

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 13, 2019**

At 6:53pm, 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. Mayor Chau requested a moment of silence in honor of Robert Webb.

We have lost a very important person: Bob Webb also known as Webby. Mayor Chau said he recognized that as a member of Council, jokes have been made that when Webby came to Council meetings, sometimes he was a bit harsh but we knew that his intentions were meaningful, that he loved his City and cared for all of us. Mayor Chau certainly, will miss him and, speaking on behalf of all of Council, that we will all miss him. We all knew of his dedication serving as a volunteer, serving as a retired Police Sergeant in Northfield and a person who helped establish our Veterans Park. We know that he has done well and that his life centered on making this municipality better. Mayor Chau thanked Mr. Webb, and his family, who were also great supporters of our City.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Korngut, Madden, O'Neill, Perri, Smith, Lischin  
Absent: Dewees

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

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Madden all members present, with the exception of Councilman Smith who abstained from the July 16<sup>th</sup> minutes, were in favor of approving the minutes of July 16, 2019, and July 23, 2019 without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Perri said having grown up in Northfield, he remembered Mr. Webb very well, being chased around town and brought home by him. He was a true patriot at heart and a family man and Councilman Perri said he is a better man for having

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known him. He recognized all of his years of service in the military, in the Police Department, and as a volunteer. He offered condolences to the Webb family.

Councilman Perri attended the mid-year meeting at the ACUA plant, our flows were discussed. They were still out to bid for the washing and were still looking at the intrusion issues.

The Tilton Road and Burton Avenue job was complete and the company did a fine job.

The Planning Board memorialized one resolution. The next Seniors Meeting would be this Thursday at noon.

National Night Out was great, a job well done by everyone.

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

Councilman O'Neill offered condolences to Mr. Webb and his family. He said if it were not for Mr. Webb and Steve Vain, we would not have Veterans Park. He visited Mr. Webb at his home and saw all of his memorabilia, he lived an exciting life.

Councilman O'Neill announced that football season was starting up for FAN.

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

Councilwoman Korngut reported that she attended the Northfield Community School Board meeting on July 22nd and members had concerns about the completion of the bus shelters and the completion of the work by the water company; would it affect camp? Would it affect school starting? She was able to get answers, and she thanked Mayor Chau, adding that the School Board was appreciative. She announced that all 70 preschool seats had been filled. The next meeting was scheduled for August 26th.

The last Library Board meeting was August 8<sup>th</sup>; the attendance for July was 4,393 visitors, with circulation of 3,290 and \$397.30 in fines collected. There were a total of 63 programs and 542 attendees. The next meeting would be September 12th.

National Night Out by all accounts was a success; she gave credit to Sergeant DiMarco and Chief Newman for their efforts. It was a fun night. She offered kudos to Mayor Chau for the Kona ice truck.

Councilwoman Korngut echoed the sentiments expressed by others about Mr. Webb. She first met him when knocking on doors during her campaign. They became fast friends during the Senior luncheons, mostly. He always had Northfield at heart and

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we are all better off for having him care about our town. Early on in the snow program, Mr. Webb insisted on putting money in her pocket; he was always worried about somebody else. She praised Mayor Chau for having flown the flags at half-staff in Mr. Webb's honor; he would have been incredibly touched.

She also mentioned that Barbara Connors from Virginia Avenue had recently passed; Northfield lost an angel who really cared about this city.

Councilman Smith commented that he and his family attended one of the escape rooms at the Library. They did a great job, and he encouraged all to take advantage of the Library and its programs.

Councilwoman Korngut added that the Library Director was very helpful and very creative.

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

Councilman Dewees was absent.

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

Councilman Smith, regarding the audit, reported that the City's financial position was good and he recognized the comment in the audit about the competence of the employees.

He said he would like to honor the 12U Northfield Little League team at the October 15th meeting in recognition of their achievements.

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

Councilwoman Madden reported that the next insurance and safety meeting is on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Mainland Board of Education meeting will be held on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Madden had spoken with Jill (Osjerkis) and expressed interest in she and Mr. Marrone coming to a City Council meeting. They would like to know if there was anything particular that we would like them to discuss.

Council President Lischin asked all to forward such requests to Councilwoman Madden and we can get them on the agenda.

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

Council President Lischin referred to Mr. Webb, reflecting on his 5 years on Council saying that in the early days, he'd been frightened when Mr. Webb would come to

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speaking at Council. The Webbs were a great family and Council President Lischin was lucky to have known them.

He complimented the Northfield Police Department on a very successful National Night Out. It was the best he'd seen in years.

Council President Lischin read the Fire Department and EMS reports for July. Fire Department calls for July included: 2 total fire incidents, 8 false alarm calls, 1 good intent call, 10 hazardous condition calls, 2 service call incidents, 0 EMS 1st responder incidents and 1 mutual aid call; for a total of 23 dispatched incidents.

