

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 27, 2014**

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 11, 2014, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor McGee. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chau, Devine, Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Mayor Jerry McGee, Solicitor Kris Facenda, and Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski were also in attendance.

**PRESENTATION**

Council President Travagline introduced, Wendy Penny, of Atlanticare Foundation Heart Heroes and Dr. Peyton Dearborn for the presentation of AED's to Northfield Little League and Family Association of Northfield. He shared that this has been a two year project. He stated that the members of Family Association of Northfield and Northfield Little League think of the safety of the kids. He noted that there is an AED at the school and we wanted one for the fields and Atlanticare Foundation Heart Heroes responded with open arms. He noted Dr. Dearborn's donation of the cost of one-half of each of the two units. He thanked both for the overwhelming support for the Community. He stated that one AED will go to the football side and the other to the baseball side. He shared that training has been set up to occur over the past few months in a proactive measure. He further thanked Councilman Dewees, Chairperson for fields and grounds. Council President Travagline said this is at no cost to the taxpayer and now we are prepared. Again he thanked everyone for their generous contribution.

Wendy Penny, AVP of Cardio Vascular Services, from Atlanticare Foundation Heart Heroes thanked the Community. She stated that heart attacks are not planned. She introduced Rose McCarthy, Coordinator of the Heart Heroes Program which is a Matching Funds Program, and shared these AED's save lives every day. She thanked Council for making the investment in the Community.

Dr. Peyton Dearborn thanked the City and Northfield Little League for thinking of the kids and for putting safety first. He stated that he, too, has children in the program and feels much more comfortable knowing that the units are available. He thanked Council and reiterated that he was glad he could help.

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Jason Yard stated that Northfield Little League is thankful and very happy to have the technology available, if God forbid, they ever needed it.

Rose McCarthy, Coordinator of the Heart Heroes Program, stated that the units can be used for either adults or children.

Tom Sher, President of Family Association of Northfield, stated he was very thankful for the support. He thanked Dr. Dearborn and noted that as a professional firefighter he has personally used AED's four times to save a life and they work. He said he always wants to be proactive and is very thankful.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman O'Neill seconded by Councilman Dewees to dispense with the reading of the minutes of May 13, 2014. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Perri reported that the Senior Committee social held at the Birch Grove Park Center had a very good turnout. He shared that the Mayor and Police Department were represented. He noted that Acting Lieutenant, Paul Newman, and two officers came out. He stated this was a very good venue and thanked the Mayor and the Police Department for their participation. He shared that topics of discussion included traffic concerns, replacement of a trash receptacle at Shore and Oakcrest, relocation of bus stop, and the issue of the street sign at Rosedale Avenue which has been missing for some time. He noted that he will follow up with these departments. He further added that there was a recommendation for a speed bump at Dahlia and Jackson. He noted these are expensive and it would have to be addressed though Committee. He stated that he would like to host a few other departments. He thanked Vicky Rutter for all her help. He congratulated the Mayor on his fabulous Memorial Day Parade. He thanked Mark Doherty, 295 Post Commander, and his wife, Lynn Perri, for being the Parade Coordinator. He also thanked Chris Brown, guest speaker and shared that Mr. Nugent was recognized for 50 years of service to his country and Mr. Parker for 70 years of service. He shared that Mr. Parker was also a Councilman. He reported that the Sewer Inter-local Committee will meet with Linwood and he will report back.

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Councilman O'Neill thanked all who participated in the Parade. He reported that he met with Somers Point regarding shared services, along with Council President Travagline. He stated he was also looking at a few other committees. He reiterated that the bids for the Municipal Server RFP came in higher than expected and he would like to get a few more prices. He thanked Atlanticare and the Dearborn family for stepping up.

Councilman Piergiovanni thanked everyone who helped with the parade. He said it was an excellent event. He also shared that it was an excellent brick laying ceremony at Veterans' Park on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. He thanked everyone who donated their time and treasure to the Park. He also thanked Lindsey Giannini for her presentation regarding the "Don't Text and Drive" signs. He thanked Atlanticare and Dr. Dearborn for the donation of the AED devices. He stated it was a great job on the part of all.

Councilman Dewees stated he attended the Northfield Community School Board meeting, and he reported there will be a special meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to interview an Interim Superintendent as well as to discuss some other personnel issues. He encouraged the residents to attend.

Council President Travagline asked if Northfield is involved in that process.

Councilman Dewees stated we are not.

Councilman Devine reported he was unable to attend the Mainland Regional High School Board meeting but he stated that he did hear there is talk of administrative shared services and he will look into it and report back at the next meeting. He also commended Mayor McGee on the Memorial Day Parade and thanked everyone else.

Councilman Chau reported that the Cultural Committee has set their schedule for the summer concerts. He encouraged everyone to attend. He reported that the Memorial Day Parade was very successful but reminded everyone that there is one more parade coming up on July 4<sup>th</sup>. He reiterated, from the discussion held during the work session that no water guns, no throwing projectiles, including candy will be permitted by spectators or participants. Violators will be dealt with as we are trying to promote safety.

Council President Travagline thanked Mrs. Perri for doing an excellent job on the parade and thanked the Star Spangled Singers, who did a fabulous job. He thought the performance was very touching and he thanked everyone.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

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Mayor McGee stated he was honored and privileged to have been part of the parade. He thanked Mrs. Perri for putting the parade together. He noted that the speeches were heartfelt. He shared that he attended the presentation at the school and the brick laying ceremony at Veterans' Park. He stated it was a complete week and the Veterans were well recognized and thought of. He stated that he did not want to give the impression that he is not concerned with the safety of our workers but urged Council to be thrifty and purchase used equipment. He noted the current expenditure for the fire truck and now with the bucket truck it totals \$600,000.00. He thanked all who attended the parade.

Councilman O'Neill asked for an update on Shared Chief process.

Mayor McGee stated there is no update until all the results are back and we are ready to start selection and he noted that there will be no further discussion.

Councilman O'Neill asked if we are on track for dates.

Mayor McGee answered yes, we are on track, and there is plenty of time.

Councilman Chau explained the length of time and the amount of research that went into the purchase of the fire truck; it was not a casual endeavor.

Councilman O'Neill asked if we purchased the least expensive truck when the bids came in.

Councilman Chau answered yes.

Mayor McGee clarified that the City should look at buying used vehicles. He also noted that the seniors requested a day time Council meeting.

Council President Travagline stated he does not think that 6pm or 7pm Council meetings are late or unreasonable.

Councilman Chau advised Council that if they know of anyone who wants a used 30 year old truck we have one for sale.

Councilman Perri stated that there are two new pieces of equipment in use in the Fire Department.

Councilman Chau noted that the City's new equipment benefits the City as well as the homeowners in terms of insurance because the age of the apparatus and the training of personnel figures into the insurance rates.

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**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Kwapinski reported that the Engineer's report was previously distributed. He shared that Jerry and Sons Excavating, Inc. will get the award of contract under Resolution 104-2014 for Enclave at Shore Mill Subdivision – Final Paving. He noted the project is being funded by the performance bond posted by the previous developer. He referred to Resolutions 107-2014 and 108-2014 and indicated they are explained in the Engineer's report. He reported that the County project on the Maple Run Bridge is behind schedule due to weather related concerns and they are looking to be complete on or about June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Perri asked about cracking at intersections under Broad Street Phase I.

Engineer Kwapinski stated he had contacted Arawak, the contractor, who indicated they would address the repair. Engineer Kwapinski stated he will follow up.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, stated that part of the Mayor's job is to lead the parades, and noted that the last three Mayors have done so, including Councilman Chau at one point. He shared that the American Legion is losing members. He noted that Frank Perri is the President of the American Sons of Veterans and Mark Doherty is the Commander. He also stated that Debbi Doherty is the Commander for the Woman's Auxiliary. He asked if Council members know their job and if anyone has ever read the City Charter. He said he feels the Mayor should have more say. He shared that Bill Vain is in the hospital and not in good shape but noted that Steve Vain, although not on Council now, is still contributing. He stated that he feels the Veterans' Monument at City Hall should be moved to Veterans' Park and the trees need to be cut.

Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Avenue, asked if Second Street is being looked into.

Engineer Kwapinski answered yes.

Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Avenue, asked why the City needs a bucket truck.

Councilman Dewees answered for flags, light bulbs and tree trimming.

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Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Drive, noted that the supervisor should be held accountable if an employee gets hurt doing that work. He also noted that fire trucks can be recertified.

Councilman Chau stated it is the recommendation of the experts, the officers in the Fire Company, that the truck is what they need. Some equipment from the old truck will be transferred to the new truck.

Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Avenue, stated that he believes that Department of Public Works should only use one man on a trash truck or it should be contracted out. He feels that the Zoning Officer does not do his job. He noted a house on Davis Avenue that is just a hole in the ground.

Lynn Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, commented that the parade was great, but some people did not want to cooperate. She shared that there was no wreath for veterans to place on the monument, no stand for the wreath, and the poor condition of the monument. She stated her dissatisfaction that the parade line up was changed, no refreshments and reiterated that some people did not want to cooperate. She stated her disappointment about there not being a second wreath and agreed that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade can be a safety hazard.

Gail Poholsky, 114 East Revere Avenue, thanked the Engineer for the work that was supposed to get done, was done. She thanked the Police Chief and Frank Perri and whoever else was involved in getting the officers to Birch Grove Park. She thanked Acting Lieutenant Paul Newman and Council for being responsive when she has concerns. She commented that the AED's are a great benefit. She also noted two homes on Revere that are in disrepair and are in foreclosure. She asked if the banks are responsible.

Council President Travagline answered yes and noted that the City does have a program to address that.

Council President Travagline, seeing no one else wishing to speak closed the public session.

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

Council President Travagline 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.

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Council President Travagline read the Executive Sessions 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. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Councilman President Travagline asked if anyone wants to vote on any resolutions separately and he received no response.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded to vote by Consent Agenda on Resolutions 95-2014 through 111-2014.

- 95-2014** Refund of Overpayment of 2014 Taxes
- 96-2014** Accepting the Letter of Retirement from Robert L. James, Chief of Police
- 97-2014** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for the Year 2014-2015
- 98-2014** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for the Year 2014-2015
- 99-2014** To Approve Application for Use of Facilities
- 100-2014** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2014 Budget
- 101-2014** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2014 Budget
- 102-2014** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2014 Budget
- 103-2014** Approving the Placement of Roadway Signage “Stay Alive, Don’t Text & Drive”
- 104-2014** Award of Contract for the Enclave at Shore Mil Subdivision – Final Paving
- 105-2014** Rescinding an Offer of Employment for a Seasonal Laborer at Birch Grove Park
- 106-2014** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Certain Projects – 2014 Stormwater Spot Paving
- 107-2014** To Authorize Kline Construction, Inc. to Proceed with Stormwater Repairs

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- 108-2014** Authorizing the Award of Contract for Stormwater Spot Repair Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9 and in Accordance with the Provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, also known as NJ Pay-To-Play Law
- 109-2014** 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. 10:4-12b(4), Regarding a Potential Separation of Employment Agreement with Acting Captain of Police Daniel Mitchell
- 110-2014** 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 an Employment Agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief
- 111-2014** 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 Possible Anticipated Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality

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

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded to adopt by Consent Agenda on Resolutions 95-2014 through 111-2014.

Councilman Perri asked about the seasonal employee who did get hired.

Councilman Dewees stated they had an extra person and therefore could not bring Jerry Slotterback back. They had too many employees.

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

**ORDINANCES**

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded to introduce Ordinance 3-2014



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**3-2014** An Ordinance to Make it Unlawful for any Person Under the Legal Age to Knowingly Possess or Knowingly Consume an Alcoholic Beverage on Private Property Without Legal Authority and Providing Penalties for the Violation Thereof in the City of Northfield County, of Atlantic and State of New Jersey  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press May 31, 2014  
Second Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption June 24, 2014*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, announcing that there would be no public input on introduction. She provided the hearing and publication dates and noted that full copies of the Ordinance are presently posted on the City website, on the bulletin board at City Hall, and are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Councilman O'Neill thanked Northfield resident, Dr. Robert Zlotnick, for bringing this to Council's attention and noted he greatly appreciated it.

Mayor McGee asked what the enforcement opportunities are. He asked if the Police can go onto the property.

Solicitor Facenda stated if there is probable cause the Police would investigate.

Mayor McGee asked if they have to be invited in.

Chief James stated that there are no special privileges associated with the Ordinance.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – No; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

Councilman Chau motioned, Councilman Devine seconded to introduce Ordinance 4-2014

**4-2014** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 91-5 of the Northfield Municipal Code, as Adopted by Ordinance 3-1989, Regulating the Possession of Alcohol in Public Places  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press May 31, 2014  
Second Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption June 24, 2014*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, announcing that there would be no public input on introduction. She provided the hearing and publication dates and noted that full copies of the Ordinance are presently posted on the City website, on the bulletin board at City Hall, and are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

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Councilman O'Neill stated he thought this was a great idea and a great opportunity to clean up the bike path.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – Yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman O'Neill seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 115,940.82.

Councilman O'Neill asked about the labor counsel bill.

Council President Travagline offered Councilman O'Neill a copy of the bill.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

Councilman Chau read the meeting notices.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS OF COUNCIL**

Council President Travagline announced that Council will be adjourning to the Clerk's office for an Executive Session and the resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

**109-2014** 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. 10:4-12b(4), Regarding a Potential Separation of Employment Agreement with Acting Captain of Police Daniel Mitchell

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

Solicitor Facenda stated Council will enter into an Executive Session not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, to discuss a potential separation of Employment Agreement with Acting Captain Daniel Mitchell. The Council will keep minutes of the Executive Session as required by law and they will be approved by Council and made available promptly for

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inspection as required by law. In as much as this is the initial discussions of this matter it is unknown when those minutes will become available and for that reason the time is indeterminable.

*At 8:29 Council adjourned to the Clerk's office.*

*At 9:13pm the Executive Session ended and Council returned to chambers*

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session concluded and Council is back in Public Session. Council has decided to further investigate the potential separation of employment, which may ultimately result, or not, with Acting Captain Daniel Mitchell. We will keep you and Daniel Mitchell advised of any progress after labor counsel is consulted and will advise when those minutes might become available.

Council President Travagline announced that Council will be adjourning to the Clerk's office for an Executive Session and the resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

**111-2014** 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 Possible Anticipated Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released. The Municipal Clerk clarified that the resolution is on the agenda as No. 111-2014 but is numbered as 110-2014 and this will be corrected.

Solicitor Facenda stated Council will enter into an Executive Session not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. The matter to be discussed is pending litigation with respect to Mount Laurel and Council on Affordable Housing issues. These are matters that fall within attorney client privilege requiring confidentiality. The Council will keep minutes of the Executive Session as required by law and these will be approved by Council and made available promptly for inspection as required by law; but the time for release cannot be determined.

*At 9:16 Council adjourned to the Clerk's office.*

*At 10:43pm the Executive Session ended and Council returned to chambers*

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Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session concluded pending litigation with respect to Mount Laurel and Council on Affordable Housing issues and Council is back in Public Session. The content of those discussions were terms and conditions that may or may not be acceptable to the City with respect to potential development of the Gurwitz site. At this time the matter remains unconcluded. Minutes are being kept as required by law but will be released only when the matter is concluded and we are permitted by law to do so. No time frame for that release is known at this time.

Council President Travagline announced that Council will be adjourning to the Clerk's office for an Executive Session and the resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

**110-2014** 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 an Employment Agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released. She clarified that it is Resolution 110-2014 on the agenda but mistakenly numbered 111-2014 and noted this will be corrected to reflect the correct number.

Solicitor Facenda stated Council will enter into an Executive Session not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. The matter to be discussed is an employment agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief. It is unknown at this point how long the matter will remain closed and unknown if any formal action will be taken tonight so therefore it is unknown when the minutes will become available. Minutes will be kept in accordance with the law and will become available for public inspection when required.

Municipal Clerk Canesi noted for the record that Assistant Fire Chief Crooks and Acting Captain Mitchell both received Rice Notices.

*At 10:46 Council adjourned to the Clerk's office.*

*At 11:18pm the Executive Session ended and Council returned to chambers*

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Solicitor Facenda stated that Council has concluded its third Executive Session pertaining to an employment agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief. At this point negotiations will continue with Mr. Crooks by and through Counsel and Labor Counsel. At this point it is unknown when minutes will become available although they are being kept in accordance with the law.

At 11:19pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk