

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

At 7:36pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi, who greeted the audience. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231, on January 8, 2022.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of Patrolman Johnathan Scull, and in recognition of the calling of all law enforcement professionals.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Notaro with a second of Councilwoman Bucci, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of August 16, 2022, without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau extended condolences to the Nuttall and Scull families, it's a situation we face every year, when we lose great people who have helped our community. He thanked all of the agencies who assisted. Mayor Chau and Chief Newman have received one application for Chief's testing. It was on the agenda tonight that Lieutenant Dettinger was retiring as of November 1st. He was the only Lieutenant we had, and we will be losing him November 1st, and the chief on December 31st. We anticipate if there were internal promotions that we will need to replace two administrative positions, in the Chief and Lieutenant. He reminded Council that he had urged that staff be developed to have administrative experience. He recommended that Council appoint an Acting Lieutenant, which would be a Sergeant, and so on. This was the outlook as we approach January.

Mayor Chau read the Police Department report for August. Tomorrow morning Captain Steinecke would have the annual meeting and oaths of office with Crossing Guards, he urged all to come to introduce themselves. Mayor Chau would have refreshments. He noted the details of the 9/11 observance at City Hall this Sunday. All were invited. He encouraged all to attend Trunk or Treat, including businesses. He reminded that insurance and indemnification was required. He would also be drawing the final recycling toter giveaway winner tonight.

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7:00PM PUBLIC HEARING

- Street Opening Moratorium Hardship Exception Request, Block 49, Lot 5, 507 Fairbanks Avenue

Council President Polistina opened the public hearing.

William Luciano, applicant and owner of 507 Fairbanks Avenue, stated that he purchased this property 16 years ago. He knocked down the existing home and put a modular on-site when he and wife decided to downsize. He needed natural gas service but the road was under a moratorium. Gas was cleaner than oil. He didn't want an eyesore of an above ground propane tank, or oil.

Mayor Chau asked what appliances needed gas?

Mr. Luciano replied he had a tankless water heater, stove and heat. He ordered appliances 6 months ago.

Councilman Notaro asked if he knew about the moratorium 6 months ago?

Mr. Luciano replied no, he did not.

Mayor Chau asked was there a reason why he didn't look into this before moving forward?

Mr. Luciano replied he didn't know the road would be paved; there were no notices. If there were he would have acted sooner.

Engineer Nassar explained the moratorium; the road was just paved. The bond would be \$10,000.00. He believed the gas company can do it without opening the street. He suggested Mr. Luciano contact the gas company, and tell them you're not going to get the service, they will find a way. He advised they just did it for the daycare, and also on Broad and Davis.

Councilman Dewees, to Engineer Nassar, if the road was going to be whole... we've done this in the past.

Engineer Nassar replied there would be seams.

Solicitor Facenda, for the record, asked if Mr. Luciano wanted to say anything else to the Council.

Mr. Luciano noted he had a lot of money invested in appliances.

Solicitor Facenda said Mr. Luciano can ask the Council to make a decision tonight based on what has been presented.

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Engineer Nassar added they would have to pave 45 feet in either direction from the opening, close to 3,000 square feet of asphalt.

Mr. Luciano asked, doesn't the gas company pay for that?

Engineer Nassar replied no, they are going to make you do it. The gas company was going to patch it.

Mr. Luciano replied, and that's not good enough?

Engineer Nassar replied no, the road was just paved.

Solicitor Facenda advised Mr. Luciano that Council was willing to give him the time to check with the gas company to see if there is a less expensive alternative, or he could ask that they vote this evening. It was up to Mr. Luciano.

Engineer Nassar added that the bond would be between \$9,000.00 and \$10,000.00. The work would cost Mr. Luciano privately around \$7,500.00. The bond was to ensure that if the work was not done correctly, that we use the bond money to do it.

Mr. Luciano requested to adjourn for two weeks.

Council President Polistina advised we would postpone.

On motion of Councilman Leeds, with a second of Councilman Notaro, the public session was adjourned.

Clerk Canesi confirmed that the Resolution would be on the agenda for September 20th unless Mr. Luciano advised he didn't need it.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. The 2021 paving project started this week and several streets were completed but work was postponed today due to weather. The second mobilization would start the week of September 19th. He received sewer flows from August, and we are still trending downward. The slip lining project was definitely effective; he suggested setting money aside to do some slip lining every year.

Councilman Dewees asked how did we make out with concrete at Northwood Court?

Engineer Nassar replied, we did ok.

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PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Polistina opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to comment on any subject, he asked that they state their name and address for the record and observe the five-minute limit per speaker.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Council President Polistina closed the public comment portion of this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Polistina 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.

- 172-2022** Refund of Mercantile License Fee
- 173-2022** Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit
- 175-2022** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities
- 177-2022** A Resolution Authorizing a Prototypical Service Agreement
- 178-2022** Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 179-2022** Acknowledging the Notice of Retirement from Eric Dettinger, Lieutenant Of Police

On motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Dewees, all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 172-2022, 173-2022, 175-2022 and 177-2022 through 179-2022, by Consent Agenda.

Council President Polistina offered congratulations to Lieutenant Dettinger, and thanked him for his service.

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

- 174-2022** To Hire a Full Time Tax Collector

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Resolution 174-2022.

Councilwoman Bucci asked, do we take into consideration when we replace someone if we can replace them with a part-time position?

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Council President Polistina replied yes, he listed several positions, including CFO, Business Administrator, and Construction Official that were formerly full-time positions and are now part-time.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

176-2022 A Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract for the Purchase of a Digital Sign for City Hall

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Resolution 176-2022.

Councilman Notaro stated, to be clear, he was in favor of the sign, but he believed the Atlantic City Country Club should have gotten their sign as well. He didn't like the way it looked that we didn't approve their sign, but we are putting a fairly large sign up. He checked with the neighbors; he didn't think they have any particular objection. But, Councilman Notaro said he would be voting based on the City's denial of another similar request.

Councilman Dewees felt the circumstances were different; we couldn't compare the two.

Mayor Chau commented that he had no problems with it, but he believed Tilton and New Road would have been a nice location for the City's sign. Council should consider this in the future.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – no; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

ORDINANCE

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Utts seconded, to adopt Ordinance 10-2022.

10-2022 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 268 of the Code of the City of Northfield Governing Abandoned Real Property
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration
Published in the Press of AC 09/10/2022

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this was the second reading and that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption. 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 to any member of the public who requested same. If approved, final publication will be September 10, 2022.

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Council President Polistina opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to speak Council President Polistina closed the public hearing.

Councilman Utts was surprised that if you meet any two of a list of requirements, including no furniture and no window treatments, that you have to register.

Solicitor Facenda confirmed that the trigger was foreclosure.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Utts motioned, Councilman Leeds seconded, to introduce Ordinance 11-2022.

11-2022 Amending Chapter 117 of the City of Northfield Municipal Code,
 Entitled Outdoor Burning
Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 09/10/2022
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 09/20/2022

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, there would be no public input, 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 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same, until the public hearing.

Councilman Notaro referred to the limitation on size; he feels the size should be increased to four feet. Some people have fireplaces, outside, that are much larger.

Councilman Utts believed the area of combustion is the size indicated, not the area of the device.

Councilman Notaro recommended the size change to 12' square feet total; he believes the 10' setback was sufficient.

Councilman Notaro suggested other changes.

Clerk Canesi suggested that these are a lot of changes, differing from what was sent to the Fire Department, she suggested incorporating the changes, not introducing the ordinance tonight, and sending it back out again to the Fire Department for review. All were in general agreement.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 3,768,631.08

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Notaro seconded, for payment of bills.

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Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith –yes; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bucci read the meeting notices.

Mayor Chau announced the August recycling contest winner: Melanie Scalise.

At approximately 7:49pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk