

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2017**

At 6:58pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau, followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

Present: Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline, Dewees

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Kris Facenda, Engineer Rami Nassar and Chief Newman were also in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS BY MAYOR CHAU

- **BRADLEY FERGUSON AND MEMBERS OF THE POST CRASHERS**

Mayor Chau introduced the Post Crashers, a group of young volunteers associated with our American Legion Post, and said they had held 12 Crashes in 2016 between April and November. In that time they collected over 1,000 pounds of food for the Food Bank, made 2,400 lunches for the homeless clients of the Atlantic City Rescue Mission and veterans in transitional housing, built a deck, built 6 picnic tables, benches and a picnic area, built a shed, enlarged the Victory Garden (which provided 1,500 pounds of produce this summer), and helped finance the fence at the American Legion Post 295. The Post Crashers and the Auxiliary of Post 295 also held a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner for our veterans on November 19th, which kicked off their advocacy campaign for helping veterans in need. Our veterans have given the ultimate sacrifice and dedication to our country. Mayor Chau noted that one of the young volunteers, Daniel Jiang, had attended all 12 crashes this year. As the only student among the 97 members to achieve this, he was an amazing young man.

Mayor Chau presented certificates to the following children:

Panchatapa Baul, Bradley Ferguson, Jack Hughes, Daniel Jiang, Logan Kaufman, Aleishka Lantiqua, Jack Little, Julia Lonkart, Tommy McGowan, Alysia Moore, Jack Notarfranceso, Danielle Schuster, Emily Shenkus, Julia Travis and Linden Wineland.

Mayor Chau also recognized audience members Carol Ferguson, and Mark Doherty for their work with the Post Crashers, as well as Steve Vain and Steve Miller, who were not in attendance. He invited all to come forward for a photo.

Mayor Chau read and presented the following proclamation to Bradley Ferguson:

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“WHEREAS, it is one of the responsibilities of the Mayor of the City Northfield to give recognition to individuals for their hard work, dedication, and achievement; and

WHEREAS, Through its Youth Advisory Board Grant Program, State Farm has recently awarded \$72,772.78 to the American Legion Post 295.

WHEREAS, The State Farm Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is one of the nation's most unique philanthropic programs. Thirty youth from across the country are charged with implementing a \$5 million-a-year signature philanthropic grant budget. Grants must address an unmet community need, empower young people, be sustainable, and incorporate all of the elements of service-learning.

WHEREAS, Bradley Ferguson has applied for and received a total of \$125,000.00 that has been used to refurbish the Post in order to create a healthy, vibrant center to serve our community, as well as our veterans.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Erland V.L. Chau, Mayor of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey, do hereby recognize for his hard work and community service Bradley Ferguson

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and cause the Seal of the City of Northfield to Affixed this twenty-ninth day of November in the year of two thousand and sixteen.”

At 7:11pm Council President Dewees announced a five minute recess.

At 7:17pm Council President Dewees resumed the meeting.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Travagline, second of Councilman Piergiovanni, all were in favor of approving the minutes of the January 3, 2017, meeting of Council without formal reading. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri - Sewer Inter Local, Planning Board, Senior Citizens, Shared Services

Councilman Perri reported that the seniors had a presentation last week from Bob Zlotnick of Atlantic Prevention Resources. One of the topics that came up was the prescription medicine drop box. Councilman Perri did see the correspondence that was provided by the Deputy Clerk and that there were concerns. He was attempting

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to find other alternatives such as charcoal bags, for the seniors, until the matter was resolved. Perri stated that there was no Planning Board application this month.

Councilman Lischin asked Councilman Perri if he saw the correspondence from the Chief, via the Clerk's Office, regarding the prescription medication drop box.

Councilman Perri confirmed that he did.

Mayor Chau noted that he had initiated the discussion via email and hopefully all had seen it.

Councilman Travagline asked Councilman Perri if there had been any progress with regard to exploring privatization of the sewer system.

Councilman Perri replied no, but it was put out to the committee. They have not gone forward to privatize at this time.

Councilman O'Neill - Court/Violations, Library

Councilman O'Neill had no report.

Councilman Piergiovanni – Insurance and Safety, Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School

Councilman Piergiovanni had no report.

Council President Dewees asked Councilman Piergiovanni if there was a school board meeting last night.

Councilman Piergiovanni replied yes there was, but, he did not go to the meeting; he will find out what happened with regard to the bus shelter.

Mayor Chau noted that he did get a call from the board about that, but has not returned the call.

Councilman Piergiovanni advised that he would follow up and get this moving.

Councilman Travagline – FAN, Sign Sub Committee, Shared Services, Green Team Advisory

Councilman Travagline attended the FAN reorganization meeting on January 19th; they discussed the basketball program; they are having a very successful year. There are over 400 kids from Northfield and Linwood, who did not currently have a program. The travel program was also very successful. They also talked about the James Hoopes basketball clinics, and funding for that and a possible takeover of that

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event that is held in the fall. Councilman Travagline reported that he had reached out to several of the Linwood Council people, and they have been very responsive, most likely will have 1-2 meetings in the next month or so regarding shared services.

Councilman Perri asked who the chairman of the shared service committee was.

Council President Dewees replied he had not assigned one; he said he would give it some thought and make a selection.

Councilman Perri stated that unless there was a majority vote to privatize sewer, he would prefer to keep it status quo.

Councilman Travagline suggested different leadership for the Sewer Department if the Council decided to move forward.

Councilman Murray - Finance/Collections, Mainland Regional, Economic Development, Traffic Safety

Councilman Murray reported that the Finance Committee would meet this Thursday at 2pm. The tax collection rate for 2016 had improved over 2015.

Councilman Lischin – Fire Department/EMS, Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Technology/MRHS Channel 2, Cultural Committee, Green Team, Sign Sub Committee

Councilman Lischin reported that our long standing Assistant Fire Chief had retired. Two career men expressed interest in the position, but had since backed out. The City was only able to promote from within, so we were looking at other options. He met with the Code Enforcement Officer to implement a more proactive code enforcement presence. The Cultural Committee would be having their first meeting of the year tomorrow.

Councilman Dewees asked Councilman Lischin to address 3-4 TV's that have been put out curbside on Broad and Dolphin.

Council President Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans' Park, 1st Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Little League/Babe Ruth, Sign Sub Committee, Traffic Safety

Council President Dewees reported that a tree fell at the Babe Ruth field during the storm and took out part of the fence; the City would open an insurance claim. He had no report for Veterans Park. Birch Grove Park was closed at noon yesterday due to the storm, it re-opened today. Public Works was called out last night to remove a fallen tree from Burton Avenue. They were replacing about 60 street signs and were

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working on clearing several utility easements, including one at Pasadena and Jack Sloan, and one at the baseball field.

He referred to a parcel of land that Mr. Adeo Santori offered to donate to the City; it was adjacent to Surroundings Furniture store and the driving range. It was heavily wooded and had many large trees. He took a straw poll from Council as to whether the City would accept the parcel. All Council replied yes with the exception of Councilman Travagline who replied no.

Municipal Clerk Canesi noted that there would be costs associated, such as title work etc.

Solicitor Facenda also suggested a due diligence period to ensure that there was no abandoned oil tank etc.

Councilman Travagline asked if we were further entertaining outsourcing camping at Birch Grove.

Council President Dewees had not proceeded; noted he would contact Councilman Travagline tomorrow.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau advised that the flags were lowered at his request during the storm to minimize damage. He encouraged all to attend the upcoming JIF workshops; we did get credit to attend. He reported that he was very impressed with the company that NJ American Water Company was using to install the new pipe. He recognized and commended the officers involved in the arrest of an individual who was involved in the home invasion of a 91 year old woman, who had to fight him off. He gave kudos to all. To all members of Council, he reported that several weeks ago they received a packet from County Executive Levinson regarding striping on Shore Road to honor the police; he wanted Council to know that was due to a request initiated by Mayor Chau. He expressed frustration at the lack of movement on the proposed bus shelter on the part of the Board of Education. He read highlights of their concerns including the creation of an area where individuals would begin to loiter and congregate, creating a danger for the children. He had also heard that there were concerns that children will use the bench seat inside the shelter for skateboarding. Chau said the stop had been there for decades and he had never seen this happen. The 4 foot fence currently at the school could be easily scaled, and there was an opening at the end of the fence for entrance and egress. He felt that if these were all concerns, then access should be more strictly limited. Mayor Chau reminded all that it was residents and veterans that asked for the shelter due to the proximity to the Veterans Clinic. He had hoped that the board would support having the shelter at that location.

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Councilman O'Neill wished to add that he had noticed interaction with the Northfield Police Department and residents in town, and thought officers were going above and beyond the call of duty.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar spoke regarding the Rosedale Pump Station; he explained that construction would start in 6-8 weeks. The Bay Drive project was largely complete; he felt a stop sign was warranted at Rosedale and Bay Drive as it would be beneficial to the town.

Mayor Chau suggested time-limit restrictions for parking on Oxford Circle; the request was brought up by a resident.

Engineer Nassar advised that the contractor was going to request a time extension due to weather; punch list items were not yet complete. He noted that he had provided a copy of the current street moratorium map, and it included the area that the gas company was doing. The City applied to the State for the Cresson Avenue Municipal Aid Grant, as well as the Bikeway Grant - it was very specific and if we didn't increase the length of our bikeways we could not apply for the grant. We would either need to find additional locations or we wouldn't apply for the grant.

Councilman O'Neill asked if there had been any word from the County on Mill Road.

Engineer Nassar replied no.

Councilman Travagline asked if the Council had moved forward on the sidewalk issue.

Council President Dewees advised that we were waiting for the overlays.

Mayor Chau announced that there were 3-4 volunteer positions that need to be filled; asked Municipal Clerk Canesi to explain each.

Clerk Canesi explained that the JIF required a Wellness and Safety Coordinator, both designed to dovetail with the City's insurance policy in terms of risk management; employees who are healthy come to work more often and lead happier lives. The Right to Know Coordinator position falls under PEOSHA and involved someone to keep track of MSDS sheets and logs for any chemicals used; there were annual reports that need to be filed. The last is the indoor air quality designee and that is a requirement of the DEP.

Mayor Chau noted that these were non-stipend jobs that needed to be filled, the clerk sent out an email asking for volunteers.

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Clerk Canesi added that when we got no reply, she checked other area towns and some do compensate the employees for these positions.

Mayor Chau reiterated that they were non-stipend.

Councilman Travagline asked about the drainage on Cresson Avenue.

Engineer Nassar replied that the drainage would need to be addressed before road was paved.

Councilman O'Neill asked if the Bond Counsel reached out to anyone regarding the environmental trust fund.

Engineer Nassar replied yes, the matter would be discussed in Committee.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Dewees opened the public session, seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Dewees stated that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature, and having been reviewed by Council, will be enacted by one motion. Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of any Council Member and if so removed, will be treated as a separate matter. Any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds.

The Executive Session of Council will be held at the end of the meeting, and we will come back in public session to make a comment for the record after the executive session has concluded. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

At 7:54pm Mayor Chau left the dais.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Murray seconded for Resolutions 41-2017 to 53-2017, to be voted on by Consent Agenda.

41-2017 Acceptance of the LOSAP Point System and Qualifiers for
Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Co. #1

42-2017 Certification of Accumulated Absence Payout – Lauren William
Crooks

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- 43-2017** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – Joe Bunting
ACBL

- 44-2017** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – Joe Bunting
Over 35 League

- 45-2017** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - Mainland Youth
Lacrosse

- 46-2017** Designating Custodian of Records in Accordance with the Open
Public Records Act

- 47-2017** Promotion of Darren Boyd to Operator B

- 48-2017** Authorizing the Tax Collector to Conduct a Tax Lien Sale

- 49-2017** Request to the County of Atlantic to Use County Roads for Parades
and Other Functions

- 50-2017** Authorizing Award of Contract for a Municipal Prosecutor as a
Professional Service Pursuant to N.J.S.A 40A:11-5(1) (A) and
N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, Et Seq.

- 51-2017** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – South Jersey
Sandsharks 8U

- 52-2017** A Resolution Providing for an Executive Session Not Open to the
Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open
Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) (7) Regarding Litigation
and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring
Confidentiality – Mt Laurel Litigation

- 53-2017** A Resolution Providing for an Executive Session Not Open to the
Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open
Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) (7) Regarding Litigation
and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring
Confidentiality – Potential Litigation Affordable Housing

All were in favor of voting by consent agenda.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Murray seconded for Resolutions 41-2017 to 53-2017, to be adopted by consent agenda.

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Councilman Lischin commented that Resolution 41-2017 was for LOSAP, and recognized those that were moving up and read the names of the members on the resolution for the record:

Bruce Cummings, Scott Goodman, Kevin Morey, Brian Flaherty, Eric Shenkus, Martin Pepek and John Sullivan.

Roll call: Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carries.

At 7:56pm Mayor Chau returned.

ORDINANCE

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded to adopt Ordinance 1-2017.

1-2017 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 330 of the Code of the City of Northfield Governing Streets and Sidewalks
Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that this is the public hearing. Since Introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies were made available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requested same.

Council President Dewees opened the public hearing for Ordinance 1-2017. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

Roll call: Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carries.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 3,432,019.21

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Murray seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll call: Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carries.

Council President Dewees read the meeting notices.

Council President Dewees announced an Executive Session for Resolution 52-2017.

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- 52-2017** A Resolution Providing for an Executive Session Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) (7) Regarding Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality – Mt Laurel Litigation

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session was in regard to an active and open litigation concerning Mt. Laurel litigation with the entity known as Max Gurwicz and Sons; a potential settlement would be discussed. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law.

At 8:01pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.

At 8:40 the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded and was in regards to an active and open litigation concerning Mt. Laurel litigation with Gurwicz; a potential settlement was discussed. No official action had been taken. The minutes were kept but will not be released until the matter had concluded and they would be released when permitted by law.

- 53-2017** A Resolution Providing for an Executive Session Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) (7) Regarding Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality – Potential Litigation Affordable Housing

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session was in regard to potential litigation regarding property that was owned by Mason Properties, LLC, specifically a request to revise the City's fair share housing plan to permit non-age restricted housing at the property. The minutes will be kept and made available when permitted and required by law.

At 8:43 Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.

At 8:57 the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

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Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. Council discussed the property known as Block 92, Lots 25, 28, 29,33 and 34, the City had decided that it would respond to the correspondence through Counsel; that letter would be going out soon. The minutes were kept but would not be released until the matter had concluded and they would be released when permitted by law.

At 8:58pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk