

**MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
SINE-DIE/REORGANIZATION
JANUARY 3, 2024
7:00 PM**

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.

Sarah Lucero sang the National Anthem, followed by the invocation by Pastor Sam Sun Ahn.

Mayor Barsa stated that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Barsa acknowledged and thanked all dignitaries in the audience.

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 for consideration.

2023:222 Resolution Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayment
2023:223 Payment of Vouchers

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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

A few short days ago we saw the end of 2023 and welcomed in 2024. For the Borough, 2023 was another outstanding year. We saw many projects begin and quite a few completed. We continued to provide our residents with the services that put Norwood on the map as one of the most desirable places to call home.

Our annual fireworks celebration was bigger and better than ever. It is the best show in the county and each year we strive to bring you more than the previous year.

For the first time, Norwood Day was postponed due to torrential rains and held in October. It was a blessing in disguise. It was a beautiful 80 degrees and there was not a cloud in the sky. We had all of our favorite activities along with some new ones. We held a costume contest that was judged by the American Legion and the big hit of the day were the pumpkin slingshots. Attendees tried to slingshot pumpkins into large barrels for a prize.

With all the good that happened during the year we did suffer losses that were felt throughout the community.

Deacon Jim Puliatte, a friend to Norwood, passed away in May. Deacon Jim served at the Immaculate Conception Church for many years. He was also our police chaplain and was always available when needed. Deacon Jim was a part of Norwood. He gave the benediction at our reorganization meetings, was a fixture at our Memorial Day parade, and for me, he was a beacon of support and guidance. For Deacon Jim, nothing was more important than his family, and he considered his parishioners his family. He was always available, day or night, to help anyone in need. Deacon Jim will be remembered as a true man of God.

In November we lost a staple of the community, Willie Falkenstern. Willie passed away after a long battle with cancer. Throughout the years Willie helped the Borough with many projects, from catch basin repair to emergency snow plowing and everything in between. Willie cherished his time with his family above all else. He was a talented artist and master craftsman. His paintings hung proudly in borough hall for many years. Willie will always be remembered for his quick wit.

We will dearly miss all who we lost and will remember them fondly.

First and foremost, I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to all of our Borough volunteers. Our volunteers understand the importance of community involvement. They take time away from their families to give back to the town they love. With our parent coaches, members of our Recreation Committee, Environmental Commission, Planning Board, and Board of Health we were able to provide fun, educational programs and make important decisions that affect us all.

This was our first year with the new joint Planning Board and it was very successful.

The Board of Health supports my quest for a healthy community. Together we work to bring healthy initiatives to our residents.

The Environmental Commission works hard to ensure that our community members have different areas where they can participate in eco-friendly activities. Whether it's working in the community garden or helping in a town cleanup, there is something for everyone to become involved in.

Our Recreation Committee continues to bring new activities into town. They brought back the 5K, began movie nights at Kennedy Field, and started our new annual Winterfest celebration.

Once again, because of the exceptional officers of our Police Department, Norwood has been named one of the 100 safest towns in America. Thank you Chief Jeff Krapels and your entire department for your excellent service and commitment to our community.

Under the guidance of Director Rob Tracy, our DPW continues to keep our town looking beautiful and keep our roads clear and safe for travel. Thank you to all of the individuals in our Department of Public Works for all that you do for our residents. Your hard work does not go unnoticed.

Our volunteer emergency services are the best around. Our Fire Department volunteers, led by Chief Michael Congiusti, continue to attend classes to advance their abilities to protect our residents. Our Fire Department does more than protect us from danger. They are the definition of community involvement. In the spring they host the Easter Egg Hunt at Kennedy Field, they barbecue for our seniors during our Senior Appreciation Picnic. During Norwood Day, they supply and grill hot dogs for the hundreds of attendees. They bring the Halloween Parade to town each October and escort Santa to the tree lighting and then drive him around town to the delight of people of all ages. Thank you for your continued generosity and dedication to our community.

Chief Chris Barron and the EMS volunteers respond to calls daily to provide life-saving care for our residents and the communities that surround us. There is a crew stationed at all Borough events in case of an emergency. Thank you to our EMS volunteers for the care they provide.

Thank you to our Borough Hall staff who help our residents with everything from pet licensing to construction permits, to garage sale permits.

My administration staff, Jordan Padovano and Lindsay Volpitta, are the best around. They are professional, knowledgeable, and courteous. I have complete confidence in their abilities and know they will keep the Borough running smoothly and efficiently.

The Construction Office staff, Gino Tessaro, Chris Jackson, and Laurie Engel are in the office five days a week ready to help you with all your building, zoning, and property maintenance needs. There is never a quiet moment for the Construction staff and they handle it all with grace.

Our Municipal Court is made up of Judge Robert Travers, Janet Gallagher, and Annmarie Colwell. They fairly and justly help all who come before them.

Chris Battaglia, our CFO and Tax Collector, works closely with Lori Gonzalez and Joann Voccola to ensure all aspects of the Borough finances are in order. Lori and Joann are always ready to help you with a smile on their face.

Our Tax Assessor Robert Brescia, works diligently and closely with the county to keep all assessments up to date and accurate.

Debbie Whalen, the Board of Health Secretary, has the important job of providing marriage certificates, supplying food licenses, and organizing and planning all Board of Health meetings. Debbie is dedicated to helping our residents with all their health-related needs.

Our Borough Professionals are on call and available at a moment's notice. We rely on them for their knowledge in their field. Thank you to our Borough Engineers Michael Neglia and Scott Loverich, and Borough Attorney Kevin Corriston.

Congratulations to Councilman BJ Kim and Councilwoman Annie Hausmann on their 2023 election victories. I look forward to another three years working beside you.

Our Council, which is made up of individuals who each have a different view and opinion of the matters that come before us, is an integral part of what makes our community thrive. It is the different thoughts and views of this diverse group that start the conversations that are needed in order to come to the best decision for our residents.

Councilman BJ Kim brings valuable information about our schools, library, and Greenway project to our meetings. Councilman Kim brings a unique perspective to our discussions and offers thought provoking view points.

Councilwoman Annie Hausmann holds the important position of liaison to the Board of Health, and Environmental Commission. She also heads our Grant Writing and Playground Committees, and is our official designee to the Norwood Food Pantry.

Councilman Tom Brizzolara, the liaison to our Construction Department and member of our Personnel Committee, provides critical information to the Council regarding the ever-changing laws issued by the DCA. Councilman Brizzolara is an asset and is always here to help me, especially regarding issues with public utilities. He is available day or night to keep me informed of any and all updates.

Councilman Joseph Ascolese is a valued member of our Planning Board and Personnel Committee, as well as liaison to the Seniors Club, and Police Department. Councilman Ascolese is a sounding board for all who sit at the dais and brings years of experience to the table.

Councilman Ed Condoleo, our EMS and Finance liaison, and member of our Personnel Committee, has a background in finance which is extremely beneficial to our community. His attention to our budget and spending is an advantage that we utilize at every turn.

Councilman Anthony Foschino is the liaison to our DPW and Fire Department. With his extensive knowledge of the work our DPW performs and his dedication to our first responders to ensure they have everything they need to provide the highest level of care make him an indispensable asset. Councilman Foschino plays an instrumental role in the beauty of our town and in keeping our roads and Borough properties safe.

Over the year we have completed many projects and have begun others.

We have many infrastructure projects in the works. First, I would like to thank Congressman Josh Gottheimer for choosing Norwood as a recipient of a \$1,000,000.00 appropriation for the repair of the Broad Street Bridge.

Kennedy Field has had all fencing around the baseball and softball fields replaced, catch basins have been repaired, and we will be beginning our drainage improvements for areas throughout town in the coming months. Norwood has received approximately \$1.7 million in grant money to help fund various projects throughout town.

Our Engineer is busy working on the design for our new pickleball courts, which should be completed early this year.

We have awarded a contract for our new state-of-the-art ADA-compliant Kennedy Park Playground site work. This playground will feature new play structures, landscaping, and a more visually appealing and accessible walkway throughout the area. A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled this winter and the playground should be opened in 2024.

Our downtown area is thriving, and I would like to welcome our new businesses and thank them for choosing Norwood.

Verana
86 & Vine
Mindy's Munchies
Tasting Notes
Fantastic Foods & Flavors
Uncle Louie G's
K Chicken
Taco Time
Norwood Pharmacy
B Dental Spa

It is because of our residents that Norwood is a diverse, safe, and fiscally responsible community. Our school system is one of the best in the nation. Our taxes continue to remain one of the lowest in the county due to our continued minimal increases. We have successfully navigated the delicate balance of always improving our town, while still keeping taxes low.

You have once again put your trust in me to represent you and your interests. I am honored to be your Mayor and I promise I will never take this position, or your trust in me, for granted.

I wish you all a joyous, healthy, and prosperous New Year. Together we will make 2024 the best year yet.

CLOSE MEETING SINE—DIE

The mayor adjourned the meeting SINE—DIE. Meeting closed at 7:23pm.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION

Borough Administrator / Clerk Padovano announced the receipt of the Certificates of Election for Councilman Kim and Councilwoman Hausmann.

Oath of Office was administered to Mayor Barsa by Senator Holly Schepisi.

Mayor Barsa gave a brief history of Livingston Street and showed a slideshow presentation of what it looked like when he began the revitalization project and what it looks like today. He said his vision for Norwood is to continue to improve the town, bring the downtown aesthetics all the way to the Kennedy Field complex, and to continue to keep Norwood a safe, fiscally responsible Borough for the residents.

Oath of Office was administered to Councilman Kim by Senator Holly Schepisi.

Councilman Kim said when he was first elected, he had great plans to give back to the community but he was the one who benefited from the community. He looks forward to another term working with the Mayor and members of the Council.

Mayor Barsa stated that earlier today he swore in Councilwoman Hausmann who did not attend tonight's meeting in person due to being under the weather.

Councilwoman Hausmann congratulated Mayor Barsa and Councilman Kim. She stated that although they might have different methods, ultimately the governing body all wants the same end result.

The mayor swore in the new officers for the fire department and Ambulance Corps:

Fire Department:

Chief: Michael Congiusti

Assistant Chief: Richard Hess

Assistant Duty Chief: W. Scott Roberts

Captain: Danny Plescia

Lieutenant: Brian Bourke

Lieutenant: Will McGuire

Ambulance Corps:

Chief: Chris Barron

Deputy Chief: Dayna Tidwell

1st Lieutenant: John Kuder

Roll call of the 2024 Council

Mayor Barsa	Present
Councilman Ascolese	Present
Councilman Brizzolara	Absent
Council Condoleo	Present
Councilman Foschino	Present
Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
Councilman Kim	Present

SELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Councilman Ascolese made a motion to elect Councilman Condoleo as Council President. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion. The Borough Clerk took a roll call vote for Councilman Condoleo's nomination. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Ascolese	Aye
Councilman Brizzolara	Absent
Councilman Condoleo	Aye
Councilman Foschino	Aye
Councilwoman Hausmann	Aye
Councilman Kim	Aye

With the majority vote, Councilman Condoleo was made Council President for 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items are routine and will be enacted with a single motion; any items requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda; all Consent Agenda items will be reflected in full in the minutes.

- 24:01 Approving the Rules and By-Laws dated July 2, 1969, supplemented and approved for 2024
- 24:02 Approving the Rules of Order
- 24:03 Mayor and Council Meeting Annual Meeting Notice
- 24:04 Minutes of Meetings need not be read by the Borough Clerk at Council Meetings
- 24:05 Designation of Official Newspapers
- 24:06 2024 Official Holidays
- 24:07 Establishing a Cash Management Plan
- 24:08 Designating 2024 Bank Depositories
- 24:09 Fixing the Rate of Interest and Year End Penalty for non-payment of taxes
- 24:10 Appointment of Lori Gonzalez as Assistant Treasurer for the year 2024
- 24:11 Appointment of Lindsay Volpitta as Deputy Borough Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector for the year 2024
- 24:12 Appointment of Jordan Padovano as Insurance Commissioner for

- the Bergen County Joint Insurance Fund for 2024
- 24:13 Appointment of Robert Brescia as Municipal Housing Liaison for the year 2024
- 24:14 Appointment of Janet Gallagher as Court Administrator
- 24:15 Appointment of Laura A. Nunnink, Esq. as Municipal Prosecutor for the year 2024
- 24:16 Appointing Robert P. Travers as Municipal Court Judge for a three-year term to expire on 12/31/2026
- 24:17 Appointment of Sgt. John Kuder as Emergency Management Coordinator for the year 2024
- 24:18 Appointing Kevin C. Corrison of Breslin & Breslin PA as Borough Attorney for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2024
- 24:19 Appointment of Boswell Engineering as Special Conflict Engineer for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2024
- 24:20 Approval of 2024 Temporary Budget
- 24:21 Appointing Steven Wielkottz of Wielkottz and Company as Borough Auditor for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2024
- 24:22 Appointing Steve Rogut of Rogut, McCarthy, L.L.C. as Bond Counsel for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2024
- 24:23 Appointing Victor Fadini as Risk Manager for the Borough of Norwood for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2024
- 24:24 Appointing Dart Computer as IT Consultant for a one-year term to expire on 12/31/2024
- 24:25 Appointing Acari and Iovino Architects PC as Borough Architect for a one-year term to expire on 12/31/2024
- 24:26 Appointing Kauker & Kauker LLC as Borough Planner for Affordable Housing for a one-year term to expire on 12/31/2024
- 24:27 Appointing Helene C. Herbert, Esq. as Special Counsel for Tax Appeal Conflicts for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2024
- 24:28 Appointment of Andrew Fede to Serve as Special Counsel to the Borough of Norwood
- 24:29 Appointing Jason Shafron as Labor Attorney for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2024
- 24:30 Appointment of the County of Bergen as its Animal Control Officer for 2024
- 24:31 Authorizing a Public Health Shared Services Agreement between the Borough of Norwood and the County of Bergen for Employees Assistance Program
- 24:32 Appointing Supporting Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force
- 24:33 Approving Inter-Boro Mutual Aid Group with various municipalities
- 24:34 Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Closter for the Use of the Police Firearms Training Facility
- 24:35 Appointing Laurie Engel as TACO for the 2024

- 24:36 Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing (HGAC)
- 24:37 Confirming the appointment of Jordan Padovano as Public Agency Compliance Officer in accordance with the New Jersey Administrative Code's Requirements
- 24:38 Authorizing Animal Cruelty Agreement with Bergen County
- 24:39 Establishing Petty Cash for the Borough
- 24:40 Adopting A Form Required To Be Used For The Filing Of Notices Of Tort Claims
- 24:41 Appointing Neglia Engineering as the Borough Planner for a one year term to expire on 12/31/24

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

XVII. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS

Board of Health:

Nancy Congiusti – 3 year term to expire 12/31/26

Vacant – Alternate 2 – 2 year term to expire 12/31/25

Recreation Committee:

Rakesh Ramessar – (Basketball Representative) 3 year term to expire 12/31/26

Peter Rinaldi – (Baseball/Softball Representative) 3 year term to expire 12/31/26

Lou Macchiaroli – (Football Representative) filling an unexpired term until 12/31/25

Kieran O Mullane– (Soccer Representative) 3 year term to expire 12/31/26

Pete Moylan – (At Large) 3 year term to expire 12/31/26

Historic Preservation Committee: 1 Yr. Terms Expire 12/31/2024

David Elling Marjorie Scott James Elling

Birgitha Tray Richard Williams

Green Team Committee: 1 Yr. Terms Expires 12/31/2024

Mayor James Barsa David Hausmann

Annie Hausmann Christopher Barron (EMS representative)

Anthony Foschino Eric Schuck (DPW / Recycling representative)

Joanna Kao Michael Congiusti (FD representative)

Jonathan Zipper
Paul Haberman

Sal Russino (PD representative)

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee: 1 Yr. Term, Expires 12/31/2024

Mayor Barsa	Janet D'Ercole
Councilman Ascolese	John Jost
Martha Kleinlaut	Paul Elenio

Special Patrolmen:

Class I

Christopher Campo
Richard Sposa
Thomas Tracy

Police Clerk/Matron:

JoAnn Voccola

Police Physician:

Park Medical Group

Towing Services:

D.T.R. Towing LLC
DeMauro Towing, Inc
Emerson Towing Inc
NorthStar Towing
Rich's Automotive

Bureau of Fire Safety Inspectors:

William McGuire	Kenny Sheppard
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Crossing Guards for 2023

Paul Wiegartner	Tzuyi Peter Lin
Linda Dudzienski	Harry Ahn
Larry Grassi	Robert Kuenzler
Alice McCausland	Michael Cheringal
Roger Girardin	Robert Wojcik
Rita Paton	Robert Canas

Alternates:

Karin Weissbach
Joyce Gorant
Alice Sposa

Superintendent of Roads

Mike Neglia

Councilman Ascolese made a motion to approve the Mayoral appointments to various boards and committees and the Council committee assignments. Councilman Foschino seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

XVII.I. COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Finance

Condoleo (Chair)
Kim
Ascolese

Personnel

Ascolese (Chair)
Brizzolara
Condoleo

Property/Zoning

Brizzolara (Chair)
Kim (Construction)
Ascolese (Planning Board)

Public Health

Hausmann (Chair)
Brizzolara
Ascolese

Public Safety

Ascolese (Police)
Foschino (Fire)
Condoleo (EMS)

Public Utilities

Brizzolara (Chair)
Hausmann
Kim

Public Works

Foschino (Chair)
Condoleo
Hausmann

Shared Services

Barsa (chair)
Ascolese
Foschino

Grant Writer

Hausmann (chair)
Ascolese
Kim

Mayor Barsa offers the following appointments not subject to council approval:

Planning Board:

Chris Jackson	Class II, Term Expires 12/31/2024
Joseph Ascolese,	Class III, Term Expires 12/31/2024
Allen Rapaport	Class IV, Term Expires 12/31/2027
Sal Nobile	Class IV, Term Expires 12/31/2027
Dominick Congiusti	(Alternate 2) Term Expires 12/31/2025
Heather Garcia	(Alternate 3) Term Expires 12/31/2025

Environmental Commission:

Brielle Olshan – 3 year term to expire 12/31/2026

Phil Maljevic – 3 year term to expire 12/31/2026

Kamal Hoon – 3 year term to expire 12/31/2026

Barbara Vanderbeck - 3 year term to expire 12/31/2026

Michaela Redden – (Alternate 1) 2 year term to expire 12/31/2025

Deirdre Kessler – (Alternate 2) 1 year term to expire 12/31/2024

Mayor Barsa made his appointments to the Planning Board, Environmental Committee and Council liaison appointments.

Mayor Barsa to announce his Liaison Appointments for 2024:

Board of Education.....	Foschino/Kim
Board of Health	Hausmann
Community Development	Hausmann
Community Outreach/Food Pantry	Hausmann
Environmental Commission	Hausmann
Greenway Trail	Kim
Historic Preservation	Condoleo
Library	Kim
Recreation.....	Foschino
Seniors	Ascolese
Senior Advisory Board	Ascolese
Shade Tree.....	Hausmann

COMMENTS AND REMARKS

Council President Condoleo said he was looking forward to working with everyone again and thanked the Council, employees, and volunteers for all they do.

Councilman Ascolese thanked the Council, employees, and volunteer services. He stated that the Council took a different financial approach last year and thanked Council President Condoleo for keeping a handle on the budget.

Councilman Foschino Congratulated Mayor Barsa, Councilman Kim, and Councilwoman Hausmann on there election victories. He also acknowledged members of the Board of Education and Recreation Committee that were present. Councilman Foschino thanked the fire department and DPW for all their hard work, noting that Norwood has the best DPW in the county. He also thanked the employees, with a special thanks to Chief Krapels for being a sounding board for the

governing body. Lastly, Councilman Foschino thanked the Barsa family for giving up family time with Mayor Barsa so he can be present for Borough business.

Councilman Kim once again thanked the community and the governing body.

Councilwoman Hausmann also thanked the Mayor and members of the council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilman Foschino made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Council President Condoleo seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Foschino made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council President Condoleo seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.