TriCare had a total of 148 dispatches, 128 calls with patients, 92 transports, 7 mutual aid calls to EHT and did not administer any Narcan.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau explained that each year he purchases 2 recycling bins and we have a contest in the months of August and September. He asked Councilwoman Madden to draw the August winner: Franco Puliti, 2515 Herbert Drive. Mayor Chau offered congratulations and reminded everyone that there was one more chance to win. Visit the City Clerk's office to enter.

Mayor Chau recognized and thanked the Northfield Police Department, volunteers, organizations, and businesses who made our National Night Out a success. He joked about the friendly rivalry between him and Councilwoman Korngut with her game truck.

Mayor Chau said it was recently brought to his attention, as a criticism, that the Mayor's position is more than just ribbon cuttings and ceremonies. Mayor Chau agreed with this statement, but added that he does these things to help promote our businesses, and to help recognize those who do great things. Mayor Chau said his duties as Mayor go beyond that, and there were a lot of things he did that people do not realize. Mayor Chau welcomed all who have questions to contact him.

He announced the 2 bus shelters on New Road that have recently been installed. It has taken about 3 years, and sometime during the 2nd week of September there will be a ribbon cutting. All members of Council are invited, but he will also be inviting veterans. He shared a story of seeing a gentleman in a wheelchair at the bus stop while the pads for the shelters were being poured. Mayor Chau stopped his car and spoke to the gentleman, who was wearing a Marine Corp necklace. Mayor Chau explained that the concrete pad was being poured for veterans who use the bus.

Mayor Chau stated that Atlantic City Electric would be doing work on their electric lines on Tilton Road; during September we have school opening, we have paving

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projects being done, and the water company doing work. Chief Newman was on the ball but Mayor Chau wanted to make everyone aware.

Mayor Chau announced that he volunteered to be on the Census 2020 committee and would be attending the kickoff meeting on September 12th. He was looking to improve our response rates, it was very important to have accurate census numbers. It affected all of us, not just here in Northfield, but in Atlantic County.

He recently met with Mr. Gurwicz, and an offer had been extended for Council to visit the complex, with details forthcoming.

Mayor Chau referred to the promotion of one employee to police officer, whose position was funded during the budget process, as well as the hiring of two to replace officers who had retired. There were over 50 applicants, he was happy to announce that one was a promotion, a Northfield resident who was currently a Class II Officer. During his year as a Class II, his contribution as an Officer included working with the school, and at athletic events. He asked for Council's support in the promotion and with the two new hires.

Councilman O'Neill thanked Mayor Chau and Chief Newman, and all who were involved in this process. He was looking forward to having another officer on the street, and to hopefully having another Class II. To the police officers in attendance, he thanked them for all their hard work, and looked forward to voting yes.

Mayor Chau advised that he and Chief Newman were interviewing for Class II's.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. He reported that South Jersey Gas would be paving Lake Avenue and Cedar Bridge Road. They have been told they cannot pave Cedar Bridge during school hours. Cresson Avenue and Walnut Avenue paving have been completed with punch lists pending. The Local Road Program pre-construction meeting had been held, the concrete would be the last week in August, with completion in 60-90 days. The paperwork for Shepherd Drive had been sent to the State; Engineer Nassar was seeking approval to go out to bid. The municipal parking lot would go out to bid this month, but he had been asked to add the Library parking lot to the project; plans were being prepared.

Councilman Perri asked Engineer Nassar if he heard about the new road paving.

Engineer Nassar replied no.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

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

John Ordille, 116 Fairway Avenue, apologized for missing the Work Session, and said he was troubled by some of the things he sees coming from City Council. He said Mayor Chau had said he was trying to make Northfield more business friendly, but now Council was discussing plastic bags. This was not something City Council should be doing. If you really want to make a difference, use a portion of your salary to purchase two reusable bags for every household. Mr. Ordille referred to recycling and single-use bags; he said he didn't know anyone who uses these bags one time only. We should not be making it harder for businesses. We shouldn't be criminalizing the cutting down of trees or the releasing of balloons. Environmentalism comes from inside; normal behavior should not be criminalized. He suggested a recycling bin at the exterior of City Hall by the trash cans.

Alicia Garry, 202 St. James Place, reported a storm drain at the First Street Playground that did not have a screen on it.

Councilman Perri replied that he would take care of it.

Mrs. Garry did not know how a bag ban would be monitored; but did believe it should be all or none. She did not feel we have the manpower to monitor, and felt we should do more research to find out what businesses and the community have to say.

Seeing no one else 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 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 each Executive Session has concluded. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, and all were in favor of voting on Resolutions 161-2019 through 179-2019 by consent agenda.

**161-2019** Authorizing the Release of Surety Funds

**162-2019** Work Change Order No. 1, Davis Avenue Pump Station Upgrade

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- 163-2019** Authorizing the Execution of a Contract Renewing Membership in the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 164-2019** Authorizing Refund of Marriage Fee
- 165-2019** Recognizing Members of the Board of Trustees for Family Association of Northfield
- 166-2019** Authorizing an Interlocal Services Agreement with the Atlantic County Improvement Authority for the Administration of the Program Income from Small Cities Grants for Housing Rehabilitation
- 167-2019** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for Reconstruction of Shepherd Drive, FY2019 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program
- 168-2019** Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a License Agreement
- 169-2019** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Advertisement for Bids for the Renovation of the Public Works Restroom Facilities
- 170-2019** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 171-2019** Resolution Authorizing Cancellation and Refund of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 & N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 on Property Known as Block 147 Lot 5 (13 Haddon Avenue)
- 172-2019** Resolution Authorizing Cancellation and Refund of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 & N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 on Property Known as Block 105 Lot 16 (5 Fifield Avenue)
- 173-2019** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2019 Budget – Cops in Shops Grant
- 174-2019** Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit
- 175-2019** To Approve the Promotion of Kevin Sundstrom to the Position of Police Officer
- 176-2019** To Approve the Hiring of Matthew Locotos for the Position of Police Officer
- 177-2019** To Approve the Hiring of Juan Pemberti-Jaramillo for the Position of Police Officer
- 178-2019** 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. 10:4-12b(4), Regarding Contract Negotiations Between the City of Northfield and the Northfield Professional Firefighters Association, Local No. 2364
- 179-2019** 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. 10:4-12b(4), Regarding Contract

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Negotiations Between the City of Northfield and Mainland PBA  
Local No. 77

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, to adopt Resolutions 161-2019 through 179-2019 by consent agenda.

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

**ORDINANCES**

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, to adopt Ordinance 11-2019, to be read by title only.

**11-2019**      An Ordinance Amending Chapter 225-5 of the Northfield Municipal Code, Littering Prohibited  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration*  
*Published in the Press of AC 08/17/2019*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption, and if adopted, thereafter published. Since introduction the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the Municipal website, and copies have been 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 Lischin opened the public hearing for Ordinance 11-2019. Seeing no one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

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

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, to introduce Ordinance 12-2019, to be read by title only.

**12-2019**      Establishing Fees for Copies of Vital Records  
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 8/17/2019*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 9/10/2019*

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 Municipal 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.

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

**PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 3,163,986.24**

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

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, 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 and announced the Executive Session.

**178-2019** 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. 10:4-12b(4), Regarding Contract Negotiations Between the City of Northfield and the Northfield Professional Firefighters Association, Local No. 2364

Municipal Clerk Canesi read Resolution 178-2019 by title and deferred to Solicitor Facenda for further comment.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Resolution was in regard to contractual negotiations between the City of Northfield and the Northfield Professional Firefighters Association, Local No. 2364. City Council would receive an update from Labor Counsel. Council will keep minutes of the Executive Session as required by law and they would be made promptly available for public inspection when required and permitted by law. The time frame for publication and approval was unknown.

Clerk Canesi announced that Council would return with a public statement for the record.

*At 7:43pm Council moved to the Mayor’s Office.*

*At 8:32pm Council returned to Council Chambers, and resumed the Regular Meeting.*

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. Council met with Labor Counsel and had received an update regarding contractual negotiations between the City and Local 2364. No official action was taken. Negotiations would continue. Minutes were in fact kept; when law permits minutes would in fact be released when negotiations were complete.

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**179-2019**      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. 10:4-12b(4), Regarding Contract Negotiations Between the City of Northfield and Mainland PBA Local No. 77

Municipal Clerk Canesi read Resolution 179-2019 by title and deferred to Solicitor Facenda for further comment.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Resolution was in regard to contractual negotiations between the City of Northfield and Mainland PBA Local No. 77. City Council would receive an update from Labor Counsel on the status of contract negotiations. Council will keep minutes of the Executive Session as required by law and they would be made promptly available for public inspection when required and permitted by law. The time frame for publication and approval was unknown. Council would move to the Mayor's Office and return to make a statement for the record.

*At 8:36pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office.*

*At 8:51pm Council returned to Council Chambers, and resumed the Regular Meeting.*

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. Council met with Labor Counsel and had received an update regarding contractual negotiations between the City and Mainland PBA Local 77. The content is attorney-client privileged. No official action was taken. Negotiations would continue. Minutes were in fact kept; when law permits minutes would in fact be released when negotiations were complete. It is unknown when the minutes would be available for public inspection.

At 8:53pm, on a motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Korngut, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk