

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
March 11, 2025
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 7:01 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	Absent
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Council President Kim	Present

CORRESPONDENCE

February Construction Office Report
February PD Report

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2026:04 - Salary Ordinance

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to open to the public for comments on ordinance 2026:04. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

There was no one present who wished to speak.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to close to the public for comments on ordinance 2026:04. 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 Ascolese to approve ordinance 2026:04. In the roll call vote, council members Ascolese, Foschino and Kim voted in favor of the motion. Council members Brizzolara and Hausmann voted no.

The second reading will be held on March 25th.

Second reading 3/25

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2026:01 – An Ordinance of The Borough of Norwood Amending Chapter 233-40.1 Of the Borough Code Entitled “Affordable Housing Overlay Zoning District” In Furtherance of The Borough’s Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan

It was moved by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Kim to approve ordinance 2026:001. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

2. Ordinance 2026:02 – An Ordinance of The Borough of Norwood Amending Chapter 233-40.1 Of the Borough Code Entitled “Affordable Housing Overlay Zoning District” In Furtherance of The Borough’s Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve ordinance 2026:02. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

3. Ordinance 2026:03 – An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 233, Articles XI And XII Of The Code Of The Borough Of Norwood Entitled “Affordable Housing Requirements” And “Affordable Housing Development Fees And Trust Fund,” And Establishing A New Article XI Entitled “Affordable Housing Ordinance”, To Address The Requirements Of The Fair Housing Act (FHA) As Amended, And The Uniform

Housing Affordability Controls (UHAC), As Amended, Regarding Compliance With
The Borough's Affordable Housing Obligations

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve ordinance 2026:03. 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:

February 25, 2026 Mayor & Council Meeting
February 25, 2026 Mayor & Council Closed Session Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

- 2026:70 Resolution Awarding a Contract to 4 Clean Up, Inc. for Summit Street Roadway Improvements
- 2026:71 Resolution Authorizing Construction Management Services Agreement with Neglia Engineering for the Summit Street Roadway Improvements
- 2026:72 Resolution to Terminate Member Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System
- 2026:73 Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of the Remaining Balance of the Engineering Services Agreement with Remington & Vernick Engineers for the Broad Street Bridge Replacement
- 2026:74 Resolution Authorizing Partial Cancellation of Contract with Neglia Engineering Associates for Broad Street Bridge Improvements
- 2026:75 Payment of Vouchers
- 2026:64 (Tabled from last meeting) A Resolution Authorizing Payment for the 2025 Stipend Program for the Norwood Fire Company No. 1

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the amended Consent Agenda and that February 25, 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Hausmann

Councilwoman Hausmann said the Environmental Commission will be helping the 3rd graders at Norwood Public School celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 24th. She also stated that the Environmental Commission will present to the governing body on March 25th. Councilwoman Hausmann has contacted the DEP and the Parks Department to inquire about bamboo and has learned that it is an invasive species in NJ. Driving through town she has seen a lot of bamboo and would like to know how it will be fairly enforced.

The Grant Committee will be holding a meeting tomorrow to discuss radios for the Police Department. Chief Federici sent Councilwoman Hausmann an email that EMS is also in need of radios. EMS has a quote for radios. This added request has been forward to the grant writer and to the representative from Congressman Gottheimer's office. Councilwoman Hausmann asked if the reservation software for scheduling field use can be used from the website. Mr. Padovano said he will contact the website vendor for information. Councilman Foschino said we need to figure out what our needs are.

Councilwoman Hausmann said the new Committees, for Community Outreach/Food Pantry and Community Development, =will participate in a partnership with the county the week of April 18-26. Councilwoman Hausmann has coordinated community volunteer opportunities.

There are four areas the Borough will be focusing on:
Community litter clean up
Food pantry collection drive
Meals on wheels placemats
Arbor day activity at NPS with the Environmental Commission

Valley Program and Northern Valley Summit House will have a community clean up on April 20th at Kennedy Field during the school day. Councilwoman Hausmann asked if they should use garbage bags or the garbage cans around the field. Councilman Foschino said they can use whatever is easiest for them.

The Boy Scouts will hold a cleanup of Railroad Avenue on April 26th. This will be open to all members of the community. Garbage will be collected in bags and left on the side of the road for the DPW to pickup the following morning.

Many businesses in town have signed up to be a collection drop off center for the food pantry.

Council President Kim

Councilman Kim said Martha Kleinlout has resigned from the Library Board. The library could possibly join an organization to monitor ELS tutors. The library also

had a Lunar New Year celebration. The library would like to speak with the grant writers to see if there are any available grants they would qualify for. Councilwoman Hausmann explained that she will need a list of exactly what they are looking for and she will see if there are available grants. It has to be a very specific list.

The Northern Valley Greenway has discussed fundraising events. An event took place on March 7th with another scheduled for April.

Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese said he attended the Seniors Club business meeting. He advised that we will enter into a shared service agreement with Northvale for the senior bus. It will be for five days a week from 8:30am to 2:30pm.

Councilman Brizzolara

Councilman Brizzolara said there was a decline of permits issued in February from last year. Warnings were issued to multiple homes for failure to clear snow from the sidewalk within the allotted time frame. One summons was issued to a business in town for failure to clear snow from the sidewalk.

Nearly all departments have submitted their budget requests. The requests have not driven up the budget. A budget meeting is scheduled for September 23rd at 3pm.

Councilman Foschino

Councilman Foschino said he met with Chief Barron from the ambulance corp to go over the capital requests. The fire company and EMS have radio needs. There will be a meeting with the grant writer tomorrow at 11am to try to get the fire company and EMS requests added in. Councilwoman Hausmann said the grant application expired at midnight the night before, but she has asked for an extension. There could also be other opportunities. Chief Barron will be working on a billing system to address the utilization of our ambulances.

Yesterday, there was a special election for the NPS referendum. The vote passed.

The NVOT girls' basketball team beat Teaneck on Saturday to win the Group 3 State Sectionals. Fire Departments from Norwood, Northvale, Old Tappan, and Harrington Park were waiting at the school for the girls to return. The Old Tappan Police Department gave their bus an escort back into Old Tappan.

The new fire truck should be in service within the next few weeks. The fire company has requested to purchase the old 363. They are able to purchase it from us for a \$1. This will be kept for them to be used as a historical truck for town events.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the sale of the Hahn fire truck (old 363) to the Fire Department for \$1.00. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

To date we have spent about \$18,000 in overtime for snow removal. A meeting was held with the DPW to discuss capital requests and to finalize the 2026 budget. The DPW Director will be out indefinitely. Mr. Schuck will be in charge until he returns. Councilman Foschino thanked the DPW crew for doing a fantastic job during the blizzard. He also thanked Westphal Waste Services for supplying two trucks, driver and gas to help with storm cleanup.

Councilwoman DeBiasa

Mr. Padovano read the report from Councilwoman DeBiasa. The Board of Health reports are on file in the health office. Karen Frank, a wound care specialist, is interested in educating the geriatric population on this subject. Kimberly Hastings has started a new Board of Health committee focusing on restaurants and beauty salons.

The Tax Assessor has submitted the final assessments to the Bergen County Board of Taxation. All appeals must be sent to the Bergen County Board of Taxation and received by them on or before May 26th.

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 Councilman Brizzolara. All council members present approved the motion.

Christopher Bombino, 123 Rockland Ave Northvale, stated he received the certified letter regarding the Affordable Housing Ordinances. He asked if the Zoning Board was involved in the rezoning. Mayor Barsa said the ordinances are for the 4th round of Affordable Housing and change the overlay zone. He received the letter because he is within 200 ft of the zone. Mr. Corrison said all towns have to adopt these ordinances. Mayor Barsa said there are no plans or applications for any building to take place in the affected zone. Mr. Corrison advised that the amended ordinance will be introduced at the March 25th meeting, be heard by the Planning Board at the May 6th meeting and have the public hearing at the May 13th Mayor and Council meeting. Mr. Bombino asked how many units there will be on the plot. Mayor Barsa said there are no plans at this time for any building, they are just getting ready for what could happen. Mr. Bombino said he is concerned about the maximum height allowed for the buildings. He feels that 3 stories are too much. He suggested lowering the maximum height to two stories.

Heather Garcia,15 Dwarskill, began by speaking as a Board of Education member She thank Councilwomen Hausmann and DeBiasa and Councilman Brizzolara for supported the school referendum as she did not get support from everyone. This is not costing taxpayers any money. She then spoke as a resident advising the governing body that the EMS cannot just take what the insurance companies pay as it is an illegal practice. She also stated that she heard the comment that the DPW Director will be out indefinitely and asked if there was a specific budget the Mayor uses for marketing.

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

Councilman Foschino asked how the school pays back the money it borrows. Mayor Barsa said it gets paid back through the taxes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann. All council members present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk