

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
April 10, 2024
7:00 PM
MAYOR BARSA

COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE	COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA
COUNCIL PRESIDENT CONDOLEO	COUNCILMAN FOSCHINO
COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN	COUNCILMAN 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
	Council President Condoleo	Present
	Councilman Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present

MAYOR’S OPENING ADDRESS

The Borough will host the annual Bergen County shred event on Saturday, May 11th, from 9am to 1pm. During that time, residents can bring up to 4 bags of material to be shredded to the DPW parking lot.

The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive at the community center on Wednesday, July 24th, from 2pm-7pm. Pre-registration is highly recommended. The link to register can be found on our Borough website.

CORRESPONDENCE

Building Department March Fee Log
Fire Department March Report
Grant Writer March Report
Police Chief March Report

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 2024:06 Amending Chapter 28.16a, Section 2 of the Revised General Ordinance of the Borough of Norwood, County of Bergen, State of NJ to increase the rate of compensation to the borough

Public Hearing for Ordinance 2024:06 will be on April 24, 2024

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilwoman Hausmann, second by Councilman Ascolese, that Ordinance 2024:06 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on April 24, 2024.

Roll Call

Aye: Councilmembers Ascolese, Condoleo, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim

Nay:

Abstain: Councilman Brizzolara

Absent:

Motion carried.

2. Ordinance 2024:07 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2024:07 will be held on May 08, 2024

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Council President Condoleo, second by Councilman Brizzolara, that Ordinance 2024:06 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on April 24, 2024.

Roll Call

Aye: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Condoleo, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim

Nay:
Abstain:
Absent:

Motion carried.

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:

March 27, 2024, Mayor & Council Special Meeting

March 27, 2024, Mayor & Council Meeting

Approval of the following Resolutions:

2024:80 Escrow Refund 888 Blanch

2024:81 Approval to Advertise for Bids for 2023 Capital Expense of a DPW Pickup Truck

2024:82 Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Playground Surfacing for The Norwood Kennedy Park Playground for An Amount Of \$167,637.20 Through ESCNJ Co-Op # 20/21-02

2024:83 Authorizing Change in Custodian of Petty Cash Fund

2024:84 Payment of Vouchers

2024:85 Approving the Janitorial Service I-M Cleaning Contract Extension

2024:86 Authorizing Negotiation of Modification of Affordable Housing Settlement and Conservation Easement

2024:87 Approving Neglia Engineering's Design & Bidding Services Agreement for Summit Street and High Street

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to approve the Consent Agenda and that the March 27, 2024, regular meeting minutes and budget meeting minutes be approved for content and release with the exception of Resolutions 2024:81 and 2024:82. In a roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Foschino said he would like to remove Resolution 2024:81 from the consent agenda. He feels that at this time it is not a necessity to spend the \$80,000.00 in capital on a DPW service truck.

It was moved by Councilwoman Hausmann and seconded by Councilman Ascolese to eliminate Resolution 2024:81. In a roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Foschino also feels that Resolution 2024:82 should have further discussion. He feels it would be prudent to use wood carpeting as the playground surface and use the grant money that was set aside for the poured rubber surfacing on a different area of the playground. Councilwoman Hausmann disagrees, she feels the poured rubber surface would be a better choice due to less maintenance and other factors. Mayor Barsa said he understands that Councilman Foschino is trying to save money, but this has already been discussed and agreed upon.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve Resolution 2024:82. In a roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

INTRODUCTION OF 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Resolution 2024:88 Approving the Introduction of the 2023 Municipal Budget

Public hearing on the 2024 Municipal Budget will be held on May 08, 2024

Mayor Barsa thanked Council President Condoleo, Chris Battaglia, Steve Wielkatz, and the Finance Committee for all the hard work they put into the budget.

Council President Condoleo informed the governing body that the budget is currently at 6.71% compared to just over 10% when the budgeting process began.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked if the Council could be provided with a list of vendors who are outside contractors for the Borough. She would like the list to be reviewed to see if anything can be brought back into the Borough and would save money. Councilman Foschino explained that there are projects that do need to be contracted out because the Borough does not have the tools for the job.

Councilman Brizzolara asked a number of questions about the specific budget items. Mr. Battaglia answered all questions to the satisfaction of the Council.

The mayor read the ordinance by title. Motion by Councilman Brizzolara, second by Councilwoman Hausmann, that Resolution 2024:88 be introduced on first reading, with a public hearing on May 8, 2024.

Roll Call

Aye: Councilmembers Ascolese, Brizzolara, Condoleo, Foschino, Hausmann, Kim
Nay:
Abstain:
Absent:

Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilwoman Hausmann to approve Resolutions 2024:89, Self Examination Resolution, and 2024:90, Resolution of the Governing Body's Certification of Compliance with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In a roll call vote, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Hausmann

Councilwoman Hausmann informed the governing body that the Environmental Commission held a very successful community clean up. A special thanks was given to DPW Director Rob Tracy, and Cub Scout Pack 120 for their hard work. The Environmental Commission will be holding two presentations with Bracco Farms on gardening. Councilwoman Hausmann asked for the Forestry Study to be listed as a discussion item on the May agenda, to which Mayor Barsa agreed.

Councilwoman Hausmann advised that all Board of Health reports are available for inspection in the Board of Health office. She also noted that the Board of Health has developed various committees and will continue to work with the county to utilize the free services they provide.

Lastly, Councilwoman Hausmann advised the governing body that the Norwood Food Pantry has changed its name to the Wholesome Pantry and will have a ceremony on Saturday, April 20th at noon to commemorate the change. The food pantry feeds over five hundred (500) people every month.

Councilman Kim

Councilman Kim gave an update on the Greenway project, advising that they have hired a professional firm to handle marketing. It has also been agreed upon that the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission will take the lead on the project. Councilman Kim advised that the Library Board has received the letter stating there will be a rent increase and they would like to have a meeting to discuss that before it happens.

Councilman Ascolese

Councilman Ascolese noted that the March police report was shared with the Council. He also advised that he attended the Senior Club meeting and they are asking for an increase in their budget to help with the bus fees. Lastly, he informed the governing body that due to conflicts the Personnel Committee meetings will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month going forward.

Councilman Foschino.

Councilman Foschino said the DPW have completed the spring cleanups and will continue to maintain the fields for the baseball and softball season. They are awaiting a delivery of clay for the fields. There were over one hundred thirty (130) registered participants for this baseball and softball season. The opening day parade has been postponed due to a conflict with the school play and will be rescheduled for later in the season.

Councilman Brizzolara

Councilman Brizzolara said housing was picking up in the construction office and there will be a new bank coming into the old Chase Bank property.

Council President Condoleo

Council President Condoleo stated that he is waiting for the first quarter EMS report and will share it once it is received. The ambulance is possibly scheduled to arrive in May.

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 Brizzolara. All council members present approved the motion.

Ms. Heather Garcia, 15 Dwarskill, stated that the Board of Education received their preliminary budget and it has an increase of 4.93%. They will also be looking to cut where they can. A large part of the increase is transportation costs. Councilman Foschino asked if it was possible for the Board of Education and the Borough to work together. Ms. Garcia said the Board is always open to shared services.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded by Councilman Foschino and seconded by Council President Condoleo. All council members present approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano
Borough Clerk