

MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF NORWOOD  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MAY 19, 2022  
7:00 PM  
MAYOR BARSA

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COUNCILMAN ASCOLESE  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOSCHINO  
COUNCILMAN KIM

COUNCILMAN BRIZZOLARA  
COUNCILWOMAN HAUSMANN

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The Public Special 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
	Councilman Ascolese	Present
	Councilman Brizzolara	Present
	Council President Foschino	Present
	Councilwoman Hausmann	Present
	Councilman Kim	Present

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Current Vacant Seat of the Norwood Borough Council:

The mayor stated the reason for the meeting and the sole topic of discussion for this special meeting is to fill the vacancy in the governing body created by the resignation of Councilman Rooney.

Council President Foschino stated that replacing Councilman Rooney completely is an impossible task. Councilman Rooney brought a sense of calmness to the council that the borough appreciated. His resignation is a great loss to the council, and he will be missed. The borough council received three names, and all are very qualified individuals.

Council President Foschino made a motion to select Ermin Suljic to be added to resolution 2022:102 thus filling the vacancy in the governing body created by the resignation of Councilman Rooney and was seconded by Councilman Ascolese.

2022:102 – Approval of Appointment to Current Vacant Seat of the Norwood Borough Council

Councilwoman Hausmann made a comment on the motion. Councilwoman Hausmann stated that all three candidates have unique qualifications that make them great options for a council seat. Mr. Suljic is a civil engineer and will bring valuable knowledge in that field to the table, Ms. Falkenstern is a former employee and a Borough Administrator in Park Ridge, NJ and will bring her knowledge of municipal governance with her. Councilwoman Hausmann has heard it said around the borough that Ms. Alberti has only lived in the Borough for three years, and she wanted to clarify some of her attributes. Ms. Alberti has quickly gotten to work volunteering her time which has led to working with multiple departments within the borough.

In September of 2020, Angie helped to put on Norwood Day successfully in the middle of the pandemic. Ms. Alberti coordinated the planning of the first healthy walk with the Mayor and the Healthy Norwood vendor initiative. She was appointed to the board of health and immediately got to work there. She has helped mobilized efforts that will greatly help the health and wellbeing of the residents of the Borough. It is Councilwoman Hausmann's pleasure to sit on the Board of Health.

Ms. Alberti was instrumental in working with the New Jersey local boards of health association, educating boards about the responsibilities of the Board of Health and to help Norwood become a full member of the New Jersey Board of Health. She has worked on programing, communications, and budgeting to help bring greater professionalism and modernization to the group.

In 2020, Ms. Alberti presented to Mayor Barsa the Healthy Norwood Initiative, and offered her professional expertise to help maximize the wellbeing of Norwood residents in this strategic vision and targeted programing. This initiative was created out of Ms. Alberti's love and concern for Norwood and to help it be a community where strength, dignity, healing, and unity are all at the central themes. Ms. Alberti did the work for this initiative, it was her idea, it was her vision and hope that Norwood would become a blueprint for all New Jersey municipalities. From the time Healthy Norwood has begun, it has rapidly evolved in its own track to become a long-term strategic vision.

Ms. Alberti also focused on acquiring resources from the state and county to bolster programing in Norwood such as the Stigma Free Zone which was just unveiled several weeks ago; to foster great community awareness and acceptance of mental

illness in the community. Ms. Alberti also singlehandedly applied for Norwood's first ever Healthy Town to Watch which is featured on the message board. We were awarded in 2020 and then again in 2021 because of the ongoing work of Healthy Norwood.

Ms. Alberti recently helped bring visibility to the state level of the Norwood food pantry by arranging a visit with the director of the Office of Resilience within the Department of Children and Families. Ms. Alberti serves on the Kennedy Playground modernization project since it was first launched. She was the project coordinator due to the borough not having an administrator at that time.

Within the Norwood Recreation program Ms. Alberti currently serves as a softball coach. In the neighborhood, Ms. Alberti works with neighbors to reach out and collaborate with the DPW with improving the 14<sup>th</sup> street circle. Ms. Alberti is a big advocate for children and families in this town.

Councilwoman Hausmann stated that she wanted to give Ms. Alberti her just due as an extremely dedicated public servant who has done more in three years in this town than most. Angie does not like being in the spotlight as she likes to get her hands dirty, get into the details, communicate and work methodically, silently, effectively, and efficiently. It is evident from a list of accomplishments that Ms. Alberti has done in this municipality with all the people sitting on the dais, that would not have happened without her efforts.

Councilwoman Hausmann wanted to say this because Ms. Alberti has been criticized for not attending meetings and for having lived in town for three years. Councilwoman Hausmann appreciated Ms. Alberti, Ms. Falkenstern, and Mr. Suljic for putting their hats in the ring.

Council President Foschino wished to make a comment on the motion as well.

Council President Foschino stated that he was unaware, and it was not featured on the agenda, that this meeting would be a "YouTube commercial" for Ms. Alberti for council. Nonetheless, his hat is off to Mr. Suljic. Mr. Suljic has been involved with the Kennedy Field ADA-compliant park. Mr. Suljic has been attending the council meetings religiously for months. Mr. Suljic has been attending the Board of Education meetings for months. Mr. Suljic has shown he has an interest in Norwood. Mr. Suljic is always in Kennedy Field making time to stop and chat with the DPW on a regular basis, observe our accomplishments at Knickerbocker field.

Council President Foschino feels that Ms. Alberti, Ms. Falkenstern, and Mr. Suljic are all equal in this process. This meeting is not to say that one is better than the other, but rather what is best for the person who has shown interest in the borough and Mr. Suljic has done that. Council President Foschino acknowledges that he has

not agreed with everything Mr. Suljic has said in the past and he assumes the same goes for Mr. Suljic, but that is ok.

Council President Foschino stated that he gives his word that he will work hand-in-hand with Mr. Suljic. He looks forward to getting Mr. Suljic involved with the ambulance corps, the fire department, shade tree commission, and the DPW, all departments Council President Foschino has the honor of serving as liaison. Please do not let anything said here tonight be a negative or be a disappointment at all. There is a lot to get done in town and Mr. Ermin will be a great asset to the council.

In the roll call vote, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Barsa offered his congratulations to Mr. Suljic and administered the Oath of Office.

Councilman Suljic stated that being nominated is a big privilege to be chosen, without having to go through an election. He will use his next couple months on the council to help everyone on the council.

#### 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 councilmembers 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 councilmembers present approved the motion.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barsa asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was forwarded Councilman Brizzolara and seconded by Councilman Ascolese. All councilmembers present approved the motion. Meeting was adjourned the meeting at 7:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Padovano  
Borough Clerk