

**MINUTES**  
**Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council**  
**Thursday, May 28, 2020**  
**7:00 PM**

**CONFERENCE CALL PHONE NUMBER – 1-646-307-1479, GUEST PASSCODE 476570**

**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Marana called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM via telephone conference call.

**STATEMENT**

Mayor Marana read the “Sunshine Statement” into the record as follows:

*“This is a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale. The date, time and location of this meeting has been advertised in the official Newspapers of the Borough, filed with the Acting Borough 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 & SILENT PRAYER**

Mayor Marana asked all to join him in a Salute to the Flag and then a moment of silent prayer.

**ROLL CALL**

Name	Present	Absent
Mayor Marana	==	==
Councilman Argiro	==	==
Councilman DeLisio	==	==
Councilman Devlin	==	==
Councilman McGuire	==	==
Councilman Shepard	==	==
Councilman Sotiropoulos	==	==

**Also present:** Mr. Shuaib Firozvi, CFO, Mr. Steve Wielkotch, Borough Auditor, Mrs. Frances Weston, Acting Borough Clerk

**INTRODUCTION**  
**2020 Municipal Budget**  
(Public Hearing on July 8, 2020)

Mayor Marana stated that there was a budget meeting this past Saturday and changes were discussed. Everyone was given a revised draft.

Mr. Wielkotch stated there was a number of meetings about the budget. He said they tweaked it and gotten the budget to the point where they are not comfortable with the tax increase, but at the end of the day because of the virus, reduced revenues and construction fees it is the best budget for 2020. Mr. Firozvi said the Appropriations are only going up 1.33%, operating expenses less than 2% increase. The pension benefits and debt service go up which are out of our control. He also agreed that it is the best budget under the circumstances.

Mayor Marana said the total debt service is getting hit with 28% plus increase. We knew last year it would happen, it is not unexpected and we will get it back as there will be a significant drop in debt service next year.

Mayor Marana asked if the council has any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments from council. Mayor Marana asked for a roll call vote.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION #2020-82**

**TITLE: INTRODUCTION OF THE 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Motion	Second	Name
=	=	Councilman Argiro
=	=	Councilman DeLisio
=	=	Councilman Devlin
=	=	Councilman McGuire
=	=	Councilman Shepard
=	=	Councilman Sotiropoulos

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statement of revenue and appropriation attached hereto constitute the local budget of the Borough of Northvale, County of Bergen, New Jersey for the year 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said budget is to be published in the Record in the issue of June 5, 2020 and that a hearing on the Budget will be held at the Municipal Complex on July 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached.

**Revenue and Appropriation Summaries - Anticipated**

<b>Summary of Revenues</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
1. Surplus	223,000.00	273,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	1,416,205.00	1,757,168.67
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	243,000.00	200,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	7,130,399.00	6,698,913.00
b) Addition to Local District School Tax		
c) Minimum Library Tax	335,396.00	329,820.00
Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Municipal	7,465,795.00	7,028,733.00
<b>Total General Revenues</b>	<b>9,348,000.00</b>	<b>9,258,901.67</b>
<b>Summary of Appropriations</b>		
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	3,262,253.00	3,199,554.00
Other Expenses	2,571,962.00	2,570,793.00
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	2,307,550.00	2,523,107.67
3. Capital Improvements	40,000.00	25,000.00
4. Debt Service	906,235.00	706,447.00
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	260,000.00	234,000.00
<b>Total General Appropriations</b>	<b>9,348,000.00</b>	<b>9,258,901.67</b>

Name	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Argiro	=	=	=	=
Councilman DeLisio	=	=	=	=
Councilman Devlin	=	=	=	=
Councilman McGuire	=	=	=	=
Councilman Shepard	=	=	=	=
Councilman Sotiropoulos	=	=	=	=

Mr. Wielkocz explained Resolution #2020-83. Last year the number of tax appeals cancelling taxes for 2019 is usually 99% down this year to 98.93%. Anticipate 99% trying to keep tax increase as far down as we could.

**RESOLUTION #2020-83**

**TITLE: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR INCREASE IN RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES PERCENTAGE**

Motion	Second	Name
=	=	Councilman Argiro
=	=	Councilman DeLisio
=	=	Councilman Devlin
=	=	Councilman McGuire
=	=	Councilman Shepard
=	=	Councilman Sotiropoulos

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Northvale collected only 98.93% of the 2019 taxes due to an increase in taxpayers being delinquent as a result of unfavorable economic conditions in the local economy and real estate markets for 2019 and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Northvale’s average collection percentage for the last 3 years is 99.02%, as calculated below, and,

	Collection Percentage
2019	98.93
2018	99.07
2017	99.06
Total	297.06
3-Year Average	99.02%

**WHEREAS**, the lower percentage collected in 2019 has an effect on the “Reserve for Uncollected Taxes” in 2020, and,

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body desires to anticipate 99.00% collection for 2020, to help reduce the “Reserve for Uncollected Taxes”, with prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Borough of Northvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services be requested to anticipate 99.00% collection of taxes in 2020 in figuring the “Reserve for Uncollected Taxes”.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Director of Local Government Services.

Name	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Argiro	=	=	=	=
Councilman DeLisio	=	=	=	=
Councilman Devlin	=	=	=	=
Councilman McGuire	=	=	=	=
Councilman Shepard	=	=	=	=
Councilman Sotiropoulos	=	=	=	=

**RESOLUTION #2020-84**

**TITLE: 2019 OPEN SPACE – HOGAN PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion	Second	Name
=	=	Councilman Argiro
=	=	Councilman DeLisio
=	=	Councilman Devlin
=	=	Councilman McGuire
=	=	Councilman Shepard
=	=	Councilman Sotiropoulos

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has applied for and been approved to receive a Grant from the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund (the “Grant”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Northvale has been presented with a contract by the County of Bergen (the “Contract”) for the purpose of using a \$20,000.00 matching grant award from the 2019 Funding Round of the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund (“Trust Fund”) for the municipal park project entitled Hogan Park Improvements located in Block(s) 602, Lot(s) 4 and 2 on the tax maps of the Borough of Northvale; and

**WHEREAS**, in general the use of this Trust Fund grant towards this approved park project must be completed by or about March 6, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the grant will be disbursed to the municipality as a reimbursement upon submittal of certified Trust Fund payment and project completion documents and municipal vouchers, invoices, proofs of payment, and other such documents as may be required by the County in accordance with the Trust Fund’s requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the grant disbursement to the municipality will be equivalent to fifty(50) percent of the eligible construction costs incurred(not to exceed total grant award) applied towards only the approved park improvements identified in the aforesaid Contract in accordance with the Trust Fund’s requirements. Professional Services Costs may be reimbursed from grant award’s unexpended balance, should there be a balance; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the Borough to authorize the Mayor to execute the Contract.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council hereby authorize Mayor Patrick Marana to be a signatory to the aforesaid contract and to execute the Contract.

Name	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Argiro	=	=	=	=
Councilman DeLisio	=	=	=	=
Councilman Devlin	=	=	=	=
Councilman McGuire	=	=	=	=
Councilman Shepard	=	=	=	=
Councilman Sotiropoulos	=	=	=	=

**ORDINANCES – 1st Reading**

Mayor Marana states that Ordinance #1020-2020 will establish 2020 cap bank. Mr. Wielkocz states that the appropriation cap limit set by implicit indicator is 2-1/2% for 2020. By ordinance it can be increased to 3-1/2%. There is \$68,000 more in appropriation but will be using little, \$55,000 not using can carry over for next year’s budget.

**ORDINANCE #1020-2020**

**CALENDAR YEAR 2020 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL  
BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK  
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

Motion	Second	Name
=	=	Councilman Argiro
=	=	Councilman DeLisio
=	=	Councilman Devlin
=	=	Councilman McGuire
=	=	Councilman Shepard
=	=	Councilman Sotiropoulos

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year’s final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale in the County of Bergen finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2020 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year’s final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council hereby determines that a 1.00% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$68,431.23 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

**WHEREAS** the Mayor and Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale, in the County of Bergen, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2020 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Northvale shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 1.00%, amounting to \$68,431.23, and that the CY 2020 municipal budget for the Borough of Northvale be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Name	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Argiro	==	==	==	==
Councilman DeLisio	==	==	==	==
Councilman Devlin	==	==	==	==
Councilman McGuire	==	==	==	==
Councilman Shepard	==	==	==	==
Councilman Sotiropoulos	==	==	==	==

Mayor Marana stated that the appraisal for former VFW came in. The residential lot is appraised at \$200,000, commercial lot appraised at \$495,000. We will need two ordinance readings, after the subdivision, then can hopefully sell the property. Public budget hearing is on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Deena drafted a sidewalk café resolution that suspends our outdoor dining ordinance. We need the state guidelines, which are not ready yet, to finish the resolution. Councilman Devlin asked if the restaurants can put up tents.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

There were no questions or comments from the public.

**ADJOURNMENT – TIME: 7:19 PM**

Motion	Second	Name
==	==	Councilman Argiro
==	==	Councilman DeLisio
==	==	Councilman Devlin
==	==	Councilman McGuire
==	==	Councilman Shepard
==	==	Councilman Sotiropoulos

Name	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Councilman Argiro	==	==	==	==
Councilman DeLisio	==	==	==	==
Councilman Devlin	==	==	==	==
Councilman McGuire	==	==	==	==
Councilman Shepard	==	==	==	==
Councilman Sotiropoulos	==	==	==	==

*Patrick J. Marana*  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

*Frances M. Weston*

Frances M. Weston  
Acting Borough Clerk

Approved: June 10, 2020

