

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 26, 2014**

At 7:51pm, 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 the Northfield Boy Scouts, Pack 72. 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.

**CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT – EAGLE SCOUT RYAN EDWARDS**

Council President Travagline introduced Councilman Dewees for the presentation of a Certificate of Achievement to Northfield's newest Eagle Scout, Ryan Edwards.

Councilman Dewees announced that Councilman Piergiovanni would be accompanying him. Dewees introduced Ryan Edwards, and described the project Ryan undertook at Birch Grove Park in March that involved removal of graffiti from the covered bridge, re-siding the exterior of the bridge, and painting and sealing the wood surfaces to protect against weather damage. The weather was cold and wet, and Ryan organized the entire project himself, including coordinating all of the workers. He did a fantastic job.

Councilman Piergiovanni presented Ryan with the Certificate of Achievement and told the audience that he was himself an Eagle Scout in 1991. Piergiovanni said it is hard work to become an Eagle Scout, and stated that Ryan has shown a lot of integrity. He offered Ryan his congratulations, and said this accomplishment will open up a lot of doors for him.

Councilman Chau spoke, saying that he was in attendance at the awards ceremony, and told the public to attend if they ever get the opportunity to attend such a prestigious event.

Council President Travagline told Ryan he did a fabulous job, and said it is an honor to have him in the community.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 26, 2014**

**7:30 PRESENTATION**

- Northfield Board of Education – Bond Referendum

Council President Travagline introduced School Board Administrator Linda Albright, Board President Steve Wynne, Board Member Jon Barnhart, and Bond Counsel Joel Fleishman.

Albright thanked Council for the opportunity and announced that there would be a Bond Referendum at the school on September 30<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 9pm. She stated that a good maintenance plan requires sound long term planning, and when critical systems fail there can be consequences. She said school officials have been planning this referendum for several years, with systems approaching their useful life as the building approaches the 15 year mark. The final payment for the building will be in 2015, and if the referendum passes the new debt will still result in a tax decrease. Grant funding and state aid will reduce the financial burden. She provided an overview of the significant projects associated with the bond referendum. Albright introduced the project architect and a representative of Phoenix Financial.

Council President Travagline asked if the principal and interest payment was \$1.2M. Albright responded that it was \$1.4M. Travagline asked the amount of the reduction. The representative from Phoenix Financial replied that anticipated debt service on the new project would be around \$600,000. The total tax impact on existing debt is \$270.00 annually, but new project will be about \$131.00.

Travagline asked if debt service payments can be reallocated. Albright replied that they could not. Board President Wynne stated that this was not tax levy cap relief. It is outside the cap and is lowering the debt service.

Travagline asked if this addresses the efficiency issues. The project architect responded in the affirmative.

Councilman Perri inquired about enrollment; he said he is not hearing about any expansion so he assumes enrollment is going down and that we will be set for another 10 years. Albright replied that enrollment has been declining, and there are no plans in this bond referendum for expansion. She acknowledged, though, that there is always a need for more space.

Board President Wynne stated they school is currently under enrolled by about 175 students.

Perri asked why this was not put on the General ballot. The architect replied that this gave them a few months more time. Council President Travagline stated that he was

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 26, 2014**

told it had to be September. The architect replied that it could be November, and provided a list of other months as well.

Councilman Piergiovanni asked if there would be additional opportunities to educate the public. Albright listed several planned activities, including Back to School Night, and others.

Council President Travagline asked about mold; are there concerns? Albright responded that they have installed humidity sensors, but they do not do anything to the air to dehumidify it. This will be taken into consideration with the new systems.

Council President Travagline thanked all who presented on behalf of the school for their attendance this evening.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Dewees seconded by Councilman Piergiovanni to dispense with the reading of the minutes of July 29, 2014. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

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

*Note: Mr. Chau temporarily left the dais during the roll call for approval of the minutes; he was not present to vote.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Perri said the Sewer Department had an issue with the Rosedale pump station which required a major repair. They are looking at a possible retrofit in the next year. Perri thanked Aubrey from the Library for sponsoring the recent senior's luncheon, and said it was a very nice event. Mr. Webb showed a film called "Trains and Trolleys of Atlantic County". Perri said he is trying to get Shore EMS for the next seniors meeting. He asked Councilman Dewees about the trash can at Shore Road and Yorkshire Avenue, and if we can use Clean Communities money to replace it. Dewees replied that he would check. Perri said the Shared Service Committee has put forth a proposal with Linwood for the Shared Captain's position. He would like to move forward and take a look at that. He would also like to look at the Sewer Department. Council President Travagline asked Perri to reach out to Linwood and said we will look at any options that will save the taxpayers money. Perri commented that there is a written proposal that has never been brought to this governing body. Travagline responded that he felt that since the Mayor was definitely not going to be the Mayor that such an important issue should be considered by the new Mayor. Now

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 26, 2014**

that the current Mayor may possibly continue, we can revisit it. Perri asked about Commercial Utility Consultants; Solicitor Facenda replied that the contract has been sent to them for signature; he will follow up to see if it has been forwarded to Atlantic City Electric Company.

Councilman O'Neill said the Library has been provided with the Maintenance Agreement and he is awaiting any feedback about discussions. He thanked Aubrey Gerhardt for all of her efforts, especially due to residents being out of work in the near future.

Councilman Piergiovanni said the Veterans' Park brick area was finished by Steve Vain, Tom Polistina, and Dave Notaro and a time can now be scheduled for the installation of the next phase. The shed has been painted and we are now waiting on Marshall for the irrigation; we are also looking for someone to do the electric and the grading. September 27<sup>th</sup> will be the Run for the Fallen, to memorialize those killed in action. Major Dwayne Kelley will be honored at our marker on the 27<sup>th</sup> at City Hall, and Northfield will be participating in that. Piergiovanni said Shore Medical Center is doing free medical screenings for veterans, and urged all to encourage constituents to use this service.

Councilman Dewees stated that street sweeping will be September 22<sup>nd</sup> through October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Detailed information is available on the website, including a map. Construction debris collection will be September 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. He reported that minor repair work was done at the Birch Grove Park front entrance recently, and that there will be no Family Fun Fest this year. Instead, additional family hayrides will be added to the schedule in early October. Dewees announced the upcoming Race Against Hate, sponsored by the Atlantic County Women's Center; to register visit [www.acwc.org](http://www.acwc.org) Dewees urged all to vote at the school election.

Council President Travagline thanked Councilman Dewees for his assistance with Veterans Park.

Councilman Devine had no committee report.

Erland Chau read the Fire report for July, and said he attended the Katz Early Childhood Education Center grand opening in Northfield. The facility will service 130 preschoolers from their congregation. He reported that the Planning Board will hear two applications at their next meeting, one for a D variance for a spa and massage center. Chau said he would like to do a presentation in honor of Henry Martinelli's retirement at the November meeting of Council.

Council President Travagline directed the Municipal Clerk to make arrangements.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 26, 2014**

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor McGee said there will be at least 8,000 layoffs in the next month. The Governor is having meetings but has only invited one mayor, Don Guardian. McGee said Jack Glasser is trying to get additional mayors invited.

Council President Travagline said Atlantic City is the center point of Atlantic County, and asked the mayor to ensure that people know we have services to help.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Kwapinski said the engineers' report was provided to Council. Broad Street and Fuae Avenue is about 50% completed. A few of the utility conflicts have been resolved, and the pump station referred to by Councilman Perri is M3 on his report. It is hoped that the 2014 Paving Project can be awarded at the next meeting. Kwapinski asked if Council wanted to pursue a grant for Bay Drive for the 2015 Municipal Aid.

All were in favor of designating the Bay Drive as our 2015 Municipal Aid project.

Engineer Kwapinski commented that a formal resolution would be needed with the grant application.

Councilman Dewees asked if the 'no parking' signs at Enclave at Shore Mill have been corrected. Engineer Kwapinski responded that he would check the following day. Dewees continued, stating that at the intersection of Bay and Mill, there is a huge depression.

Councilman Perri responded; he said it is ours and it has been fixed at a cost of \$13,000. We are waiting for it to settle to do the final paving.

Councilman Chau requested that Engineer Kwapinski advise the County personnel that the traffic study has been delayed.

Council President Travagline said he has noticed a lot of improvements, they make town look cleaner. The Inspections Department has done a great job in addressing issues with property maintenance.

Councilman O'Neill asked if the City would be adding concrete paving for the fields, for the handicapped. Kwapinski replied, and referred to P1 on the Engineer's report. We are waiting for HUD approval.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 26, 2014**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Gail Poholsky, 114 East Revere Avenue, asked for an update on the Business Administrator.

Council President Travagline responded, and explained that Council opted to go for a Deputy Clerk instead.

Poholsky stated that she'd heard that Somers Point was willing to share their Business Administrator, and that she'd thought the Mayor could appoint an Acting officer in the Police Department to take a position.

Mayor McGee replied that it is done by ordinance and by the PBA, after 30 days.

Solicitor Facenda clarified that he thinks the question was who has the authority to appoint members of the Police Department; under our form of government, the Mayor can appoint, remover or suspend

Poholsky replied that she would like to see this happen.

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. He stated that Resolution 155-2014 would not be necessary this evening.

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. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Chau seconded to vote by Consent Agenda on Resolutions 146-2014 through 154-2014.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 26, 2014**

- 146-2014** Authorization to Refund of Sewer Payments on Block 27 Lot 22.01
- 147-2014** Refund of Property Taxes – Block 102 Lot 19
- 148-2014** Refund of Property Taxes – Block 82 Lot 7.01
- 149-2014** Authorization to Create a Municipal Lien for Property Maintenance Costs
- 150-2014** To Authorize the Acceptance of Credit Card Payments
- 151-2014** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Certain Projects
- 152-2014** Cancellation of Grant Balance
- 153-2014** Rejecting Bid for Supplying of Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Services for the Cities of Northfield and Linwood
- 154-2014** 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

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 motioned, Councilman Devine seconded to adopt by Consent Agenda on Resolutions 146-2014 through 154-2014.

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.

**ORDINANCE**

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Devine seconded to adopt Ordinance 6-2014.

- 6-2014** An Ordinance Establishing No Parking on a Section of Merritt Drive  
*Second Reading/Public Hearing/No Public Comments Received  
Published in the Press of AC August 30, 2014*

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 26, 2014**

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that since introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City 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.

Council President Travagline opened the public hearing. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak on Ordinance 6-2014, he closed the public hearing.

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

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 3,319,411.00

Council President Travagline commented on high overtime in the Police Department. He said he hopes the new Chief and Mayor are able to help with that but said sometimes it is unavoidable. However, \$12,000 in the last two months is high.

Mayor McGee said it is attributable to a department meeting and to National Night Out. He said he was told it was the cost of doing business and added that it seems in alignment with the events we are having.

Council President Travagline asked if having more officers have reduced the overtime. Mayor McGee replied that having one extra officer will alleviate some of it, but when there is a call out it's overtime. He said there is a process in the Police Department where they go over Police overtime, but it is not an Excel spreadsheet, like they have in Linwood, here it is done manually.

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 Piergiovanni read the meeting notices.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION 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.

**154-2014** A Resolution Providing for an Executive Session Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public



**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 26, 2014**

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.

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. Crooks has been issued a Rice Notice. It is unknown whether the Executive Session will result in any official action but if so Council will return to Public Session and take such official action. It is unknown at this point if any formal action will be taken tonight; so therefore, it is unknown when the minutes will become available to the public.

*At 9:08pm Council adjourned to the Clerk's office.*

*At 9:42pm the Executive Session ended and Council returned to chambers*

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session had concluded and Council is back in Public Session. During the Executive Session Council topics were settlements and negotiations and no vote will be taken this evening. Negotiations will continue until the matter is resolved. Minutes will be released when permitted by law but it is unknown when that will occur.

At 9:42pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk