



MINUTES
Combined Meeting of the Mayor and Council
Wednesday, April 9, 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 7:03 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 for former Mayor and Assemblyman John Rooney who recently passed away. He was the longest serving Mayor in Northvale for 24 years and served as Assemblyman for 27 years.

Mayor McGuire asked for roll call:

Mayor McGuire	Present	Councilwoman McMorrow	Present
Councilman Bakalian	Present	Councilman Mattessich	Present
Councilwoman Fernandez	Present	Councilman Menafra	Present
		Councilman Sokoloski	Present

Other Officials Present:

Kenneth Ralph, Borough Attorney
Mateo Luzuriaga, Neglia Engineering
Frances Weston, Municipal Clerk

Mayor McGuire informed the Council that a request was received for a Block Party on June 21, 2025 at 409 Eric Lane. The Police Chief and Council approved this request.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor McGuire asked for a motion and second to approve the Minutes of the March 12, 2025 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	Abstain	Councilman Menafra	Yes
Councilman Mattessich	Yes	Councilman Sokoloski	Yes

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. Riverside Cooperative Road Program
Bid Tabulation
(Resolution #2025-72)
2. On-Line Auction-GovDeals.com Legal Ad
(Resolution #2025-77)

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 #2025-70 through 2025-80. Motion was moved by Councilman Mattessich, seconded by Councilman Bakalian.

RESOLUTION #2025-70

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A 2025 BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND MUNICIPAL PARK IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund (“County Trust Fund”), provides matching grants to municipal governments and to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the development or redevelopment of outdoor municipal recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale desires to further the public interest by obtaining a matching grant of \$216,750.00 from the County Trust Fund to fund the “Veterans Memorial Park Softball Field Improvements,” including new turf and other improvements to the Veterans Park softball field; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale has reviewed the County Trust Fund Program Statement and the Trust Fund Municipal Program Park Improvement application and instructions, and desires to make an application for such a matching grant and provide application information and furnish such documents as may be required; and

WHEREAS, as part of the application process, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale held the required Public Hearing to receive public comments on the proposed park improvements in the application on Wednesday, March 12, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen shall determine whether the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the County Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the County Trust Fund in accordance with such rules, regulations, and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the County of Bergen for the above named project and ensure its completion on or about the project contract expiration date.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale:

1. That it is hereby authorized to submit the above completed project application to the County by the deadline of April 25th, 2025, as established by the County; and
2. That, in the event of a County Trust Fund award that may be less than the grant amount requested above, the Mayor and Council has, or will secure, the balance of funding necessary to complete the project, or modify the project as necessary; and



3. That the Mayor and Council is committed to providing a dollar-for-dollar cash match for the project; and
4. That only those park improvements identified and approved in the project application, its Trust Fund contract, or other documentation will be considered eligible for reimbursement.
5. That the Mayor and Council agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION #2025-71

TITLE: RESOLUTION FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO CONFIRM ENDORSEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

WHEREAS, a Bergen County Community Development grant of \$15,000 has been proposed by New Concepts for Living for a HVAC replacement; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Interlocal Services Act, Community Development funds may not be spent in a municipality without authorization by the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid project is in the best interest of the people of Northvale and the residents at 522 Hughes Street; and

WHEREAS, this resolution does not obligate the financial resources of the municipality and is intended solely to expedite expenditure of the aforesaid CD funds.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of Northvale hereby confirms endorsement of the aforesaid project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Director of the Bergen County Community Development Program so that implementation of the aforesaid project may be expedited.

RESOLUTION #2025-72

TITLE: RESOLUTION AWARDING BID FOR THE 2025 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ON BEHALF OF THE RIVERSIDE COOPERATIVE

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:11-10(1) authorizes contracting units to enter into cooperative pricing agreements; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale has volunteered to act as "Lead Agency" for the purchase of work, materials, and supplies for the Riverside Cooperative ("the Coop") for the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale received nine (9) bids for the 2025 Riverside Cooperative Road Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2025, the bid opening was performed at the Borough of Northvale Borough Hall at 116 Paris Avenue in Northvale at which time nine bids were read aloud; and



WHEREAS, Bids were received as set forth on the Bid Tabulation Sheets made as a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, DLS Contracting Inc, 36 Montesano Road, Fairfield, NJ 07004 was determined to be the lowest qualified bidder with a bid of \$2,441,422.54; and

WHEREAS, the nine bids are on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northvale Mayor and Municipal Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute a Master Contract with the above named firm for the contract period as set forth in the request for bids, acting as Lead Agency on behalf of the Riverside Cooperative.

RESOLUTION #2025-73

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO RETURN ESCROW FOR EASTERN ALLIED CONSTRUCTION/CHET SIMUNOVICH FOR PROPERTY AT 180/182 RAILROAD AVENUE, BLOCK 911, LOTS 8.01 AND 8.02

WHEREAS, Eastern Allied Construction/Chet Simunovich was the owner of 180 and 182 Railroad Avenue, Block 911, Lots 8.01 and 8.02; and

WHEREAS, Eastern Allied Construction has a balance of \$846.05 in their escrow account; and

WHEREAS, there are no objections to the return of escrow from the Borough Engineer and Building Department and there are no outstanding bills.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to return the remainder of escrow fees to Eastern Allied Construction/Chet Simunovich, P. O. Box 1008, Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024 in the amount of \$846.05 from escrow account number 9338.

RESOLUTION #2025-74

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF \$250,000 SPECIAL EMERGENCY NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHVALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Northvale, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Borough") (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring), as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to the Local Budget Law and an ordinance adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough on April 9, 2025 (the "Ordinance"), the Borough appropriated \$250,000 as a special emergency appropriation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 for the preparation and execution of a program of revaluation of real property. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-55, \$250,000 principal amount of Special Emergency Notes are hereby authorized to be issued.

Section 2. Such notes are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Ordinance and this resolution and shall be negotiable notes payable to bearer, and shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law, and such interest shall be payable at the maturity of such notes. The notes shall be dated on or about the date of their issuance and may be renewed from time to time, but at least 1/5 of the total amount



of notes hereby authorized, and the renewals thereof, shall mature and be paid in each year, so that all notes and renewals shall have matured and have been paid not later than the last day of the fifth year following the date of this resolution. The issuing officers are authorized to provide that the notes may be redeemable at the option of the Borough.

Section 3. The Mayor and the Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to execute said notes, and the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to affix the seal of the Borough to such notes and to attest such seal and said notes, and said officers are hereby authorized to issue said notes in such form as they may adopt in conformity with law and to recite therein that all requirements and conditions of law have been complied with in the issuance of said notes, and that said notes are within every debt and other limit prescribed by the Constitution or statutes of New Jersey.

Section 4. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell said notes and any renewals thereof from time to time, at not less than par and accrued interest and to determine within the limitations prescribed by this resolution, the date, principal amount, maturity date, and denomination of said notes, and the rate of interest said notes shall bear and to deliver such notes upon receiving the purchase price to be paid therefor.

Section 5. The Borough Council hereby covenants on behalf of the Borough, to the extent permitted by the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Jersey, to do and perform all acts and things permitted by law and necessary to assure that interest paid on bonds, notes or other obligations of the Borough (including the Special Emergency Notes) be and remain excluded from gross income of the owners thereof for Federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

Section 6. The Borough Council hereby designates the Special Emergency Notes as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for the purpose of Section 265(b)(3) of the Code. It is hereby determined and stated that the Special Emergency Notes (1) are not "private activity bonds" as defined in the Code and (2) the Borough and its subordinate entities, if any, do not reasonably anticipate issuing in excess of \$10 million of new money tax-exempt obligations (other than private activity bonds) during the calendar year 2025. The Borough will, to the best of its ability, attempt to comply with respect to the limitations on issuance of tax-exempt obligations pursuant to Section 265(b)(3) of the Code; however, the Borough does not covenant to do so, and expressly states that a covenant is not made hereby.

Section 7. A certified copy of this resolution shall be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Section 8. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

RESOLUTION #2025-75

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF NORTHVALE TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY BUILDER'S ASSOCIATION REGARDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROSPECTIVE NEED NUMBERS

WHEREAS, the NJ Department of Community Affairs ("DCA") has issued its recommendations regarding the Borough's 4th round prospective need at 112 units; and

WHEREAS, based on a study by the Board's Planner, Lyndsay Knight of Neglia Group, the Borough has proposed that its prospective need obligation is 99 units; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Builder's Association ("NJBA") has challenged the Borough's proposed number insisting that the proper number is 112 as determined by the DCA; and



WHEREAS, the Borough entered into settlement negotiations with the NJBA regarding the matter and has agreed to settle the current litigation at the number of 105 for its prospective need; and

WHEREAS, the settlement as proposed is in the best interest of the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Northvale hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute a settlement agreement setting forth the Borough's prospective need at 105 units.

RESOLUTION #2025-76

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL 2025 PRELIMINARY TAXES CHARGED TO A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN AND AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO ISSUE A REFUND FOR THE 2024 TAXES PAID AT CLOSING

WHEREAS, Block 403 Lot 3, 602 Gladys Court, Northvale, was sold to Rayment Nelson by Lois Madera in November 2024; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Nelson is a Totally Disabled Veteran and on November 4, 2024 has been granted Tax Exempt Status according to New Jersey Statute 54:4-3.30et seq.; and

WHEREAS, 2024 Taxes were paid in full according to the tax records and Raymond Nelson paid his portion of the 2024 Tax which was \$2,287.52.

<u>Assessed To</u>	<u>Property Location</u>	<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Tax</u>
Raymond Nelson	602 Gladys Court	403/3	2024	\$2,287.52
			2025	\$7,196.50

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel taxes in the amount of \$2,287.52 for 2024 and \$7,196.50 for 2025 Preliminary Tax on Block 403 Lot 3 and the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to issue a refund to Raymond Nelson for \$2,287.52 for overpaid 2024 Taxes.

RESOLUTION #2025-77

TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ON-LINE AUCTION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale, the County of Bergen, is the owner of certain surplus property that is no longer needed for public use, specifically identified and described in the legal ad; and

WHEREAS, the sales are being conducted pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36 and guidance set forth in the Division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2019-15; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale intends to utilize the online auction services of GovDeals; and

WHEREAS, all other terms and conditions of the auction of the Surplus Property and agreement with GovDeals are on the company's website and in the office of the Municipal Clerk; and



WHEREAS, the surplus property as indicated in the legal ad shall be sold in an "as is" condition without express or implied warranties with the successful bidder; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale reserves the right to accept or reject any bid submitted.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Northvale, as follows:

1. The Borough of Northvale is hereby authorized to sell the surplus personal property as indicated on the legal ad on the online auction website entitled Sourcewell, <https://www.govdeals.com/northvalepd>
2. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with GovDeals.
3. This resolution and contract shall be available for public inspection in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

RESOLUTION #2025-78

TITLE: 2025 EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen in that the Borough of Northvale is expected to enter into contracts, commitments or payments prior to the 2025 budget and no adequate provision has been made in the 2025 temporary budget for the aforesaid purposes; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for said purpose; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary appropriation resolutions adopted in the year 2025CY pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total \$816,696.00

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Northvale, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with the provisions of

N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

1. Emergency temporary appropriations be and the same are hereby made in the amount of **\$816,696** as follows:

STATUTORY EXPENSES- OTHER EXPENSES

Employee Pension PFRS	\$644,272.00
Employee Pension PERS	<u>\$172,424.00</u>
Total	\$816,696.00
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2. Said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in the 2025 budget.

3. That one certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director, Division of Local Government Services



RESOLUTION #2025-79

TITLE: 2025 DEDICATION BY RIDER: DONATIONS FOR BEAUTIFICATION OF NORTHVALE

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29 provides for receipt of Acceptance of Bequest and Gifts by the municipality to provide for the operating costs to administer this act; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides the dedicated revenues anticipated from the ***Northvale Donation and Beautification Trust Fund*** are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Northvale, County of Bergen, New Jersey as follows:

1. The Governing Body does hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures of the **Northvale Donation and Beautification Trust Fund under the statutory authority of N.J.S.A 40A:5-29.**
2. The Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Northvale, County of Bergen, is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this Resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services

RESOLUTION #2025-80

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 (2024)	
Current Fund Appropriations (2025)	\$270,350.63
General Capital Fund	11,536.34
Grant Fund	1,995.24
Animal Trust	6.00
Police DEA Trust	158,214.75
Escrow Trust	3,339.50
Affordable Housing Trust	4,610.00
Recreation Trust	6,915.39
Summer Recreation Trust	
SUBTOTAL	\$456,957.85
Retro Current Fund (2025)	
	\$456,967.85

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, 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, 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:

Northern Valley Regional High School		
Payroll – Salaries & Wages	3/16/25	\$162,307.96
Payroll- Salaries & Wages	3/28/25	177,858.95
Health Benefits	3/14/25	74,596.62
County Taxes		
Employee Pension Payment- PERS/PFRS	3/26/25 2/26/25	644,272.00 172,424.00
Northvale Board OF Education		
Northern Valley Regional High School District		
Northvale Public Library		
Capital – Inter-fund		
DTC- Bond Principal & Inter		
DTC- Bond Interest		
TOTAL		\$1,688,427.00

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale that the claims totaling **\$1,688,427.00** are ratified respectively.

ON THE QUESTION – Councilman Bakalian had a question on Resolution #2025-74. He asked if there is interest or is it interest free. He also asked if there would be a designation in the budget for beautification committee donations.

Mayor McGuire opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on Consent Agenda resolutions only. There being no questions or comments, Mayor McGuire closed the meeting to the public.

Mayor McGuire asked for a roll call vote:

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



ORDINANCE – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor McGuire asked for a motion and second for the adoption of Ordinance #25-05. Motion was moved by Councilman Sokoloski, seconded by Councilman McMorrow

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 opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on Ordinance #25-05 only. There being no questions or comments, Mayor McGuire closed the meeting to the public.

Mayor McGuire asked for a roll call vote:

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

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Sokoloski questioned signs on residents' lawns advertising for businesses. If there is work being done on a house, it is fine to have the sign up. He does not think signs advertising businesses should be allowed.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President McMorrow – the Police had 715 events for the month of March. There were 120 traffic stops, 110 radar/traffic enforcement details, 51 school safety checks, 33 civilian assist calls, 42 parking complaints/enforcement, 26 burglar alarms, 27 suspicious person/activity, and 3 thefts. There were 4 arrests: 68 year old female from Closter for shoplifting; 27 year old male from Northvale for hindering apprehension; 48 year old male from Clifton for harassment; and 30 year old male from Congers for DWI.

Thank you to NVAC for their participation in the Eggstravaganza event this past weekend. Also thank you to the Fire Department for your participation and the Police Department for stopping by and checking on things. EMT Enrollment has opened for summer sessions if anyone is



interested in taking the course. Ambulance Corps had 13 total calls for the month of March: 5 Northvale, 6 Rockleigh Residential-Jewish Home, 2 Harrington Park.

Preschool – the new clothing bin seems to have been full every week since it was dropped off. It appears to be quite an asset to the community. Enrollment for next years Pre-K 3 and 4 are full. Spring party and egg hunt will take place this Friday. Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrations are in planning phases. Preschool teachers will be meeting with Northvale teachers to ensure that the curriculum of Northvale Preschool will adequately prepare the students for kindergarten.

Councilman Bakalian – There were no meetings held in March for the Planning Board. Building Department issued 23 permits and updated 5 permits in the month of March. Fees collected for March were \$20,372 as compared to March of 2024 which were \$15,523. The year-to-date fees collected are \$69,412 which is \$35,072 more than last year due to permits for home renovations and additions.

Councilman Menafra – Fire Department stats for the month of March – 24 emergency calls totaling 138 man hours which include 8 fire alarms, 3 CO alarms, 1 utility, 3 smoke conditions, 1 structural fire, 1 non-structural fire. There were 11 non-emergency calls totaling 254.50 man hours which include 4 company drills. Fire Prevention stats for the month of March – 23 inspections and 11 re-inspections. Municipal Alliance is working with the Senior Center to get programming scheduled there.

Northvale Board of Education held a meeting on March 13th. The week of March 2nd was Read Across America and was focused on celebrating the life of Dr. Seuss. Penny wars raised \$3,100 towards Project Graduation. Students took advantage of the newly renovated softball field. Mrs. Sardonis has applied for an O&R grant towards purchase of outdoor book boxes. Teacher salary contract negotiations are in progress. Preliminary budget for the 2025-2026 school year has been finalized and is tracking towards a 3.5% increase. Taxes to be levied for 2025-2026 total \$11,946,216. The talent show was held on April 4th. Special shout out to Sarah Kirch who has organized the show for the past 11 years and this was her final show. Spring break is next week. The next board meeting will be held on April 24th at 6:30 pm in the all purpose room.

Northern Valley Board of Education held a meeting on March 17th. New board member Jill Chroman was sworn in to replace Tiffany Kaplan who resigned. Eid and Diwali holidays were added to the 2025-2026 school calendar. Educator of the year award was presented to Amy Wilcox. Tentative budget will be submitted for board approval and is tracking toward a 2.83% tax levy increase. All current school programs will be maintained next year. Healthcare costs are increasing between 15-22%. Over 44 towns in Bergen County are exceeding the 2% budget increase cap. Final budget presentation will take place during the April meeting. NVOT Cheer team took gold in a national level tournament. Next meeting will be held on April 28th at 7:30 pm in the NVOT Media Center.

Councilman Sokoloski – Board of Health meeting from March was postponed to tomorrow at 7 PM.

Northern Valley Greenway – there will be a series of three public meetings held by the Palisades Shared Use Path Feasibility Study. The first will be next Monday, April 14th, at 6:00 PM at Palisades Center in West Nyack. I will try to attend. If anyone else is interested in the link, it is palisaespasthstudy.com.

Grants – we have \$3,112,814 grants pending. We have not been awarded any grants this year as yet. Grants awarded so far total \$1,595,802.

Councilwoman Fernandez – Library will be having a meeting on April 23rd at 6:30 pm. This week is Library week. Saturday, June 21st will be the Library's 10th anniversary. Check the calendar for events.

Beautification – the bird houses were great. Thank you to Kari Sedano for donating the paint and Pete Sotiropoulos for donating the bird houses. Community Garden is almost ready. The DPW did an incredible job. Sign ups and rules will be available in a few days.

Councilman Mattessich – DPW is very busy beginning their clean up throughout the borough. At Hogan Park, they are prepping the fields for opening day. Normal maintenance continues with potholes being filled, brush and appliance pick ups, and sewer maintenance.



Senior Center – on April 3rd the seniors hosted Arbor Terrace personnel to discuss healing of the mind, body, and soul. The monthly breakfast is April 15th at 10 am. The center will be closed on Good Friday, April 18th. Easter luncheon will be held on April 24th at 12 noon.

Golden Age Club – The day trip in March is to LeGreci's in Staten Island for dinner and dancing. The club met on April 2nd. They also went to Wind Creek in Pennsylvania on April 8th. In June, the members will be taking a trip to The Riverview Inn for 70's senior night fever dancing.

Recreation – had a meeting on March 18th. We met with the DPW guys, Briant, and Billy at both parks and had a very productive meeting. Basketball and indoor soccer are finished. Next meeting is in a week.

Mayor McGuire – the community garden is nearing completion. Thank you to everyone involved in making this happen including our DPW, beautification committee, and Veolia Water for their generous donation. The application form, rules, and regulations are being finalized right now. We are targeting for Monday to launch so people can obtain the application on the website and file at Borough Hall for \$40. There are a total of 26-4 x 20 beds in the garden and one handicap bed. This is a test year for us since we do not know what the participation will be. Thank you to all who made our eggstravaganza a success this past weekend. Our Events Coordinator, Iris Fallon, along with our Fire Department, Ambulance Corps, and Police volunteered and helped with the event. Unfortunately, we were indoors for the event but it worked out very well. The kids had a great time.

Letters for the revaluation process will be going out to all residents shortly. They will be coming from the company performing the reval and cobranded with Borough letterhead so people will not throw them out. Once that happens we will have a section on the website devoted to the topic. The presentation we had last month from Rob Brescia is currently on the home page. He explains the process nicely and in detail.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Ralph – Mr. Ferraro worked on the litigation for the Builders Association settlement of 105 units for this round. The number could change.

BOROUGH ENGINEER REPORT

Mr. Luzuriaga – Livingston Street streetscape RRFB pedestrian signage has been installed. We will close this project out and submit to the DOT for final reimbursement. Senior Center ADA bathroom voucher was paid by the County and this project is closed. Hogan Park fencing will be completed by the end of the week.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Chris Bombino, 123 Rockland Avenue - stated I have been coming to meetings since Ordinance 1903-2024 was approved. I came to the November, December, January, and February meetings and took a pause on reporting after the February meeting. The church contacted me explaining they needed time to address the parking issues with their congregation. That is why I didn't come in March. On March 30th he sent an email as to what he witnessed. He went over what violations he noted in his email to the Mayor, Chief, and council. The people have been ignoring no parking signs and cones in front of the fire hydrant. I will be resuming surveillance on Sunday and will email Sunday night if there are any violations. I will attend every council meeting until no parking on Chestnut Street is changed back. Oak Street in Norwood has a full sidewalk and parking is allowed on one side.

Mayor McGuire advised Mr. Bombino that Chief Ostrow said it has been a few months and church officials have had plenty of time to inform the congregation, so warnings will stop and tickets will start being issued.

Councilman Mattessich asked if there was a sidewalk on Oak Street and if anyone parks there and uses the sidewalk. Mr. Bombino replied the sidewalk is on the west side and no one is using it. Councilman Sokoloski asked, before the ordinance was changed, were people stopping and dropping off. Mr. Bombino replied minimal as people knew there was no parking.

Ken Cho, 423 Wildwood Road – spoke with Chief Federici who said there is no parking on the north side of Oak Street. The congregation can park there and will not get ticketed.



ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McGuire asked for a motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 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: May 14, 2025

