



MINUTES

Combined Meeting of the Mayor and Council
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
7:00 PM

To view the Mayor & Council meeting via livestream, please access the YouTube link which is posted on the Northvale website, www.northvalenj.org. Go to government tab, then to meeting livestreams.

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 two official newspapers 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 THE FLAG

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 remembering the slain Newark Police Officer and the other Police Officer in critical condition.

Mayor McGuire asked for roll call:

Mayor McGuire	Present	Councilwoman McMorrow	Present
Councilman Bakalian	Present	Councilman Mattessich	Present
Councilwoman Fernandez	Absent	Councilman Menafr	Present via phone
		Councilman Sokoloski	Present

Other Officials Present:

- Kenneth Ralph, Borough Attorney
- Scott Loverich, Borough Engineer
- Frances Weston, Municipal Clerk

Mayor McGuire suspended the regular order of business at this time to entertain the Public Hearing on the Borough’s Open Space Application for Veterans Memorial Park new turf and other improvements to the existing softball field.

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING
NEW TURF AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO
EXISTING SOFTBALL FIELD
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK**

Mayor McGuire opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on the Open Space application for new turf and other improvements to the existing softball field at Veterans Memorial Park. There being no questions or comments from the public, Mayor McGuire closed the meeting to the public.

Council President McMorrow asked why turf was being put in. Mayor McGuire answered that it was easier to maintain. Mayor McGuire also said that it will not interfere with the soccer field. Scott has drawn up the plans and estimate for the grant.

PRESENTATION

Rob Brescia, Tax Assessor, gave a presentation on the reassessment. He explained the process from beginning to end. This was ordered by the County and the State. The reassessment is to have all properties at 100% fair market value. The company will send a letter to every property owner. The inspections will start as soon as possible and end around the end of September. Mayor McGuire opened the meeting to the public for questions on the reassessment.

- Kathy Brunet, 417 Crest Drive** – asked if commercial properties will be reassessed.
- Glenn Brunet, 417 Crest Drive** – asked how the square footage will be determined. Also if there is a shed on the property will that affect the reassessment.



APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor McGuire asked for a motion and second to approve the Minutes of the February 12, 2025 open and closed meeting. Motion was moved by Councilman Menafra, seconded by Council President McMorrow.

Mayor McGuire asked for a roll call vote:

Councilman Bakalian	Yes	Council President McMorrow	Yes
Councilwoman Fernandez	Absent	Councilman Menafra	Yes
Councilman Mattessich	Yes	Councilman Sokoloski	Yes

Mayor McGuire asked for a motion and second to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 25, 2025. Motion was moved by Councilman Menafra, seconded by Council President McMorrow.

Mayor McGuire asked for a roll call vote:

Councilman Bakalian	Yes	Council President McMorrow	Yes
Councilwoman Fernandez	Absent	Councilman Menafra	Yes
Councilman Mattessich	Abstain	Councilman Sokoloski	Abstain

MONTHLY REPORTS

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. Fox Fence Change Order, February 12, 2025
Hogan Park Fencing Field 2
(Resolution #2025-61)
2. Neglia Group Proposal, February 28, 2025
Professional Surveying and GIS Services
(Resolution #2025-64)
3. Appraisal Systems, Inc., bid February 26, 2025
Proposal for Reassessment of all property
(Resolution #2025-65)
4. Settlement Agreement with Verizon New Jersey Inc.
(Resolution #2025-67)

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 #2025-61 through 2025-69. Motion was moved by Council President McMorrow, seconded by Councilman Bakalian.

RESOLUTION #2025-61

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER WITH FOX FENCING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A CUSTOM DUGOUT AT HOGAN PARK

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale (“Northvale”) is in need of a custom dugout at Hogan Park; and



WHEREAS, Northvale has received a change order quote for this project from Fox Fence of 417 Crooks Avenue, Clifton, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Fox Fencing is a New Jersey State Approved Co-op Vendor and has submitted a change order quote as follows:

Installation of Custom Dugout \$3,810.00

WHEREAS, the original contract with Fox Fencing for work at Hogan Park was \$185,750, and this change order will result in the contract being \$189,560.00 which constitutes a 2.05% increase; and

WHEREAS, Northvale would be participating in the New Jersey State Approved Co-op #65MCESCCPS ESCNJ 24/25-15 Fencing Purchase Installation and Repair, Roofing Repair, and Maintenance Services; and

WHEREAS, Northvale has funding available from a 2023 Bergen County Open Space grant in the amount of \$80,000, which is a matching grant, and a 2024 NJ DCA Local Recreation Improvements Grant in the amount of \$73,000 (non-matching grant) for this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council hereby authorizes and approves this change order with Fox Fencing as set forth above.

RESOLUTION #2025-62

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SOLICITATION OF BIDS FOR RIVERSIDE COOPERATIVE FENCING MATERIALS AND INSTALLATION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 ET. SEQ. and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7 et seq., permits the creation of a cooperative pricing system whereby two or more contracting units join together to form a joint purchasing and cooperating pricing system; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside Cooperative was duly formed and created and has designated the Borough of Northvale as the Lead Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside Cooperative intends to solicit bids for the 2025 Fencing Materials and Installation Services; and

WHEREAS, the aggregate of said goods and services is anticipated to exceed the current bid threshold and is therefore required to be bid under a formal process pursuant to Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 et. seq; and

WHEREAS, as the Lead Agency, the Borough of Northvale is responsible for advertising for the receipt of bids for the 2025 Fencing Materials and Installation Services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale, County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey, that the Borough of Northvale does hereby authorize the Municipal Clerk to advertise for the receipt of bids for the 2025 Fencing Materials and Installation Services.

RESOLUTION #2025-63

TITLE: RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PUBLISHING LEGAL NOTICES ON OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

WHEREAS, the sunset provision of March 1, 2025, imposed under P.L. 2024 c.106 is fast approaching in what was a temporary solution that allowed local governments to comply



with the public notice requirements under the law in time for annual reorganization meetings in January; and

WHEREAS, local government officials serve as the stewards of property taxpayer dollars and should no longer be required to subsidize the newspaper industry with revenues collected from publishing legal notices in the press; and

WHEREAS, long before NJ Advanced Media’s announcement that it was terminating daily print publications in January of 2025, local government officials found it increasingly difficult to comply with the public notice requirements under the law as the media has become almost exclusively digitized and struggled to retain staff, resources, and publications; and

WHEREAS, legislation that will authorize local governments to publish legal notices on a local government’s official website will streamline an antiquated and overly burdensome process and save valuable time, resources, and property taxpayer dollars; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Northvale does in fact, hereby urge state leaders to pass legislation that will authorize municipalities, counties, school districts, and all local governments to publish legal notices in a clear, transparent, and timely manner on a local government’s official website.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Nicholas Scutari, Speaker of the General Assembly Craig Coughlin, Senator Holly T. Schepisi, Assemblymembers Robert Auth and John V. Azzariti, Jr., and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

RESOLUTION #2025-64

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF NORTHVALE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NEGLIA GROUP FOR PROFESSIONAL SURVEYING AND GIS SERVICES AND PREPARATION OF MS4 INFRASTRUCTURE MAP

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale (“Northvale”) requires Professional Surveying and GIS Services and preparation of an MSA infrastructure map as required by the NJDEP; and

WHEREAS, Neglia Group has submitted a proposal for the project with rates in accordance with those accepted by the Borough as part of Neglia Group’s annual response to Request for Proposals; and

WHEREAS, Neglia Group’s proposal provides that the cost of the professional services will not exceed the sum of \$79,600.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that the Borough has the funds to pay for this service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Northvale hereby authorizes the execution of a contract with Neglia Group for services as set forth above.



RESOLUTION #2025-65

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF NORTHVALE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH APPRAISAL SYSTEMS, INC. FOR THE REASSESSMENT OF ALL PROPERTY IN THE BOROUGH FOR THE TAX YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale (“Northvale”) has received an Order to Implement a Municipal Wide Revaluation from the Bergen County Board of Taxation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-2.27 (the “Order”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Order, the Borough must implement a municipal-wide revaluation to be effective for the 2026 tax year; and

WHEREAS, the Order further requires that the Borough enter into a contract for a revaluation, and to fund a revaluation contract; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Order, the Borough put out a Request for Proposals in order to implement the Order, requesting proposals for the Reassessment of All Property in the Borough for the year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Borough received one response to the Request for Proposals, which was from Appraisal Systems, Inc. in the sum of \$224,875.00, which the Borough deems fair and reasonable; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that the Borough has the funds to pay for this service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Northvale hereby authorizes the execution of a contract for the services proposed for by Appraisal Systems Inc. for the Reassessment of all Property in the Borough for the year 2026 in accordance with the Proposal received.

RESOLUTION #2025-66

TITLE: RESOLUTION APPROVING RAFFLE LICENSE #RL 266 FOR K OF C IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COUNCIL 9021 – 50/50 RAFFLE – MAY 9, 2025

NAME: K of C Immaculate Conception Council 9021

ADDRESS: 211 Summit Street, Norwood, NJ

LOCATION OF RAFFLE: 199 Walnut Street, Northvale, NJ

HOURS: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

DATE OF RAFFLE: May 9, 2025

ID #: 355-6-42364

RAFFLE LICENSE #: RL #266



RESOLUTION #2026-67

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BRIAN T. GIBLIN, SR. TAX COUNSEL TO ENTER INTO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN VERIZON NEW JERSEY, INC. AND THE BOROUGH OF NORTHVALE

WHEREAS, Verizon New Jersey, Inc. has filed a complaint against the Borough of Northvale in the Tax Court of New Jersey bearing the following docket numbers;

018667-2013;012425-2014;007723-2015;010449-2016;013210-2017;013241-2018
013077-2019;011290-2020;011512-2021;010991-2022;009078-2023;007712-2024; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale has filed counterclaims to all of the complaints seeking to increase the assessment of the subject property; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of New Jersey recently determined, in the matter of **Verizon New Jersey, Inc. v. Borough of Hopewell, 258 N.J. 255 (2024)** the proper method of taxation for local telephone networks; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to settle all of the above captioned tax appeals by having both Verizon New Jersey, Inc. and the Borough of Northvale withdraw all of their pending claims, with prejudice; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor and Tax Counsel recommend that the matters be settled as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale that Brian T. Giblin, Sr. is hereby authorized to enter into a Settlement Agreement between Verizon New Jersey, Inc. and the Borough of Northvale.

RESOLUTION #2025-68

TITLE: TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE APPROPRIATION RESERVE FUND BUDGET FOR 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$43,950

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A.40:4-59 permits the transfer of appropriations during the first three months of the fiscal year from accounts showing unexpended balances to accounts in which commitments from 2024 may exceed the original budgeted appropriations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the transfers are hereby authorized in the total amount of \$43,950.

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS	ACCOUNT #	GROUP	FROM	TO
Financial Administration: Other Expenses	OE	4-01-20-130-200	3,400	
Tax Assessment: Other Expenses	OE	4-01-20-50-204	1,500	
Engineering Services; General	OE	4-01-20-165-201	10,000	
Construction Code Salaries & Wages	SW	4-01-22-195-101	4,000	
Police Salaries	SW	4-01-25-240-101	5,000	
Fire Department; Other Expenses	OE	4-01-25-255-204	6,000	
Building & Grounds: Other Expenses	OE	4-01-26-310-204	3,000	
Health: Other Expenses	OE	4-01-27-330-203	2,500	
Public Events : Other Expense	OE	4-01-20-420-201	8,550	
Administration: Other Expenses	OE	4-01-20-100-202		4,200



Employee Pension Payment-PERS/PFRS		
Northvale Board OF Education	2/10/25 2/28/25	963,457.08 963,457.08
Northern Valley Regional High School District	2/10/25 2/14/25	721,347.50 721,347.50
Northvale Public Library		
Capital - Interfund		
DTC- Bond Principal & Inter		
DTC- Bond Interest		
TOTAL		\$4,940,461.12

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale that the claims totaling **\$4,940,461.12** are ratified respectively.

ON THE QUESTION – Councilman Bakalian asked if we receive advance notice of the state mandates.

Mayor McGuire opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on Consent Agenda resolutions only.

Mayor McGuire asked for a roll call vote:

Councilman Bakalian	Yes	Council President McMorrow	Yes
Councilwoman Fernandez	Absent	Councilman Menafra	Yes
Councilman Mattessich	Yes	Councilman Sokoloski	Yes

ORDINANCES – 2nd READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor McGuire asked for a motion and second for the adoption of Ordinance #25-04. Motion was moved by Councilman Bakalian, seconded by Council President McMorrow.

ORDINANCE #25-04

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTHVALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$830,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Northvale, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The Borough of Northvale, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey (the "Borough") is hereby authorized to acquire new additional or replacement equipment and machinery and new automotive vehicles, including original apparatus and equipment, in, by and for said Borough, as more particularly described in Section 4 hereof. The cost of the improvements includes all work, materials and appurtenances necessary and suitable therefor.

Section 2. There is hereby appropriated to the payment of the cost of making the improvements described in Sections 1 and 4 hereof (hereinafter referred to as "purposes"), the respective amounts of money hereinafter stated as the appropriation for said respective purposes. Said appropriation shall be met from the proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized and the down



payment appropriated by this ordinance. Said improvements shall be made as general improvements and no part of the cost thereof shall be assessed against property specially benefited.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and stated that the making of such improvements is not a current expense of said Borough.

Section 4. The several purposes hereby authorized for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued are set forth in the following "Schedule of Improvements, Purposes and Amounts" which schedule also shows (1) the amount of the appropriation and the estimated cost of each such purpose, and (2) the amount of each sum which is to be provided by the down payment hereinafter appropriated to finance such purposes, and (3) the estimated maximum amount of bonds and notes to be issued for each such purpose, and (4) the period of usefulness of each such purpose, according to its reasonable life, computed from the date of said bonds:

SCHEDULE OF IMPROVEMENTS, PURPOSES AND AMOUNTS

A. Acquisition of a new automotive vehicle, including original apparatus and equipment, consisting of an SUV for the use of the Department of Public Works ("DPW").

Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 70,000
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 3,400
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 66,600
Period of Usefulness	5 years

B. Acquisition of new automotive vehicles (each with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) in excess of 15,000 pounds), including original apparatus and equipment, for the use of the DPW consisting of (i) a dump truck with snow plow and salter and (ii) a mason dump truck.

Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$410,000
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 19,525
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$390,475
Period of Usefulness	10 years

C. Acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery for the use of the DPW consisting of (i) a tractor, (ii) a backhoe/loader, (iii) a walker lawn mower, (iv) a trailer and (v) a road treatment brine machine.

Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$245,000
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 11,670
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$233,330
Period of Usefulness	15 years

D. Acquisition of a new automotive vehicle, including original apparatus and equipment, consisting of an SUV for the use of the Fire Department.

Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$105,000
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 5,405
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 99,595
Period of Usefulness	5 years

Aggregate Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$830,000
Aggregate Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 40,000
Aggregate Amount of Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$790,000



Section 5. The cost of such purposes, as hereinbefore stated, includes the aggregate amount of \$5,000 which is estimated to be necessary to finance the cost of such purposes, including architect's fees, accounting, engineering and inspection costs, legal expenses and other expenses, including interest on such obligations to the extent permitted by Section 20 of the Local Bond Law (Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated, as amended; the "Local Bond Law").

Section 6. It is hereby determined and stated that moneys exceeding \$40,000, appropriated for down payments on capital improvements or for the capital improvement fund in budgets heretofore adopted for said Borough, are now available to finance said purpose. The sum of \$40,000 is hereby appropriated from such moneys to the payment of the cost of said purpose.

Section 7. To finance said purposes, bonds of said Borough of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$790,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law. Said bonds shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law. All matters with respect to said bonds not determined by this ordinance shall be determined by resolutions to be hereafter adopted.

Section 8. To finance said purposes, bond anticipation notes of said Borough of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$790,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law in anticipation of the issuance of said bonds. In the event that bonds are issued pursuant to this ordinance, the aggregate amount of notes hereby authorized to be issued shall be reduced by an amount equal to the principal amount of the bonds so issued. If the aggregate amount of outstanding bonds and notes issued pursuant to this ordinance shall at any time exceed the sum first mentioned in this section, the moneys raised by the issuance of said bonds shall, to not less than the amount of such excess, be applied to the payment of such notes then outstanding.

Section 9. Each bond anticipation note issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be dated on or about the date of its issuance and shall be payable not more than one year from its date, shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law and may be renewed from time to time pursuant to and within limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law. Each of said bond anticipation notes shall be signed by the Mayor and by a financial officer and shall be under the seal of said Borough and attested by the Borough Clerk or Deputy Borough Clerk. Said officers are hereby authorized to execute said notes in such form as they may adopt in conformity with law. The power to determine any matters with respect to said notes not determined by this ordinance and also the power to sell said notes, is hereby delegated to the Chief Financial Officer who is hereby authorized to sell said notes either at one time or from time to time in the manner provided by law.

Section 10. It is hereby determined and declared that the average period of usefulness of said purposes, according to their reasonable lives, taking into consideration the respective amounts of bonds or notes authorized for said purposes, is a period of 10.42 years computed from the date of said bonds.

Section 11. It is hereby determined and stated that the Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk of said Borough, and that such statement so filed shows that the gross debt of said Borough, as defined in Section 43 of the Local Bond Law, is increased by this ordinance by \$790,000 and that the issuance of the bonds and notes authorized by this ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 12. Any funds received from private parties, the County of Bergen, the State of New Jersey or any of their agencies or any funds received from the United States of America or any of its agencies in aid of such purposes, shall be applied to the payment of the cost of such purposes, or, if bond anticipation notes have been issued, to the payment of the bond anticipation notes, and the amount of bonds authorized for such purposes shall be reduced accordingly.

Section 13. The Borough intends to issue the bonds or notes to finance the cost of the improvements described in Sections 1 and 4 of this bond ordinance. If the Borough incurs such costs prior to the issuance of the bonds or notes, the Borough hereby states its reasonable



expectation to reimburse itself for such expenditures with the proceeds of such bonds or notes in the maximum principal amount of bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance.

Section 14. The full faith and credit of the Borough are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited and general obligations of the Borough, and the Borough shall levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable real property within the Borough for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and notes, without limitation as to rate or amount.

Section 15. The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, is on file with the Borough Clerk and is available for public inspection.

Section 16. This ordinance shall take effect twenty days after the first publication thereof after final passage.

Mayor McGuire opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on Ordinance #25-04 only.

Glenn Brunet, 417 Crest Drive – asked what is being done with the equipment that is being replaced. Mayor McGuire answered depending on the condition of the equipment, some will be put on gov.deals.

Mayor McGuire asked for a roll call vote:

Councilman Bakalian	Yes	Council President McMorrow	Yes
Councilwoman Fernandez	Absent	Councilman Menafra	Yes
Councilman Mattessich	Yes	Councilman Sokoloski	Yes

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION-1ST READING
PUBLIC HEARING – APRIL 9, 2025

Mayor McGuire asked for a motion and second for the introduction on first reading of Ordinance #25-05. Motion was moved by Councilman Menafra, seconded by Councilman Mattessich.

ORDINANCE #25-05

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHVALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FOR A PROGRAM OF REVALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Northvale, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53, the sum of \$250,000 is hereby appropriated for the preparation and execution of a program of revaluation of real property and shall be deemed a special emergency appropriation as defined and provided for in N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 and 40A:4-55.

Section 2. The amount to finance the appropriation shall be provided for in succeeding annual budgets by the inclusion of at least 1/5 of the amount authorized, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-55.

Section 3. A certified copy of this ordinance shall be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.



Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect at the time and in the manner provided by law.

Mayor McGuire asked for a roll call vote:

Councilman Bakalian	Yes	Council President McMorrow	Yes
Councilwoman Fernandez	Absent	Councilman Menafra	Yes
Councilman Mattessich	Yes	Councilman Sokoloski	Yes

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor McGuire mentioned that he has been discussing with Councilwoman Fernandez to coordinate a townwide clean up.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President McMorrow – Police statistics for the month of February were 677 total calls: 119 selective traffic enforcement details, 96 motor vehicle stops, 15 motor vehicle crashes, 19 suspicious incident calls, 4 commercial burglaries, 33 school safety checks. There were two arrests: male, 66 years old, from Closter for shoplifting and female, 29 years old, from Northvale for driving while intoxicated.

Overtime expenditure continues to be kept to a minimum with the addition of our three new officers. For the month of February, a total of 10 shifts were utilized by staff for either sick, vacation or personal days. Each of these days required no additional staffing, saving the Borough approximately \$10,609 in overtime costs. Overtime incurred for the month of February totaled \$1,211 for the reasons of DARE instruction at the Northvale Public School and extra manpower needed for a DWI arrest. Year to date, our savings in overtime costs total over \$23,000.

Ambulance Corps had 19 calls for the month of February: 6 Northvale, 1 Rockleigh residential, 1 Rockleigh Jewish Home, 6 Harrington Park, 3 Closter, 1 Alpine, 1 other.

Preschool – this week a clothing donation bin will be arriving to the parking lot of Borough Hall, located near the preschool entrance. Each month the school will receive a royalty payment. A formal announcement will be coming from the school once it is delivered.

Councilman Bakalian – Planning Board had a meeting on February 5th. This was for an application for bulk variance approval for a commercial building located at 151 Veterans Drive. The owner was seeking approval to expand the commercial business and incorporate a residential parcel adjacent to their property to be used for parking. The application is being revised and will be heard again at a later meeting.

Building Department issued a total of 19 permits and 4 permits were updated during the month of February. Fees collected for February were \$35,482 as compared to February of 2024 which were \$10,413. The year to date fees collected are \$49,140 which is \$30,323 more than last year due to permits for home renovations and additions.

Councilman Menafra – Fire Department stats for the month of February were 12 emergency calls totaling 40.5 man hours which includes 7 fire alarms, 1 co alarm, 2 smoke conditions, and 1 structural fire. There were 9 non-emergency calls totaling 155.75 man hours which include 4 company drills. The fire department phone service has been successfully converted to VoIP and is now fully operational.

Fire Prevention statistics for February were 30 inspections and 11 re-inspections. Municipal Alliance sponsored a middle and high school student anti vaping session for students on February 20th in the Northvale Public Library. The presenter was very good, however, the attendance was lower than expected.

Northvale Board of Education – regular meeting was held on February 13th. The third graders held a Living Wax Museum on February 13th depicting historical and famous individuals and the students did a wonderful job. This was started by Ms. Henrici. After a lengthy search, a leave replacement social worker candidate was found and the superintendent requested approval for hiring of this candidate. Mrs. Greco, who served at Northvale School for 28 years, will be retiring at the end of the current school year. A number of policies, regulations, and by-laws have been updated, or newly introduced, as per guidance from the policy writing firm Strauss Essmay. Upcoming school events: International Day on March 20th from 6-8 pm and



Northvale's Got Talent on April 4th at 7pm. The next regular board meeting will be held on March 13th at 6:30 pm in the All Purpose Room.

No update for Northern Valley Board of Education. The theater production of Peter Pan was held a couple of weeks ago. The students did an excellent job. The next regular board meeting will be held on March 17th in the NVD Media Center.

Councilman Mattessich – DPW has been very busy with beginning their clean up throughout the town. At Hogan Park, the concrete for the new dugouts on field 2 was poured. DPW removed the old fences to make way for the new fencing. The plan is to make sure we are ready for opening day in April for the baseball and softball season. They have begun to put away some of the winter equipment. Normal maintenance continues with potholes being filled, brush and appliance pickups, and sewer maintenance. On Saturday morning, I will be meeting with Billy Guyt and the recreation department commissioners to discuss field improvements at Hogans and Veterans.

Senior Center – on March 13th the seniors will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day at 12 noon. They will be serving corned beef, cabbage, and soda bread. On March 14th the seniors will be celebrating the Borough of Northvale's birthday at 10 am. On March 28th the seniors will be meeting with 5th through 8th grade students for some intergenerational conversations. The students will then write about their experience in English class.

Golden Age Club – met on March 9th and have some upcoming trips – March to LeGreci's in Staten Island for dinner and dancing. April – to Wind Creek in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania for some fun in the casino.

Recreation – was unable to attend the February meeting but will be at the March 18th meeting.

Councilman Sokoloski – the Board of Health meeting scheduled for March 20th has been moved to April 10th at 7 pm. There will be a new item on their agenda for consideration of an ordinance to allow residents to have home chicken coops on their property. I reviewed the ordinance and have no issues with it.

Northern Valley Greenway – the last meeting was focused on local town environmental groups and how they can work with us to support the project. Leigh Meola attended the meeting. Next meeting is April 3rd.

Mayor McGuire - Beautification Committee is holding a Build a Birdhouse event on Saturday March 29th in the Senior Center at 11 AM. Signup is required by March 19th and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Work has also been started on the new Community Garden by the beautification committee. They are working together with our DPW to create a garden of almost 30 beds. If you wish to volunteer, you can contact Borough Hall.

If you're around on Friday morning, stop by the senior center at 10 AM and have some birthday cake in honor of Northvale's 109th birthday. Our eggstravaganza egg hunt is scheduled for April 5th at Hogan Park, rain date of April 6th.

Chodae annual golf tournament with funds going toward our Fire and Ambulance groups will be on May 31. This year it will be held at the Mansion Ridge golf course in Orange County. We are looking for sponsors and players.

We continue to have budget meetings with the various departments right here on Thursday evenings.

As we approach the Spring, this is a reminder that grass barrel pickup will be on Tuesdays this year and will begin on April 8th

BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Ralph had nothing to report at this time.

BOROUGH ENGINEER REPORT

Mr. Loverich – submitted reimbursement to the county for the senior center ada bathroom project. Veterans Park basketball court project is being closed out. The contractor will be out to coat the court in May. Hogan Park fencing project is being worked on now. The new RRFB pedestrian signage should be installed next week at the intersections of Livingston/White and Livingston/Campora.



OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Kathy Brunet, 417 Crest Drive – asked about a handicap parking spot and 2 Library only parking spots by the Library. Mayor McGuire replied that the pod is gone so the spots will be restriped. There will be a handicap spot but there is not enough parking spots to have 2 marked for Library only.

Briant Bodrato, 160 Walnut Street – we spoke about the first two parking spots to be used for the electronic car charging stations.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McGuire asked for a motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM. Motion was moved by Councilman Bakalian, seconded by Council President McMorrow. All were in favor to adjourn.

Joseph E. McGuire

Mayor

ATTEST:

Frances M. Weston

Frances M. Weston
Municipal Clerk

Approved: April 9, 2025