



MINUTES
Combined Meeting of the Mayor and Council
Wednesday, October 11, 2023
7:00 PM

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers at 116 Paris Avenue, Northvale, New Jersey 07647.

Mayor McGuire read the Open Public Meetings Act Notice into the record as follows:

“This is a Combined Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale. The date, time and location of this meeting have been advertised in the official Newspaper of the Borough, filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building. All notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act for this meeting have been fulfilled. Please note the fire exits as required by law at public meetings.”

SALUTE TO FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor McGuire asked everyone to stand and join him in a salute to the flag. He also asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence hoping for more peaceful times in the Mid East and to remember our armed forces who are serving here and abroad.

Mayor McGuire asked for a roll call vote:

Mayor McGuire	Present	Council President McMorrow	Present
Councilman Argiro	Present	Councilman Mattessich	Present
Councilman Hogan	Present	Councilman Menafra	Present
		Councilman Sokoloski	Present

Other Officials Present:

Robert Ferraro, Borough Attorney
Scott Loverich, Borough Engineer
Frances Weston, Municipal Clerk

BLOCK PARTY APPROVAL

Mayor McGuire informed the Council that the Police have approved the block party to be held on October 14, 2023, with a rain date of October 22, 2023. This was requested by Andre Farah. The block party will be held in front of 420, 422, 424 Longview Court. Barricades are requested at the intersection of Longview Court/Argenti and Longview Court/Andre Avenue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor McGuire asked for a motion and second to approve the Minutes of the Combined Meeting of September 13, 2023. Motion was made by Councilman Hogan, seconded by Council President McMorrow.

Mayor McGuire asked for a roll call vote of the Council:

Councilman Argiro	Yes	Councilman Mattessich	Yes
Councilman Hogan	Yes	Councilman Menafra	Yes
Council President McMorrow	Yes	Councilman Sokoloski	Yes

MONTHLY CORRESPONDENCE

The following reports are on file in the Municipal Clerk’s office and can be viewed by the public between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- Building Department
- Engineer – Neglia Group
- Fire Prevention
- Grantswriter - Bruno Associates
- Recreation Minutes
- Tax Collector

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Andre Farah – Block Party Request, Email dated September 25, 2023
2. Borough of Paramus Shared Service Agreement
Grass, Brush, and Vegetative Waste Collection



- (Resolution 2023-151)
- 3. Borough of Rockleigh Interlocal Agreement Sanding, Salting, and Snow Plowing Services (Resolution 2023-159)

RESOLUTIONS – Consent Agenda –

“All items are considered to be non-controversial by the Council and will be approved by one motion. There may be further discussion prior to the vote upon request of a member of the public or a Council member. Any item may be removed for further discussion or for a roll call vote in which case the item will be removed and considered in its normal sequence as part of the general order of business.”

Mayor McGuire asked for a motion and second to approve Consent Agenda Resolutions #2023-151 through 2023-161. Motion was made by Councilman Mattessich, seconded by Council President McMorrow.

RESOLUTION #2023-151

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS FOR GRASS/BRUSH AND VEGETATIVE WASTE PICK UP FOR 2024

WHEREAS, the Uniformed Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq., allows any municipality or county to enter into a contract with any other municipality or county for the joint provision of any services within their joint jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale and the Borough of Paramus seek to enter into a (Interlocal) Shared Services Agreement wherein the Borough of Paramus will provide the pickup of grass, brush and vegetative waste from April 13, 2024 and terminating October 12, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds will be available through the department of public works current budget numbers under the heading of recycling collection and disposal; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale hereby agree to the terms of the contract and the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms hereof;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council authorize Mayor Joseph McGuire to execute said agreement between the Borough of Northvale and the Borough of Paramus for the pickup of grass, brush and vegetative waste by the Borough of Paramus.

RESOLUTION #2023-152

TITLE: RESOLUTION APPROVING RAFFLE LICENSE #248 FOR NORTHVALE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION – 50/50 RAFFLE – MARCH 3, 2024

NAME: Northvale Volunteer Fire Association
 ADDRESS: 204 Washington Street, Northvale, NJ
 LOCATION OF RAFFLE: 204 Washington Street, Northvale, NJ
 HOURS: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
 DATE OF RAFFLE: March 3, 2024
 ID #: 353-9-29752
 RAFFLE LICENSE #: RA #248



RESOLUTION #2023-153

TITLE: RESOLUTION APPROVING RAFFLE LICENSE #249 FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – 50/50 RAFFLE – DECEMBER 15, 2023

NAME: K OF C IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COUNCIL 9021

ADDRESS: 211 Summit Street, Norwood, NJ

LOCATION OF RAFFLE: 199 Walnut Street, Northvale, NJ

HOURS: 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM

DATE OF RAFFLE: December 15, 2023

ID #: 355-6-42364

RAFFLE LICENSE #: RA #249

RESOLUTION #2023-154

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO MAKE THE ACCOUNT BALANCES ZERO ON TAX EXEMPT VETERAN ACCOUNTS

WHEREAS, Resolutions #2023-76 and #2023-77 were issued to cancel the Preliminary tax amount on two accounts that were approved for Tax Exempt Veteran status; and

WHEREAS, the County canceled the taxes in the 2023 tax duplicate which now gives the properties negative balances.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale that the Tax Collector shall make the necessary adjustments to the Tax-Exempt Veteran Accounts in Resolutions #2023-76 and #2023-77 to give the accounts a zero balance.

Resolution #2023-76
 Elizabeth Douglas
 3206 Rio Vista Lane
 Block 908 Lot 1 Qual Code #C3206

Resolution #2023-77
 Walter Enright
 3203 Rio Vista Lane
 Block 908 Lot 1 Qual Code #3203

RESOLUTION #2023-155

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL 2023 4TH QUARTER FINAL AND 2024 PRELIMINARY TAX DUE TO TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN STATUS

WHEREAS, Block 410 Lot 26, 418 Crest Drive was purchased by Giuseppe Conigliaro, a Totally Disabled Veteran on July 7, 2023, who has been granted Tax Exempt Status according to New Jersey statute 54:4-3.30 et seq.; and



WHEREAS, Mr. Conigliaro was required to pay property taxes at the closing, and he paid the 2023 3rd quarter; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 4th quarter and 2024 Preliminary taxes are to be canceled because of Mr. Conigliaro’s status as a Totally Disabled Veteran.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel the amount of \$2,810.44 for the 2023 4th Quarter Tax and \$5,692.67 for 2024 Preliminary Tax on Block 410 lot 26, 418 Crest Drive.

RESOLUTION #2023-156

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAX DUE TO TAX EXEMPT STATUS 153-A SCHARER AVENUE, BLOCK 1001, LOT 10 – BOROUGH OF NORTHVALE

WHEREAS, 2023 Taxes remain outstanding on the Borough of Northvale tax records; and

WHEREAS, the property has been granted Tax Exempt Status according to New Jersey Statute 54:4-3.6; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding balance of 2023 Tax is \$208.08 as analyzed:

Assessed To	Property Location	Block/Lot	Amount	Year
Borough of Northvale	153-A Scharer Ave	1001/10	208.08	2023

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel the amount of \$208.08 from the tax records for the tax year 2023.

RESOLUTION #2023-157

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF 2023 CHEVROLET TAHOE POLICE VEHICLE FOR THE NORTHVALE POLICE DEPARTMENT – STATE CONTRACT #20-FLEET-013931DPP00311

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29 (c), may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program for any State contracts entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale has the need on a timely basis to purchase goods or services utilizing State contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale intends to enter into a contract with Gentilini Ford of Woodbine, New Jersey, through this resolution, which shall be subject to all the conditions applicable to the current State contract, for the purchase of a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe vehicle.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Northvale authorize the purchase of a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe vehicle pursuant to all conditions of the State contract at a base cost of \$42,617.84.



RESOLUTION #2023-158

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE FOR POLICE INVESTIGATIONS

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale Police Department is in need of a vehicle for special investigations; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has received quotes for the vehicle, the lowest of which is from Liberty of Mahwah for the price of \$34,945.50; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of this vehicle is within the threshold of the Borough’s Qualified Purchasing Agent.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Northvale that the Borough of Northvale hereby authorizes the purchase of the aforesaid vehicle for the sum of \$34,945.50 and authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract for said purpose.

RESOLUTION #2023-159

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN THE 2023/2024 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF ROCKLEIGH FOR SNOW PLOWING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-1, et.seq. governs shared service agreements between municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale desires to enter into an Agreement with the Borough of Rockleigh for the providing of sanding, salting, and snow plowing of streets located with the Borough of Rockleigh at an hourly rate of \$115/hour; and

WHEREAS, an Agreement has been prepared to encompass the months of November and December of 2023 and January through April, inclusive, of 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale that Mayor Joseph McGuire and Municipal Clerk Frances Weston be, and are hereby authorized, to execute the aforesaid Agreement on behalf of the Borough.

RESOLUTION #2023-160

TITLE: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING LOWEST BID FOR SENIOR CENTER ADA DOORS

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale has solicited bids for a contract award for ADA Compliant doors for the Senior Center; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale received three bids as follows:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Nela Carpentry and Masonry | \$21,000.00 |
| 2. Innovational Construction & Design | \$50,500.00 |
| 3. VMF Construction | \$85,000.00 |



WHEREAS, the Bids were submitted pursuant to a solicitation package prepared by Acari + Iovino Architects; and

WHEREAS, Nela Carpentry and Masonry submitted a request to withdraw its bid as its bid did not fully contemplate the scope of the work required; and

WHEREAS, Acari + Iovino Architects reviewed the bids and determined that Innovational Construction & Design is the lowest responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsive bid is below the amount of the grant received by the Borough in the amount of \$66,125.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Northvale that the Borough of Northvale hereby determines that the lowest responsible bid is that of Innovational Construction & Design and accepts its bid in the sum of \$50,500.00 and authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract for said purpose in the form substantially in conformance with the proposed contract attached.

RESOLUTION #2023-161

TITLE: PAYMENT OF BILLS

WHEREAS, claims have been submitted to the Borough of Northvale in the following amounts under various funds of the borough:

Current Fund Appropriations (2023)	\$298,411.64
Current Fund Appropriations (2022)	
General Capital Fund	\$7,273.58
Grant Fund	\$9,430.00
Animal Trust	
Police DEA Trust	\$6,265.26
Escrow Trust	\$2,920.00
Affordable Housing Trust	
Recreation Trust	\$2,401.18
Summer Recreation Trust	
TOTAL	\$326,701.66

WHEREAS, above claims have been listed and summarized in the Bills List Report, and the corresponding vouchers have been reviewed and approved by the department head, council liaison, finance committee, and/or the chief financial officer; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the funds have been properly appropriated for such purposes and are available in the Borough of Northvale, and that the claims specified on the schedule attached hereto, following examination and approval by the finance committee, be paid and checks issued accordingly; and

WHEREAS, claims have already been paid in the following amounts for the purposes specified below during the course of the year:

Payroll – Salaries & Wages		
Payroll – Salaries & Wages	9/15/2023	\$165,000
Payroll- Salaries & Wages	9/29/23	\$145,000
Health Benefits	9-15-2023	\$58,030.07
	9-11-2023	\$59,223.82
County Taxes		



Employee Pension Payment-PERS/PFRS		
Northvale Board OF Education	9-19-2023 9-19-2023	\$943,431.59 \$943,431.59
Northern Valley Regional High School District	9-19-2023	\$601,570.20 \$601,570.20
Northvale Public Library		
Trust - Interfund		
Special Emergency Interest		8,680.26
Special Emergency Note Payment		\$289,184
BAN Principal Payment		\$3,233,450
Capital Interfund		\$1,199,160.36
DTC- Bond Interest		\$93,986.51
TOTAL		\$8,668,420.26

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale that the claims totaling **\$8,668,420.26** and ratified respectively.

ON THE QUESTION – Councilman Hogan mentioned that Resolution #2023-151 shows we are authorizing Mayor Patrick J. Marana to execute that grass agreement and should be corrected. He also asked if the type of vehicle was purportedly left off of Resolution #2023-158. Mayor McGuire replied yes it was. Chief Ostrow explained that there were 3 quotes submitted to our Qualified Purchasing Agent since this was not through state contract.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Ken Cho, 423 Wildwood Road – asked if the vehicles being purchased through Resolutions 2023-157 and 158 will have additional expenditures to retrofit them for communications and if so, is that budgeted. Chief Ostrow answered yes these vehicles are being paid out of forfeiture funds.

Mayor McGuire asked for a roll call vote of the Council:

Councilman Argiro	Yes	Councilman Mattessich	Yes
Councilman Hogan	Yes	Councilman Menafra	Yes
Council President McMorrow	Yes	Councilman Sokoloski	Yes

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President McMorrow – the Police Department for the month of September had 83 motor vehicle stops, 57 selective traffic enforcement details, 47 medical calls, 32 burglar alarms, 26 suspicious incident calls, 25 civilian assists, 23 motor vehicle crashes, 13 verbal disputes, and 2 residential burglaries. There were a few arrests made. A 57 year old male for credit card theft, 41 year old male for terroristic threats, 21 year old male for eluding a law enforcement officer, and a 62 year old male for theft by unlawful taking. September 13th and 14th motor officers attended yearly 2 day recertification course. On September 18th, the department conducted mandated active shooter training using Borough Hall. September 19th, officers participated in the Shop Rite Drive for Hunger event and on September 22nd, officers attended mandated yearly domestic violence update training. The Preschool Carousel Cake fundraiser is underway. There is still availability in the Pre-K 3 year old class. The Fire Department will be visiting the Preschool on October 20th. The children will be going trick or treating at the Borough Hall and Senior Center. Their first field trip is this Friday to the pumpkin patch at Demarest Farms. The children will also take part in the Tree Lighting on December 1st. The Ambulance Corps had 25 calls for the month of September. Ambulance Corps. is in desperate need of volunteers.

Councilman Argiro – check out the Library’s website and calendar for all activities for adults and children. Soccer is winding down. Thank you to the coaches and parents who made it another great successful season. Registration is open for winter soccer and basketball. Joel Negron is the new Basketball Commissioner. Brandon will assist for one year. Cho Dae is allowing recreation to use their facilities for basketball practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00-7:30 pm.



Councilman Menafr – the Fire Department website is now live. The cost to run and maintain the website is covered by the grant so there is no cost to the taxpayers. Lt. Witkowski is working with Mr. Pinajian and Ms. McGrath to schedule fire awareness and safety information sessions with the students. Fire Department had 36 calls for the month of September. Fire Prevention did 21 inspections and 10 reinspections for the month of September. Municipal Alliance is working with the school and Senior Center to select programs and dates. Northvale Board of Education's last meeting was September 21st. Back to school night went very well. Boys and girls volleyball teams and soccer team won their opening season games. Mr. Pinajian attended a replacement of the lighting detection meeting. The cost of replacement will be \$25,000 which will be split between the school and Borough. Some of the other towns in Bergen County have online access to lightning detector by going to their borough website to see when the last strike was and when the field will be cleared for use. Paving, concrete, and seeding around the annex building has taken place. The roofing is nearly completed. Konan Ice fundraiser will be held on October 12th. PTO Halloween party is scheduled for October 27th. Korean families are organizing another international night. The date has not yet been determined. Northern Valley Board of Education had a meeting on September 11th. Principals of each campus made a mandatory presentation on violence and vandalism for the reporting period of January through June 2023. There were 9 confirmed hib cases at Old Tappan campus and 6 confirmed hib cases at Demarest. There was parent feedback on the rear gate which continues to be open before school and after. There was a roof leak at Old Tappan which caused some volleyball games to be rescheduled. The Business Administrator mentioned roofing is included in their yearly budget and they replace it based on service life of the roof. The next meeting is October 16th at 7:00 PM.

Councilman Mattessich – DPW has been working on various jobs such as installing the nets on the goal posts, painting soccer fields, repaired the handicap button at the Library, brush pick up in Rockleigh, installed shelf in Preschool, painted and put in a new floor in Borough Hall bathroom, installed street signs and many other jobs. Met with Michelle at the Senior Center. Seniors continue normal activities such as strength in training, crochet, line dancing, and bingo continues. Jewish Home did a presentation today on rehabilitation and home safety. Michelle appreciated the painting of the walls and the new Northvale seal at the Center. There is a pottery class on October 25th. Also met with Augie from the Golden Age Club. Their next trip is next month to a comedy show at the Brownstone in Paterson.

Councilman Hogan – asked why the Personnel Committee didn't let the Council know we were hiring a new Police Officer. He had to see it on the sign in front of the Borough Hall. Chief Ostrow explained that he sat with the Mayor and CFO. The CFO budgeted for the hiring of an officer this year. Once the application closes, he will come to the Mayor and Council with the complete report as to how many applicants were received. The Building Department issued 22 permits for the month of September and collected \$21,622 in fees. The year to date is \$118,893 which is still very behind from the budgeted amount. Planning/Zoning Board meetings scheduled for September 20th and October 4th were all cancelled due to lack of applications ready to be heard. Next meeting is scheduled for October 18th. The BCUA held the shredding event on September 30th in the Borough Hall parking lot. The Women's Club will be having a beefsteak on October 20th at the Legion at 6:30 PM. Tickets for adults are \$55, children under 10 are \$30. There will be a 50/50, door prizes, and a tricky tray. For tickets contact Mary Capellini at 201-988-5351 or Sandy Grassi at 201-768-7321. This is for a good cause to benefit local families in crisis.

Councilman Sokoloski – the Board of Health meeting is scheduled for October 19th. Northern Valley Greenway met last week and he was unable to attend. The Bergen County Community Development Grant is due in December. He spoke with the Grantswriter about the Senior Center. Prior to 2016, Northvale received the greatest amount from those grants to subsidize the operation of the Senior Center. Now, Northvale is picking up the cost to run the Senior Center. The Grantswriter will look into, but not very confident, to subsidize the operation.

Mayor McGuire – happy to report that taxes are now online. If you go to our website, click on tax information and taxes can be paid electronically. This will cut down on calls asking what is owed, checks lost in the mail, and deposits to the bank. Our annual Veterans Day ceremony will take place on November 11th at 11:00 am in front of the Borough Hall. Refreshments will be served in the Senior Center. The tree lighting will be held on December 1st at 6:30 pm. Paris



Avenue in front of the Borough Hall will be closed off again as we did last year. The security cameras project for Hogan Park has been delayed a little. Installation should begin the first part of December. The company doing the installation has had delays getting the equipment. We did an analysis of the amount of money we spent paying our Professionals through September of this year. We have spent approximately \$250,000 less than in 2022. Hope this will continue through the end of the year and help us to plan better for the 2024 budget. We are trying to cut costs as much as we can. He is working with the Risk Manager to help us defer health insurance cost for 2024.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Ferraro – received OPRA requests from the Police and the Clerk. Would like to compliment the Police Department and Ms. Weston on responding to the requests in a timely manner.

BOROUGH ENGINEER REPORT

Mr. Loverich – Westcott Street milling will be done tomorrow afternoon with paving on Friday. Once this is done, that will complete the Riverside Coop Paving Program for 2023. Bid opening for Veterans Drive Phase II will be held on October 25th. The plans have been sent to the County and DOT for review for Livingston Street Streetscape. Once we receive approval, we can go out to bid. He will work on the contracts tomorrow for the Senior Center ADA doors. Precon meeting will be scheduled and the project should be done early December. We will begin design work for the Senior Center ADA bathroom project which is for 2024. For Veterans Drive Phase II, we are coordinating with Orange and Rockland who will be doing improvements in this area. Paving should be in the summer of 2024.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Chief Howard Ostrow – there was an event that occurred today. At 9:45 am, Mayor McGuire contacted him about a social media post which stated a question, has anyone heard shots or an explosion on Paris Avenue. This post started a waterfall of phone calls. Within 5 minutes, he received 8-10 notifications on his phone. After investigating, there was a local Police Department using Closter firearms training facility that was the cause. There was also construction in Rockleigh at the old Bergen County Nursing Home where walls were being taken down that may have been heard as an explosion. The Police posted on social media sites explaining what it was. Social media posts continued and made itself to the Preschool. In situations like this social media has its disadvantages. Please call 911 or the local Police Department instead of putting it on all of social media. There was no danger to anyone in the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McGuire asked for a motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. Motion made by Councilman Menafr, seconded by Councilman Mattessich. All were in favor to adjourn.

Joseph E. McGuire
Mayor

ATTEST:

Frances M. Weston
Frances M. Weston
Municipal Clerk

Approved: November 8, 2023