is about. Mayor Barsa apologized to any employees who were offended by that comment.

Councilman Brizzolara said healthy trees are not the danger; it is the dead and dying trees that are dangerous. At the intersection of Tappan and Broadway a developer removed a dozen healthy trees but there are dangerous, ugly, dead trees on the other corners that need to be removed. Councilman Brizzolara feels the governing body is not that far apart on the ordinance, and he would like to try again working together.

Councilman Foschino said the trees in question are at 200 Tappan which is a private residence. They will be getting a letter from the Building Department to remove the trees. Councilman Foschino said the area was hit with a massive storm on July 4th which caused healthy trees to topple down. One tree hit wires and brought them down onto a house which burned down in River Edge. Trees close to structures create hazards in storms, whether they are healthy or not.

Councilman Ascolese agreed that the council was not far away on the tree ordinance. He does not agree with having developers pay a higher in lieu of fee because they will pass that cost onto the home buyer. He also does not agree with the landmark tree section. If a person buys a home without landmark trees, years later, a tree could become a landmark tree, limiting its removal. Restrictions could then apply to the tree.

Councilwoman DeBiasa said she will agree to remove the landmark trees but not the developer rate. She spoke with a zoning attorney who said almost every town has a

higher rate for developers. The residents live here and have a stake in town; the developer just moves on.

Councilwoman Hausmann said she is fine with removing the landmark tree clause and changing the replanting from six months to 12 months. Councilwoman Hausmann apologized for what was written on social media and said she will apologize publicly. It was distrustful and she takes accountability.

Councilman Ascolese said he does believe that the developers will pass the cost onto the home buyer but if the rest of the council comes to an agreement he won't hold it up.

Council President Kim asked what the difference in the fee is. Councilwoman Hausmann said it would be \$350.00 more than the resident fee.

Mayor Barsa said he feels \$650.00 is a lot to charge a resident.

Mr. Padovano clarified that the in lieu of fee is only for those who do not want to replant trees. If they are replanting, they do not have to pay into the fund. Councilwoman Hausmann said they would only pay if they go over the threshold of the number of trees they remove. Mr. Padovano said the in lieu of fund is very similar to developer COAH fund.

Councilman Foschino said Councilman Brizzolara removed 39 of 46 trees, if he had to pay it would have cost him \$25,350.00 for the fund. Councilman Brizzolara said that is a misrepresentation of the situation. The trees that were removed were diseased, dead, or dying. The council approved the removal after Councilman Brizzolara recused himself from the dais and his wife Nancy made a full presentation to the governing body in August 2019 about their plans.

Councilman Brizzolara said Councilman Foschino's statement was an about an unrelated matter and completely untrue. He said Councilman Foschino's remarks were a not so clever deception and an ongoing pattern of behavior meant to intimidate and stifle him and others from speaking up when they had a different opinion.

Mayor Barsa said considering there is very little tree cutting going on, we don't have a problem. There is not much land left in town to develop. It is either wetlands or already developed. Our ratables are at an all-time low due to the lack of development. We can never dictate to a homeowner what trees they can and can't take down.

Councilman Foschino suggested an in lieu of fee in the amount of \$500.00 which was agreed upon by all. It was also agreed that there would be no tree work on Sundays. The hours allowing tree work will be Monday - Friday from 7am-6pm and Saturday

9am-4pm. The landmark clause will be removed. There will be a one-time penalty of \$1,000.00 for a violation which is in line with surrounding towns.

Councilwoman Hausmann would like to be sure the Environmental Commission receives all copies of tree removal applications and can provide feedback to the Construction Office as an advisory board. The Council agreed to this as well.

Mr. Corrison suggested adding to the ordinance that work is allowed during off-hours in emergency situations.

Mayor Barsa asked Mr. Padovano to create a draft ordinance to be discussed at the next meeting.

Capital Budget

Councilman Brizzolara gave background on the capital requests and a meeting that was previously held to discuss those requests.

Mayor Barsa said he drove the roads in town and prioritized the roads that he felt were the worst. Rockland Avenue from Livingston Street to Tappan does not need paving. The section that goes from Walnut Street to Oak Street is in deplorable condition. McClellan Street should be removed at this time. Dearborn Circle is in terrible condition and needs to be paved. John Circle and John Street should also be done. Millbrook Circle should be added to the list as well. Somerset should be added to the list for next year.

Mayor Barsa said he spoke with EMS Chief Barron and they would be fine with only budgeting for the ambulance this year. The radio upgrades can be removed.

The Fire Department has also agreed to remove the radio upgrades but would like to replace at least 1 Tahoe.

Councilman Foschino said the DPW list has already been cut from what was originally requested. They need a pickup truck and utility truck, a front-end loader that will also act as a snow removal machine, a chipper body for an existing hook lift, a forklift as they have been without one for a year, the pond aerator is a necessity, a gasoline pump as the current pump is having issues, and the handicapped door at the Police Department is an absolute necessity.

Councilman Foschino is not in favor of deleting the second Tahoe for the Fire Department. They have the one original Tahoe that we have already put a lot of money into. The other two cars are old police Explorers that have a lot of mileage.

Councilman Foschino suggested only paving the back section of Millbrook Circle this year and to pave the front section next year.

Councilwoman DeBiasa asked if the Tahoe is the only option. Councilman Foschino said it is because of the way it has to be outfitted for equipment. They are also now required to have turnout gear placed in boxes and kept in the vehicle. They cannot be in the same cabin as the firefighter. Councilwoman DeBiasa asked if there is anything comparable. Councilman Foschino said the Expedition, but it is about the same price.

Councilman Brizzolara asked if we looked into sharing equipment with Northvale. Councilman Foschino said they recommended to Northvale that they purchase the same equipment, so it is interchangeable and they decided to go in a different direction.

Councilman Brizzolara asked if the needs could be staggered and plan them out over the course of years. He was surprised by the request for two Fire Department vehicles. Councilman Foschino said in this instance it is an item that is needed for public safety.

Councilman Foschino suggested moving Rockland Avenue to next year, which would allow for all of Millbrook Circle this year. Mayor Barsa said he would prefer to do that. Councilwoman DeBiasa agreed, Millbrook Circle is residential.

Mr. Battaglia said that would leave \$61,000.00 to spare.

Mayor Barsa asked if there was a way to do the upper fencing at the pickleball courts. \$115,000 for upper fencing at the pickleball courts. Mr. Battaglia said there is money left over from prior capital that will cover the fencing.

Councilman Foschino said he would like to add the Fire Department radio upgrades back in. That would only leave EMS next year, as the police upgrades should be covered by grants.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the capital budget for 2026, as discussed. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Watershed Improvement Plan

2026:133 Resolution Authorizing Engineering Services Agreement with Neglia Engineering for Phase II of the Watershed Improvement Plan

Mr. Loverich said they have been doing a lot of work with the state on infrastructure mapping for the MS4 Tier A permit. Last year crews mapped all the infrastructure.

That report has been submitted to the state. The second piece is analyzing the data in the report, which is phase 2. DEP produced a template model for us to review, and it was only sent to our firm about a month ago. We have reviewed the requirements and work involved. Phase 2 will analyze the water quality and analyzes areas of flooding to address those concerns. This report needs to be submitted to the state by January 26, 2027. Phase 3 will take place next year. We will need to hold a public forum that the residents can participate in and ask questions.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Council President Kim to approve resolution 2026:133. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Parking Issues on Belle Court

Chief Federici was contacted by a resident of Belle Court who informed him of parking issues on the street. The residents of Tappan Road park their cars on Belle Court, closer to the Tappan Road entrance, and this causes difficulties entering and exiting Belle Court. He would like no parking signs placed from the entrance to Belle Court up to 150 feet away.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve temporary no-parking signs for a period of six months. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Kennedy Field Use Application – Synergy Events

Mr. Padovano gave background on the application from Synergy Events, asking to use Kennedy Field to host a game show. Mayor Barsa feels this will be a fun community event and approves of the application, stipulating the field must be available on the requested date. Councilwoman Hausmann asked Mr. Padovano to confirm what type of generators they will be using during the event.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the application by Synergy Events to use Kennedy Field for a game show. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Compost Facility Invoice – Hartmann Excavating

Mr. Padovano said the Borough received an invoice for \$35,000.00 from Hartmann Excavating for the work they did to make the compost facility DEP compliant. He has discussed this with the CFO and the only way to pay this invoice is from the contingency account. The amount of the invoice is under the bid threshold.

Councilman Ascolese asked if the Borough or contractor is responsible for the compost facility inspections. Mr. Padovano said it all falls on the contractor.

Councilwoman DeBiasa said the invoice provided no backup. There is a lump sum with no breakdown.

Councilman Brizzolara would like more information and details about the services rendered. The project was done without a work session discussion and not mentioned in any minutes or reports. He asked when the work took place. Mr. Tracy said the work started in November of last year.

Mayor Barsa asked Councilwoman Hausmann if she had information on this as she was the DPW liaison at the time.

Councilwoman Hausmann said she had no part in this and did not know one person left and another came in until she heard about it on the dais. She did meet with Mr. Hartmann and spoke with him, and it was her understanding that he took over the compost facility and there would be no cost until a contract was figured out.

Councilman Brizzolara Councilman Brizzolara said the invoice stated the compost facility was not in compliance and asked if that was true and when/how long we were out of compliance.

Mr. Loverich said the Borough and engineering are not involved in the inspections. It is the responsibility of the contractor running the compost facility. Mr. Padovano said the old vendor received a not-in-compliance letter. He did some remediation and retired a month later.

Councilman Brizzolara asked how there can be 200 yards of concrete at the compost facility. Mr. Tracy said that was the concrete generated when the dugouts were rebuilt.

Mayor Barsa asked Mr. Padovano to contact Hartmann Excavating for a detailed invoice and to list this as a discussion item next month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman DeBiasa

In June, the Construction Office issued 42 permits, representing a significant decrease from the 67 permits issued during the same period last year. There were 2 permits issued for home additions, compared to one last June. Home sales activity remained relatively stable, with seven resale certificates issued this month compared to six in June of the previous year. A new business, Faces Clio, opened at Glam Studios. There were two warnings issued to a homeowner regarding tall grass and weeds. The homeowner advised the Building Department that his lawnmower is being repaired and it will be cut as soon as possible. There are five homes with ongoing construction.

Councilwoman DeBiasa thanked Mr. Jackson for being very responsive over the holiday weekend and taking care of some issues that arose.

Councilman Brizzolara

Councilman Brizzolara said the Finance Committee met June 19th and he's proud of what transpired with the capital budget. He felt it was a gratifying evening and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Councilman Foschino

Councilman Foschino said registration is open for the fall soccer season. There will be a softball clinic led by the NVOT softball coach held at Kennedy Field on July 28th.

The DPW has been busy. They worked the carnival, installed 20 tons of blacktop, continued with the weekly chipping, took care of the flowers on Livingston Street, and responded to 5 daytime fire calls and 10 calls for fallen trees and limbs. The new trucks should be delivered by September and will be ready for the winter.

Council President Kim

Council President Kim informed the governing body that the NVOT basketball team won the NJSIAA state championship. Next school year students will have to lock up their phones during the school day.

The Greenway is discussing promotional events.

Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese attended the Seniors Club business meeting. He also noted there was a personnel committee meeting earlier in the week.

Councilwoman Hausmann

Councilwoman Hausmann said the Environmental Commission Mocktail Mixer has been postponed to July 16th due to the weather. The Van Cleeves will be performing. Harvest nights are back at the garden every Thursday during the summer from 7pm-7:30pm.

The Boy Scouts held a litter pickup at the railroad tracks. There was a lot of litter to be disposed of and Councilwoman Hausmann thanked the DPW for picking up the garbage bags the next day.

Councilwoman Hausmann noted that the Police Department has applied for three different grants for their radio communication upgrades.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT

Mr. Padovano advised the governing body that the senior citizen appreciation dinner will be held on August 19th at the community center. The deadline to RSVP is August 1st.

Chief Federici advised the governing body that the Valley Program will be holding a fundraiser on October 24th. This will be a walk/run on Summit Street and South Avenue. The event will be approximately one and one-half hours. The smartest way to do this would be to make Summit Street and South Avenue local traffic only. It will not cost any overtime.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Mr. Corrison said he will be appearing in court with the Tax Assessor regarding tax appeals. He asked to have a closed session placed on the August agenda so he can update the governing body on litigation.

BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Loverich said Veolia will start working on Mills Avenue on Monday. They will then move on to Kensington and Austin with the work concluding in early September. The concrete work on the Summit Street ADA ramps will begin tomorrow. Milling and paving will follow shortly after that work is completed. Mr. Loverich advised the governing body that he met with the resident of 295 Summit Street and the resident advised him that he does not want the catch basin. The catch basin would be a flat grate in the road between driveways. Councilman Foschino asked for an opportunity to speak with the resident tomorrow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was forwarded by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese. All council members present approved the motion.

Dominck Congiusti, Livingston Street, informed the governing body that on June 13th his special needs granddaughter was made Chief for a Day. He thanked Chief Federici, Mayor Barsa, Councilman Ascolese, and Mr. Padovano for attending the event. His family was there, including his daughters' in-laws, who were very impressed. Chief Federici brought them to the Bergen County Courthouse where Chiefs from about 35 other Police Departments were there with their respective Chiefs for a Day. After a presentation, the entire family went to lunch with Chief Federici and the other towns. Mr. Congiusti thanked all who were involved, especially Chief Federici. Chief Federici said this was the first time Norwood has participated in this event and he's happy it could be with a wonderful family who is very involved in the town.

Jarhod Kourey, 28 Demarest Street, asked if the Borough has discussed purchasing equipment from other municipalities at auction. Councilman Foschino explained that the Borough is not permitted to purchase used equipment with capital funds. Mr. Padovano said the state would not allow used equipment to be purchased with capital money.

Bill Bajakian, 295 Summit Street, was asked to step to the microphone. Mayor Barsa asked Mr. Bajakian if he would like the drain in front of his house to alleviate the flooding. Mr. Bajakian said he does not want the drain as it would be in front of the apron of his driveway. He asked if the drain could be placed 50 feet to the north. He feels that would stop 90% of the flooding. He understands that if he does not put the catch basin in there is no guarantee the repaving of the road will solve the problem.

Mr. Bajakian said it is disheartening and frustrating to go on Facebook and read the comments. He feels the town should come together and work together more and have conversations.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese. All council members present approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk