

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 19, 2019**

At 7:17pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 5, 2019, 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: Dewees, Korngut, Madden, O'Neill, Perri, Smith, Lischin

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

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Madden, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of March 5, 2019, without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Council President Lischin thanked all for their patience, noting it was a long public session. He introduced Mark Doherty of the American Legion and Officer Herbert Kreuz.

**7PM PRESENTATION:**

American Legion, Officer of the Year – Patrolman Herbert Kreuz

Mark Doherty announced that his was a pleasure to present the Medal of Merit to Herbert Kreuz in recognition of his outstanding performance to the community, he was recognized as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by American Legion Post 295 of Northfield. Commander Doherty presented Patrolman Kreuz with a plaque and a gift certificate.

Chief Newman spoke; he was proud to announce Patrolman Kreuz as officer of the year. Patrolman Kreuz received a Life Saving Commendation for performing CPR on April 18th, 2018. He conducted 5 DWI arrests, made 32 additional arrests, recovered a stolen motor vehicle and issued 449 summonses. Patrolman Kreuz was also a Field Training Officer and a Firearms Instructor. Patrolman Kreuz continuously receives letters of praise from the community for his compassion and professionalism. His dedication to the department and community is exhibited on a daily basis throughout

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the year. He thanked Patrolman Kreuz. Chief Newman said he, and the community, appreciated him.

Patrolman Kreuz thanked City Council, Mayor Chau, the American Legion, his fellow police officers, his wife Deidre and daughters Anna and Kyra.

Mayor Chau added that he was so proud of the men and women who serve in our department, Officer Kreuz was just one example. On behalf of Council and all residents, he thanked Officer Kreuz very much.

Council President Lischin thanked Patrolman Kreuz as well.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Councilman Perri** - Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Sewer Operations, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri reported that his meeting with the ACUA had been postponed due to some problems on their end; the meeting had been postponed several times. He was hopeful he would be able to meet with them and the Engineer next month. The seniors meeting would be held next Thursday at the Library at noon; the American Red Cross would be giving a presentation. He had a meeting at the park with Councilman Dewees and Superintendent Vitale regarding changes that were made in the budget.

**Councilman O'Neill** - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Court/Violations, FAN

Councilman O'Neill had requested that the engineer come to the meeting, hopefully he would have him at the next meeting.

Council President Lischin suggested a list of questions so he can prepare.

Councilman O'Neill reported he was working on issues with the football field.

Councilman Dewees replied that he was getting quotes for replacing the sod at the field. Public Works went out to check for divots, holes etc.; he also reached out to Bill Meade, president of FAN to keep him informed.

Council President Lischin reminded all to send questions to Councilman O'Neill for the Construction Official so he would have a chance to prepare.

**Councilwoman Korngut** – Library, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Technology/MRHS Channel 2

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Councilwoman Korngut congratulated Officer Kreuz; his family was obviously proud and rightly so. She thanked Mayor Chau for his support of the Youth of the Month Club, she thanked Clerk Canesi for putting the information on the website. She reported that she went to the Library meeting on March 14th, it was very well attended. The School Board sent a representative, she felt that would improve communication. The Library was down one part-time employee and they are talking about making an additional employee full time. Councilwoman Korngut thanked and congratulated the Think Day Team who had a 3-peat, the 8th graders came in 1<sup>st</sup> out of 40 again, and the 7<sup>th</sup> graders came in 7<sup>th</sup> out of 40 schools. The Community School would be approving their budget at their next meeting.

Council President Lischin asked if there was an anticipated tax increase.

Councilwoman Korngut replied that she would find out.

Councilman Perri asked who the school sent to the Library meeting.

Councilwoman Korngut replied that it was Alyssa Leatherwood; Superintendent Bretones had a conflict but would attend the next meeting.

**Councilman Dewees** - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Parks, Playgrounds

Councilman Dewees thanked Public Works for replacing a safety light behind the museum, and said he'd worked with an organization to get some dirt delivered and ready for opening day. The bathrooms should be open by the end of March, in anticipation of Opening Day. The fences are also being looked at for replacement. As Councilman Perri reported, they met with Superintendent Vitale to discuss how to handle the new changes at the park.

**Councilman Smith**— Finance/Collections, Little League/Babe Ruth, Shared Services

Councilman Smith thanked Councilman Dewees for getting the dirt for the baseball fields, it was very efficiently accomplished. He extended an invitation to all of Council to attend Opening Day on April 6<sup>th</sup> at noon. He was hoping the weather would cooperate. He congratulated the Mainland Girls Basketball Team for their recent victories, it was the 1<sup>st</sup> time in Mainland history that they brought home the State Championship. He reported that the fan turnout was tremendous at Toms River. Senator Van Drew made a proclamation on the floor of the House of Representatives in honor of the girls. He would like to invite them in to be recognized. He also congratulated the mock trial team, who won a Regional Championship and who will be competing in a State Championship. Academic teams are thriving as well.

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**Councilwoman Madden** – Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden had nothing to report for insurance and safety. She attended the Mainland Regional High School Board of Education meeting, it was very interesting and they had a lot of presentations. The Drama Club did a presentation and many students were recognized as was the teacher of the year and the New Jersey Drama and Forensics League. MRHS mentioned a 3.1% tax levy for Northfield, an additional \$31 per household in Northfield. We are higher than Linwood and Somers Point because we are the highest sending district. She would be meeting with Mr. Broomall about our share and possibly reducing it.

**Council President Lischin** - Fire Department/EMS, Cultural Committee

Council President Lischin felt everyone on Council was working very hard; he appreciated that. He had been on Council for 5 years now. He reported that he had a meeting with Fire Department officers and union representatives in reference to moving forward with the department because of a retiring captain. He would report as discussions progress. He announced the Cultural Club's Annual Flea Market for March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Councilwoman Korngut added that the Cultural Committee was looking for nominations for Miss 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Citizen of the Year, nominations may be addressed to the Cultural Committee at City Hall.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau thanked Councilwoman Korngut for the photos she shared of Officer Kreuz. To all members of Council he said, what we did with 1/2 a penny, a lot of area towns are envious. He knew we wanted to do better, he commended all on a job well done on the budget. He referred to smelling marijuana recently when in Colorado in the vicinity of a growing facility. He expressed his concern about the impact here. He had spoken to area mayors such as Mayor Tweedle from Pleasantville and the Mayor from Brigantine, who don't want this in their community. He would like to suggest to City Council that they consider not having this in our town.

Councilman O'Neill asked Mayor Chau how we are doing with National Night Out.

Mayor Chau replied that we were in the planning stages, it would be held at the same place, at Birch Grove Park.

Councilwoman Korngut said she had spoken with Kathi Smith and with Sergeant DiMarco; if Councilman O'Neill had a specific question she could ask.

Mayor Chau reminded everyone that this was a Police Department event.

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Councilwoman Madden said she'd mentioned concerns about the use of live animals at the last meeting, relative to Nosey's law. She was doing a lot of research. Barnyard Friends was covered under the Department of Environmental Protection as providing educational programs.

Council President Lischin asked for clarification; was she determining if we are having a lawful petting zoo?

Councilwoman Madden replied that she was researching to determine whether we should continue to have it.

Mayor Chau explained that Nosey's Law was directed at non domesticated animals, and had its origin with an elephant named Nosey. It did not include goats or sheep. Barnyard Friends had domesticated animals with the exception of the camel, which they had a license for. There were no camel rides. The gentleman had been in business for over 16 years and had never been issued a summons or complaint. He was in compliance with the law. Mayor Chau had no issues with Barnyard Friends. He then reported that he received a letter from the ACUA regarding the purchase of Re-collect software that provided services in the form of information and alerts to customers. The ACUA would continue to provide this free of charge. He thanked Councilman Dewees and Kathi Smith; Mayor Chau said he'd noticed the hallway was dingy and as a result the fluorescent lights were switched out for LED's and the hallways were much brighter. He spoke with Ken Mosca, from Atlantic City Electric, about a new program at a cost of \$126.20 for the switch out to LED streetlights. The new lighting would no longer be an option for anything other than LED's. He would search for grants.

Council President Lischin asked if the lights in Council Chambers would be replaced with LED's as well.

Mayor Chau responded there was a plan to do so as they burn out.

Councilman Dewees added they would do the same with Bike Path.

Council President Lischin, in regard to the LED streetlights, asked did they have an idea of the cost savings in electricity usage.

Mayor Chau replied that he had asked Kathi Smith to get that information.

Councilman Dewees noted there were a few lights at the park we are looking at doing the same thing with LED lights.

Councilman Perri asked could Council be advised as to our statutory requirements about the marijuana legislation; what will we be required to do or not do?

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Clerk Canesi replied that the League of Municipalities offered information that it may be regulated through zoning, as a prohibited use.

Councilwoman Korngut spoke, saying she was doing so at the request of an on behalf of Justine O'Brien, 103 East Glencove Avenue. Mrs O'Brien suggested that Council needed to hold the line on taxes, no more. Residents will no longer be able to live in their homes. She was concerned about senior citizens being forced out of their homes due to high property taxes. It was incumbent upon us to not be cavalier when it comes to taxes. \$30 bucks here, \$30 bucks there, it all added up.

Mayor Chau commented regarding the nodes with Atlantic City Electric; Mayor Chau said he'd been told that under no circumstances will they be permitted to put them on Atlantic City Electric poles.

Councilman Perri added that we had dead zones now; people were running into situations where the northeast side of town was experiencing bad reception with certain carriers.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. He reported that he attended a seminar last week for NJEIT, the new name is NJ I-Bank. They had changed the way they issue the loans; previously it was 75% regular rate with 25% zero interest, this year it is 50/50. He was working on the applications with CFO Stollenwerk, and had been authorized to proceed. He also attended the recent ACIA meeting, and said there was CDBG money available, with the application was due April 10th. We were using prior funding for the ADA improvements at City Hall. He advised Council that they could anticipate around \$28,000.00 this year and asked for the direction of Council.

Councilman O'Neill suggested the baseball parking lot, there were drainage issues. He asked if that was possible?

Councilman Dewees advised that we could fix that in-house. He would like to suggest converting the park center to a senior center and to include some handicapped parking; also maybe a pavilion to cover the picnic tables.

Council President Lischin asked Councilman Perri, as Senior Committee Liaison, if he'd be in favor.

Councilman Perri replied, absolutely, adding that he'd ask the group when they meet next week.

Council President Lischin conducted a straw poll, all were in favor.

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Engineer Nassar, regarding the discolored water issues as reported several weeks ago, advised that NJ American Water was attempting to fix the problem, some of this involved replacing valve boxes. Some of the areas were under moratorium. For example, they applied for 5 permits. He was in favor of giving them a break for certain small openings.

Councilman Dewees was not opposed but wanted some sort of standard in place for restoration.

Engineer Nassar explained it would look different, but the integrity of the asphalt would be good.

Councilwoman Korngut was unclear on the necessity.

Engineer Nassar explained the purpose of the valve boxes, when you cannot close off certain sections at a time, you cannot clean them. Many were in a poor state of repair and may break; if they break it can result in a sinkhole. He felt we needed to work with them, and be reasonable.

Councilman Dewees recalled NJ American Water mentioning the valve boxes when they were here.

Engineer Nassar added that there were also valve boxes on Cresson Avenue that needed to be replaced, but it would delay our paving job on Cresson Avenue.

Solicitor Facenda would look at the contract to see if an amendment was needed.

Engineer Nassar spoke with the contractor, they said they didn't need one but he would send to Solicitor Facenda.

Council President Lischin conducted a straw poll as to allowing NJ American Water to open the roads presently under moratorium by using a 12" opening to address the valve box issues; all were in favor. All were also in favor of delaying the Cresson Avenue paving project to allow the water company to address the valve boxes in that area.

Councilwoman Korngut thanked Engineer Nassar for his thoughtful approach and for ensuring residents were taken care of.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Lischin opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any subject.

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Seeing no one wishing to speak Council President Lischin closed the public session.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Council President Lischin 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 of funds 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.

On a motion of Councilwoman Madden, second of Councilman O'Neill, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 76-2019 through 81-2019.

- 76-2019** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Certain Projects – Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Upgrades at Zion Road, and Asset Management Plan
- 77-2019** Establishing the Easter Egg Hunt at Birch Grove Park as a City Event Sponsored by the Northfield Mothers' League
- 78-2019** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – Northfield Community School Field Days
- 79-2019** A Resolution Ratifying the Amended Contract of Daniel D. Alsofrom, the Municipal Prosecutor for the City of Northfield
- 80-2019** 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 Regarding Active Litigation in the Matter of William Ward v. City of Northfield and Paul Newman, Police Chief of the City of Northfield
- 81-2019** 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, Regarding Active Litigation In The Matter of William Cornell v. City of Northfield and Paul Newman, Police Chief of the City of Northfield

Councilwoman Madden motioned, Councilman O'Neill seconded, to adopt Resolutions 76-2019 through 81-2019.

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Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES**

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to introduce Ordinance 6-2019, to be read by title only.

**6-2019**        An Ordinance Appropriating \$25,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Installation of a Well and Various Improvements at the Park for the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State Of New Jersey  
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 03/23/2019*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 04/02/2019*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication and public hearing dates. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies are 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 requests same.

Councilman Dewees explained that this was for the irrigation well that is used to irrigate the sports fields; pricing included a 100 foot well, but we have a price per foot if we need to go deeper, that is why the price is a little bit higher.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**    \$ 176,431.66

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Lischin read the meeting notices.

Councilwoman Korngut announced that the Northfield Mothers’ League had their annual spaghetti dinner she could not attend because of the Library meeting, but hoped it was a successful event.

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Councilman Dewees replied noting it was a great event, with leftover food going to the rescue mission.

Council President Lischin announced the Executive Session for Resolution 80-2019.

**80-2019** 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 Regarding Active Litigation in the Matter of William Ward v. City of Northfield and Paul Newman, Police Chief of the City of Northfield

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

Solicitor Facenda stated that the matter to be discussed was a case involving William Ward v. the City of Northfield. It required an Executive Session as Council was receiving an update from Counsel as to a potential settlement which required attorney client privilege. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law.

Clerk Canesi advised all would move to the Mayor's Office and return with a comment for the record.

*At 8:33pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.*

*At 8:59pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.*

Solicitor Facenda announced that Council had completed the first Executive Session authorized by Resolution 80-2019, pertaining to the matter of Ward v. City of Northfield and others. The topic discussed were matters requiring attorney client privilege and confidentiality, specifically discussed was a potential settlement agreement, no official action was taken, in fact it would appear as though official action would be taken at the next meeting. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law.

**81-2019** 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, Regarding Active Litigation In The Matter of William Cornell v. City of Northfield and Paul Newman, Police Chief of the City of Northfield

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

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Solicitor Facenda stated that the matter to be discussed was a status update in the matter of William Cornell v. the City of Northfield. It required an Executive Session as Council was receiving an update from Counsel as to status of the litigation. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. He advised all would move to the Mayor's Office and return with a comment for the record.

*At 9:01pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.*

*At 9:21pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.*

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. Council received an update in the matter of Cornell v. City of Northfield and others. The topic discussed were matters requiring attorney client privilege and confidentiality, specifically discussed was an update as to the status of litigation, no official action was taken. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law.

At 9:22pm, on a motion of Councilwoman Korngut, seconded by Councilman Perri, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk