

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK/EXECUTIVE SESSION
AUGUST 11, 2021

MAYOR BARSA	
COUNCIL PRESIDENT ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO	COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN
COUNCILMAN KIM	COUNCILMAN ROONEY

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
	Council President Ascolese	Present
	Councilman Brizzolara	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present
	Councilman Rooney	Present

Mayor Barsa spoke about the importance and legacy of John Guercio who had recently passed.

Mayor Barsa also explained that the percentage of vaccinated residents climbed to 68%.

Mayor Barsa stated that the Fort Lee Business Alliance was impressed with the aesthetic of Livingston street and asked for advice on how to recreate it in Fort Lee.

The Mayor updated the council and public on the Blanch Avenue Bridge. The bat study has been completed and based on the findings DEP will not let any work begin before October 1st. The Mayor thanked Councilman Foschino for taking the time to research this and for his continued communication with Burbio to have Norwood be a part of this service.

The Mayor also gave an update on the Blanch Avenue paving. It has been confirmed that the drainage work will begin the Tuesday after Labor Day with the paving to follow.

The Mayor explained that there has been a rash of car burglaries and advised residents to practice the 9PM Routine every night.

The Mayor touched on the bench engraving program in town. It is a program that will allow residents and business owners alike to honor the memory of a loved one or support their local business.

The Mayor mentioned the Borough's involvement with the new Recycle Coach app.

Lastly, the Mayor gave an update on Norwood Day and the cornhole tournament during Norwood Day.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Mayor stated that there are several pieces of correspondence which are available at the Municipal Clerk's office.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 2021:04

Mayor Barsa stated he had before him an ordinance for Council action entitled:

Ordinance 2021:04. An Ordinance Amending Article IX Titled "Affordable Housing Requirements" in Chapter 233 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood to Include Mandatory Affordable Housing Set-Aside Requirements.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Ascolese to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Ascolese to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Ascolese to approve Ordinance 2021:04. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim, and Rooney

Absent: None

Nays: None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2021:04 was approved.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 2021:05

Mayor Barsa stated he had before him an ordinance for Council action entitled:

Ordinance 2021:05. An Ordinance Amending Article VII Titled “Light Industrial” in Chapter 233 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood to Establish an Affordable Housing Overlay Zoning District.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Rooney to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Rooney to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Ascolese to approve Ordinance 2021:05. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim, and Rooney

Absent: None

Nays: None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2021:05 was approved.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 2021:06

Mayor Barsa stated he had before him an ordinance for Council action entitled:

Ordinance 2021:06. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 233 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood to Establish an Affordable Housing Special Needs (A.H.S.N.) Zoning District.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Ascolese to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Ascolese to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Ascolese to approve Ordinance 2021:06. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim, and Rooney

Absent: None

Nays: None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2021:06 was approved.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 2021:07

Mayor Barsa stated he had before him an ordinance for Council action entitled:

Ordinance 2021:07 An Ordinance Establishing Salaries or Wages of Officials and Employees of the Borough of Norwood.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Ascolese to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Ascolese to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Ascolese to approve Ordinance 2021:07. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim, and Rooney

Absent: None

Nays: None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2021:07 was approved.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 2021:08

Mayor Barsa stated he had before him an ordinance for Council action entitled:

Ordinance 2021:08 An Ordinance by Norwood in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey to Amend and Supplement Chapter 233 of the Code of the Borough of Norwood with a New Article Entitled "Article XXI Cannabis" so as to Prohibit the Operation of any Class of Cannabis Businesses within the Geographical Boundaries of the Borough of Norwood.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Council President Ascolese to open the meeting to the public for comments concerning this ordinance. All Council Members present voted for the motion. There being no member of the public wishing to be heard, it was moved by Council President Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Rooney to close the meeting to the public. It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Council President Ascolese to approve Ordinance 2021:08. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim, and Rooney

Absent: None

Nays: None

* Comment with vote from Councilman Brizzolara: Will be voting to approve this ordinance with the confidence that we have assurances down the road for open-

mindfulness. Time will tell and things may change. There was not a lot of public input on this matter, so I am reluctantly voting to approve.

There being five (5) ayes and no nays Ordinance 2021:08 was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Barsa reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda and asked if any Council Member wished to remove an item. Mayor Barsa asked for a motion approving the Consent Agenda consisting of the following items.

Approval of the following resolutions:

2021:147 Renewing Participation in the Riverside Cooperative
2021:148 Approving Refund of Escrow Block 96 Lot 15 (125 Livingston Street)
2021:149 Approving Refund of Escrow Block 103 Lot 20 (231 Rockland Ave)
2021:150 Salary Resolution
2021:151 Payment of Vouchers
2021:152 Change Order for Blanch Avenue Bridge
2021:153 Release of Performance Bond - D'Ercole Project

It was moved by Council President Ascolese and seconded by Councilman Brizzolara to approve the Consent Agenda. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

July 14, 2021 Mayor & Council Meeting (Absent: Councilman Brizzolara, Councilwoman Hausmann, Councilman Kim)

It was moved by Council President Ascolese, and seconded by Councilman Rooney, and unanimously agreed (among those present at last meeting) that the 07/14/2021 Mayor & Council Meeting minutes be approved for content and release.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Tree Removal Application – 196 Hudson Avenue

Councilman Foschino stated that the tree was looked at and the application was reviewed. He feels that the application should be approved, and the tree should be removed. Councilwoman Hausmann commented that the Environmental Commission is mentioned on the tree removal applications. Hopefully moving forward these applications can be sent to the chair of the Environmental Commission. Councilman Foschino brought up the Shade Tree Commission's involvement as well. The Borough Administrator will review the ordinance to make sure the Borough acts

in compliance. Motion to approve tree removal application by Councilman Foschino, seconded by Council President Ascolese. All councilmembers present voted in favor of the motion.

Block Party Request – 28 John Circle (9/11/2021)

Motion to approve block party application by Councilman Brizzolara , seconded by Councilman Rooney. All councilmembers present voted in favor of the motion.

Borough Vehicle Purchase

Councilman Foschino explained that there was money allocated to DPW for the purchase of equipment. That equipment could no longer be purchased, but some of the money for that purchase could potentially be used for the purchase of an SUV for borough matters. The remaining money would remain with the DPW. This vehicle would be used for Borough Hall matters to be used by any of the Borough Hall employees. The Mayor offered some background and explained that the old borough vehicle that we had for Borough Hall was given to the fire prevention office. Motion to approve purchase of Borough Hall vehicle by Councilman Rooney, seconded by Council President Ascolese. All councilmembers present voted in favor of the motion.

Police Restructuring

Borough Attorney explained that the Chief is requesting a restructuring of the police department, to better deal with the upcoming retirements in the near future. The restructure plan was distributed to the governing body. The police department would be adding a Lieutenant and making room for one new hire. As officers move up, more vacancies would open. The council agrees that the Borough shouldn't risk 2 great candidates and to potentially hire 2 officers. The Borough Attorney will do a restructuring of the ordinance to allow for this, and also adding in specials and matrons. The Chief also explained the decreased need for a psychological exam for promotional reasons.

Recommendation to Have All Coaches of Youth Sports Organizations Comply with the Same Requirements as Recreation Coaches

The Borough Attorney explained that in order to coach team sports certain safety courses are required. There is a proposal to require all coaches who choose to use our fields have those certifications, and proof produced. No Councilmember objected to this recommendation.

Recommendation to Have Signs Posted at the Basketball Courts and Fields

Mayor Barsa feels that the Borough should have signs posted on the Basketball courts to limit use of the courts to Norwood residents and teams. The Borough Attorney advised that the sign cannot limit use to only Norwood Residents. Hopefully the sign would prevent applications from non-Norwood sports teams. The Borough Attorney is to work with the Borough Attorney to adjust the wording of a potential sign.

Zoom Public Comments

This topic was tabled for a future meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Hausmann: There was no meeting of the Zoning Board this month due to lack of applications. There was also no Board of Health meeting held because they do not hold meetings in August. The Environmental Commission is up and running. They are planning a hike for their members and introducing a composting workshop with the NJ Composting Council on September 11th & 19th. Brielle Olshan contacted the administration office for use of the community center. The participants of the workshop will be charged a nominal fee, which will be worked out with the composting facility. Councilwoman Hausmann mentioned she wanted to bring up the tree cutting application and the review of the application by the Environmental Commission, this was already discussed earlier. Hopefully the Environmental Commission can receive copies of the applications and be active in this process. Discussion was held regarding the tree removal process and clear-cutting ordinance.

Councilman Rooney: The fire department had a very busy month. There were a lot of gas leaks but not many fires. Norwood FD will be giving out free hot dogs on Norwood Day. Councilman Rooney received an invitation on the Council's behalf to attend a fire department dinner on August 28th honoring George Cerbasi celebrating 61 years of service. Borough Administrator to order a plaque for the occasion. Immaculate Conception Church is welcoming a new priest. The parish is having a ceremony on September 11th remembering the terrorist attacks. Mayor and Council and staff are invited to attend.

Council President Ascolese: We were in receipt of the police report and the personnel met with the Borough Administrator this month. Now with the passing of John Guercio, someone new must fulfill that position.

Councilman Kim: Due to a detached retina and the recovery time I have not able to attend recent meetings. Going forward I will be able to resume my duties.

Councilman Brizzolara: Chris Jackson was added onto our staff to bring the construction office to full time. Our residents deserve this amount of coverage in that

office. 525 Livingston Street is finishing up and will be applying for their COOs within a month. The other activity on Livingston Street should be finished around October or November.

Councilman Foschino: Received the EMS report for June 2021. There were some repairs to the ambulance this month. DPW report is in the agenda packets. Mulch will be available for residents soon. The salt spreader is repaired, and we will be getting a few quotes for a new one. The Mayor and Councilman Foschino spoke with Jason Faryniak who is a grant writer for EMS and fire services. He said that securing a grant for an ambulance is very difficult, but he was optimistic in being able to secure Scott packs and even a new fire truck. He had sent a proposal to Councilman Rooney and Councilman Foschino outlining his fees. \$2000 a year will allow him to apply for the grant one time and \$2500 a year will allow him to continuously apply for grants. The borough would be responsible for 5%. Harrington Park and Demarest uses this grant writer as well. Councilwoman Hausmann is in favor of getting the grants for the Scott packs but believes we should hire a grant writing firm rather than a single emergency services grant writer. Discussion was held regarding other grant writers and the needs of the Borough. Motion to hire the emergency services grant writer Jason Faryniak for \$2,500 by Councilman Foschino, seconded by Councilman Rooney. On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Ascolese, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim, and Rooney

Absent: None

Nays: Brizzolara

*Comment on vote by Councilman Brizzolara: Feels the governing body was ambushed into voting for something. Government is supposed to work deliberately and discuss, and feels this vote is procedurally corrupt and poor form.

*Comment on vote by Councilman Foschino: The Borough is looking to replace multi-generation old fire equipment. It is not an ambush, but a need of the borough.

*Comment on vote by Councilwoman Hausmann: I would never vote against giving first responders the best equipment, but this need has been mentioned many months ago. Agrees with Councilman Brizzolara in feeling ambushed.

*Comment on vote by Councilman Rooney: Perhaps this should have been better communicated to the grant writing committee, but we have had these discussions in the past few months but have gained no traction.

Motion carries

Landscaping will start at the library and the 14th street circle is near completion. Part of the DPW standard operating procedures is for the DPW to go around the borough and trim overhanging trees as a safety issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mr. Carlos Caunedo 100 Hazel Court: There are ten trees on town property overhanging his property. Trees are alive. Mr. Caunedo would like to have the town trim or remove the trees.

Mayor Barsa explained that the Borough doesn't cut down Borough trees if they are alive, but the property owner has a right to trim or remove them. The Borough should have an arborist go out and check the life of the trees.

Mr. Ermin Suljic: Wishes Councilman Kim a speedy recovery. Question regarding follow up with Tappan Road / Broadway intersection. The southeast corner of Broadway / Tappan always has standing water and is an eyesore. Do not understand how the departments in the Borough do not need anything in regards to the grant conversation.

Mayor Barsa addressed the Broadway / Tappan intersection issue.

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

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Councilman Rooney, second by Council President Ascolese, and unanimously agreed that Resolution #2021:154 be approved. The meeting temporarily adjourned to Closed Session at 8:32 PM.

The meeting resumed in open session at 9:35 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Rooney to appoint Rob Brescia to Temporary Tax Assessor and Affordable Housing Liaison, seconded by Councilman Brizzolara.

On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim, and Rooney

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Carries

Motion by Council President Ascolese to authorizing Jason Shafron to represent the Borough in the Laura Borchers matter, seconded by Councilman Brizzolara.

On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim, and Rooney

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Carries

Motion by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve the \$100,000 settlement for Livingston streetscape, seconded by Councilman Brizzolara.

On the roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim, and Rooney

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Carries

With no further discussion to come before the Council, Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Rooney and seconded by Council President Ascolese. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 9:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk