

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
January 21, 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	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Council President Kim	Present

CORRESPONDENCE

Grant Report December 2025

Fire Department Report December 2025

Police Department Report December 2025

Mayors Remarks

Winter is in full swing with more potential snow on the way. I would like to thank our Department of Public Works for their continued hard work keeping our roads safe for travel. I also want to extend a special thank you to Councilman Foschino for volunteering his time during the most recent storm to assist the DPW with plowing efforts—it's greatly appreciated and truly reflects his commitment to our community.

Despite the winter conditions, our Winterfest was a tremendous success, with a turnout even larger than last year. It was wonderful to see so many residents come out and enjoy a great time together.

The borough's annual rabies clinic will be held on January 28 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Community Center. All cats and dogs in need of the rabies vaccine are welcome to take part in the clinic.

PRESENTATION

Norwood Recreation Boys 5th/6th Grade Soccer Champions

Mayor Barsa welcomed the recreation soccer team and congratulated them on their championship win. Mayor Barsa and Councilman Foschino presented the team with certificates acknowledging their accomplishment.

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:

December 10, 2025 Mayor & Council Meeting

January 7, 2026 Mayor & Council Reorganization Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2026:45 Resolution Appointing Chief Federici to the County Public Safety Advisory Board

2026:46 Resolution Appointing Brian Mason as School Crossing Guard

2026:47 Resolution Appointing Elkin Chica as School Crossing Guard

2026:48 Resolution to Advertise for Bids for the Summit Street Roadway Improvements

2026:49 Resolution Authorizing Neglia CPWM Payments

2026:50 Resolution Authorizing Neglia Engineering to provide Construction Management for Mills Avenue Roadway Improvements
2026:51 Resolution Authorizing Neglia Engineering to Provide Professional Surveying, Engineering, And Permitting Services in Support of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Certification for The Leaf Compost Facility
2026:52 Payment of Vouchers
2026:53 Resolution Authorizing 2026 Appropriation Reserve Transfers

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the amended Consent Agenda and that December 10, 2025, and January 7, 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.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Planning Board

Mayank Rastogi – Alternate 4, Expires 12/31/26

Recreation Committee

Ray Lee – At Large, Expires 12/31/

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the appointment of Ray Lee to the Recreation Committee. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Recreation Grant

Councilwoman Hausmann said she spoke with Councilman Foschino about possibly using the grant to purchase a gazebo for Kennedy Field. Councilman Foschino said he discussed the grant with the Recreation Committee and at the next recreation meeting they will bring a few ideas to the table. The deadline to apply for the grant is February 13th.

Councilwoman Hausmann said she spoke with Martha Kleinlaut about an AARP grant and she suggested having the community center bathrooms upgraded with ADA compliant toilets and toilet paper holders. The grant will need to be submitted by March 5th. Councilman Brizzolara suggested having the plumbing inspector review the bathrooms to see what needs to be done to make the bathrooms ADA compliant. Councilman Foschino said he would like to ask the department heads for a survey asking what, if anything, they would need that this grant could possibly provide for. This will include the Fire Department and EMS. Council President Kim

asked if this grant was available every year. Mayor Barsa asked to confirm the grant is still available.

Borough Website Vendors

Mr. Padovano gave an overview to the governing body regarding different vendors for a municipal website upgrade. Mr. Padovano recommended Apptegy as the vendor he would like to go with. Apptegy includes an app in the cost of the website. The only additional pricing is the email alerts, which could be added at any time. The app does have a push alert function. It is a very clean website that is user friendly. The vendor is very responsive and quick to help when needed. Council President Kim asked why this is the vendor to go with. Mr. Padovano said all the features, including customer service, is excellent. Councilwoman DeBiasa said she said the Apptegy websites that she looked at were great. She does not feel that a decision should be made tonight after the vendor answers questions. Councilwoman Hausmann asked if they can come and give a presentation before making a decision. She also said there are grants available for websites. Councilman Foschino said the cost savings is there to get this done. He does not want to delay this any longer as it has been discussed for years. He understands Councilwoman DeBiasa's questions but feels that we should move forward based on Mr. Padovano's recommendation. Mayor Barsa if we are not happy with the vendor we can remove them. Councilman Ascolese said he goes along with the Mayor's recommendation.

It was moved by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve Apptegy as the borough website vendor with the contingency the questions submitted by Councilwoman DeBiasa are answered. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Parking Ordinance Changes (Demarest & Chestnut/Maple)

Chief Federici advised that Maple and Chestnut Streets has a parking issue and has discussed the matter with Mr. Loverich. Chief Federici said the curves in the road were not wide enough to allow cars to park and still have trucks maneuver around the curve. The ordinance would prohibit parking in those areas.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Foschino to approve the parking ordinance for Maple Street and Chestnut Street. In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

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Chief Federici said they continue to monitor the numbers of vehicles parked on Demarest Street. The numbers are light, with only one to three cars parked at a time. They are weighing all factors and working with the residents in the neighborhood.

Mayor Barsa opened the meeting to the public only for comments on Demarest Street parking.

Sharon Dwyer, 31 Demarest Street, said she lives on side you can't park on. There is now less parking. She suggests staggering the parking, some on each side. Chief Federici said they are weighing all opinions.

Councilwoman Hausmann said in early December when she was the DPW liaison she had a meeting with DPW committee and discussed putting cameras in the compost facility. She asked the Chief of Police for his opinion and said he is in favor of using AACOM for the project. She would like the governing body to approve putting a license plate camera at the entrance to the dump and another camera to see a large area. Mr. Tracy advised her that he has found illegal dumping.

Mayor Barsa said there has been no report by the DPW Director, Chief of Police, or Mr. Padovano that there has been illegal dumping.

Mayor Barsa said there should be no purchases for use at borough facilities without the knowledge and approval from the governing body. No individual has the authority to act independently to obtain equipment on behalf of the Borough.

Mayor Barsa said if there are security issues cameras are a good thing. Chief Federici said it was not his intent to approve the ordering of the cameras. Chief Federici said there is no history of police calls, complaints or investigations at the compost facility. Mr. Tracy said he has not seen illegal dumping or hazardous waste. He has seen the occasional basketball hoop. Mr. Padovano said nothing had been reported to his office.

Councilwoman Hausmann said she had discussed the cameras with Mr. Tracy. Mayor Barsa said Mr. Tracy did not request the cameras.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked Ms. Volpitta if she told her that she did not need council approval to purchase the cameras. Ms. Volpitta said she told Councilwoman Hausmann that the quote is for over \$1,000.00 and council liaison approval is needed.

Mayor Barsa said he does not like abuse of power or when protocol is not followed.

Councilman Brizzolara said from his understanding the DPW Committee had a meeting and approved the cameras. Councilwoman Hausmann also received approval from the Police Chief. Councilman Brizzolara asked if there are other areas in town that need cameras.

Councilman Foschino said there are more important areas in town that need cameras. The cameras come at a major cost. He had a meeting with the DPW Director and Police Chief and asked where they felt the most need for cameras were. He feels having a license plate reader at the compost facility is an exorbitant cost. Councilman

Foschino went through the DPW 2025 budget and saw that they were over budget in several areas. The overtime budget was over by \$40,000.00. He also stated that to say the compost facility is not manned is untrue. The contractor that is running the facility has an employee there to do his business from 7am to 3:30pm. The facility is locked at 3:30pm. There are instances when Harrington Park has alerted the DPW Director that they are running late and the facility is left unlocked until they arrive.

Councilman Foschino will be having a meeting next week with the DPW Director and Police Chief to decide the best place for the cameras. He feels the new playground should be monitored as well as the basketball courts. He also noted several areas that were not covered by cameras: the rear of the DPW by the swim club, the dog park, the swim club, the playground and a portion of the basketball courts. It would be better to have the cameras connected to the Borough system they already have. To have wifi installed at the facility would cost about \$280.00 a month. He also stated that the employee from AACOM made a comment asking who the point person has been as in the past it has been the Police Chief.

Councilman Foschino said they are trying to have the compost facility have less activity than it does now. The residents of Northwoods deserve the least amount of activity.

Councilman Ascolese asked the Police Chief if it would be possible to add the compost facility into the nightly checks of the officers on duty. Chief Federici said he will have the officers begin to check the facility nightly.

Councilman Ascolese asked if governing body approval is needed before the cameras can be purchased. Mr. Padovano said that governing body approval is needed for purchases regarding security. Councilman Brizzolara challenged that as he does not remember doing that in the past.

Councilwoman Hausmann made a motion to approve have the cameras at the compost facility. Councilman Brizzolara seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Ascolese Nay
Councilman Brizzolara Aye
Councilwoman DeBiasa Aye
Councilman Foschino Nay
Councilwoman Hausmann Aye
Council President Kim Nay
Mayor Barsa Nay

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT

Mr. Padovano advised the governing body that the 2026 pet licenses are due by February 28th. The rabies clinic will be held at the community center on January 28th from 5:30pm-7pm.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Mr. Corrison advised that Mr. Padovano asked him to look into if the Borough needs to continue to pay ASCAP an annual fee of about \$400.00. After researching the matter Mr. Corrison said since the Borough does not charge a fee at the events where music is played they are not accountable and do not need to pay ASCAP. The DJ or bands playing the music will be responsible for paying ASCAP.

BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Loverich said Sanzari Construction is working at 5 Meadow Lane repairing the outfall drainage easement. It has been discovered that the outflow pipe is larger than the pipes in the area and has a smaller pipe inside of it. That is not good engineering practice. A buried manhole was also discovered closer to the roadway that no one was aware of.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Ms. Rachel Schanck, 115 Kensington, asked the governing body for permission to hold the NPS PTO carnival at Kennedy Field on May 28th, 29th, and 30th.

Mayor Barsa said he is very happy to help the school and the PTO.

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to approve the PTO carnival at Kennedy Field. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese. All council members present approved the motion.

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

CLOSED SESSION

2026:54 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 forwarded by Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Council President Kim. All council members present approved the motion.

RETURN TO OPEN

The meeting resumed in open session at 9:23 PM.

It was moved by Council President Foschino and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the settlement agreement presented by the Borough Planner. 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 Councilman Ascolese and seconded by Council President Kim. All council members present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 9:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk