

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 20, 2020**

At 8:11pm, this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2020 and October 17, 2020, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

*Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), and N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 - 1.7, the previously advertised October 20, 2020, meeting of Northfield City Council, to be held in Council Chambers, 1600 Shore Road, Northfield, New Jersey, 08225, will be held in-person and as a remote public meeting (live-streamed) using Zoom conferencing service. Due to social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public. Visit the October 20, 2020 date on the events calendar page of [www.cityofnorthfield.org](http://www.cityofnorthfield.org) to determine current availability for this meeting. Face coverings and social distancing will be required for in-person attendance. To reserve an available seat, contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 609-641-2832, extension 125, from the date of publication of this notice, until 2:00pm on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Once all available seats have been reserved, virtual attendance will be required using a web-browser to Join the Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86064028409>; or by telephone +13126266799, 86064028409# US (Chicago), +16465588656, 86064028409# US (New York), Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 558 8656 US (New York), +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose), +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) Meeting ID: 860 6402 8409. For those wishing to comment during the dedicated public comment portion of the meeting, but who may be unable to attend (in person or via Zoom), public comments may also be submitted in advance via email to [scampbell@cityofnorthfield.org](mailto:scampbell@cityofnorthfield.org), or by written letter to the Office of the Municipal Clerk, 1600 Shore Road, Northfield NJ 08225, or by hand delivery to the drop box at the rear of the municipal building, addressed to the attention of the Municipal Clerk. Comments shall contain the name and address of the author, will be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting, and must be received by 2:00pm on October 20, 2020. The meeting agenda and relevant documents can be found on the municipal website at <http://www.cityofnorthfield.org/government/council-agendas.asp> The meeting will start with a work session at 6:00 p.m., with the regular session immediately following, and formal action may be taken.*

Municipal Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“Since March 24, 2020, Northfield City Council continues to provide access to and participation at its meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic through the use of Zoom video-conferencing and in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Orders and the Open Public Meetings Act.

This evening, we are pleased to welcome back members of the public, on a limited basis to attend in-person.

Zoom meeting participants can dial in by telephone and listen to the proceedings, or they can access the meeting using a web-browser, and be able to view and listen.

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Instructions on how members of the public can access Zoom have been made available on the municipal website and FB pages, and were published in the Press of Atlantic City. The full text of the public meeting notice has been posted at the entrances to the municipal building and includes Zoom instructions, information on where to find the meeting agenda and relevant documents, as well as instructions on how members of the public could submit comments in advance of tonight's meeting.

For those participating via Zoom, all participants will be 'muted' upon entry to the meeting. Web-browser participants will not be able to share their screens or see the camera-view of anyone other than the host, which is the City of Northfield.

Zoom participants wishing to exercise their right to participate during the public comment portion of the meeting should wait until the specific announcement is made to open the public comment period. At this time, one by one, any telephone users will be asked to identify themselves and will be unmuted to permit commentary. For web-browser participants, comments or questions may be submitted via the chat function and will not be acknowledged outside of the designated public-comment portion of the meeting; chat-users must also provide his/her name and address for the record in order to be heard.

Any written comments submitted in advance will be read aloud and addressed during the public comment portion of the meeting."

**ROLL CALL**

**Present (in person):** Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Korngut; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman O'Neill; Councilman Utts; Council President Perri

**Present (via telephone):** Councilman Smith

**Absent:** Mayor Chau

Solicitor Stein and Engineer Nassar were also in attendance.

Chief Newman was present via telephone.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Councilman O'Neill.

*Clerk Canesi, in error, identified Councilman O'Neill as Pro tempore.*

Councilwoman Korngut drew the error to Clerk Canesi's attention; Clerk Canesi apologized for the oversight. Councilwoman Korngut is the Council President Pro Tempore.

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Council President Perri called for a motion to approve the minutes.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Councilwoman Madden motioned with a second of Councilwoman Korngut for approval of the minutes of October 6, 2020 without formal reading.

Councilwoman Korngut stated she would be voting ‘no’ on the minutes; she said it was in the minutes twice that Councilwoman Korngut had said there would be trash outside the fenced area. She understood Deputy Clerk Campbell had a lot going on. She apologized that she did not get the correction, she did not look at the minutes until today. She was voting ‘no’ as a result on the work session minutes.

All members present were in favor of approving the minutes of October 6th, 2020 with the exception of Councilwoman Korngut who voted ‘no’ on the work session minutes only.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman O’Neill asked Clerk Canesi to explain the situation with the Construction Official.

Clerk Canesi explained that our Construction Code Official had been out on an approved leave of absence since February. Sadly, we received word yesterday that he would not be returning. She added that it was a part-time position and we’d had someone filling in on a part-time basis the entire time; we are hoping he will stay on with us, if not Clerk Canesi would begin recruiting.

Councilman O’Neill reported that FAN was going well, kids were having fun.

**Councilman Utts** – Bike Path, 1st Street Playground, Veterans Park; Planning Board; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilman Utts reported that as Councilman Dewees said, the outlets would be installed and decorations going up on the bike path; the JIF inspection would address the playground issue. He had nothing to report for Planning Board.

Council President Perri asked Clerk Canesi for elaboration on the vandalism at Veterans Park.

Clerk Canesi asked Chief Newman to comment.

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Police Chief Newman said the Police Department received a report of a broken bench, and a report of pumpkins that were thrown around the park. The Police Department was doing follow up but no suspects had been identified. The investigation was ongoing, there were witnesses and it is being followed up on. There was damage to benches but he didn't know the status.

Clerk Canesi advised that the benches had been repaired.

**Councilwoman Korngut** – Technology/MRHS Channel; Library; Municipal Alliance; Shared Services

Councilwoman Korngut reported that she attended the last library meeting. She reported the following numbers for September: 310 visitors, 1,106 items in circulation, and \$38.15 in fines. The numbers were substantially down year over year due to Covid.

**Councilman Dewees** - Buildings/Grounds; Birch Grove Park

Councilman Dewees reported that he felt there was confusion about what people were and weren't allowed to do in regard to Halloween.

Chief Newman replied that trick or treat was canceled; there would be no city participation.

Councilman Dewees asked can people go out and trick or treat, yes or no?

Chief Newman would say no.

Councilman Dewees noted that the Mayor had said people can go.

Solicitor Stein replied that at the last meeting it was said that if people don't want to participate, they could turn their light off.

Clerk Canesi stated that the City's statement said there was no official celebration. We were not closing roads. The statement said if people want to celebrate on that day. or any other day, to do so using social distancing, etc.

**Councilman Smith** – Finance/Collections; Little League/Babe Ruth; Cultural Committee; Northfield Community School

Councilman Smith reported that the regular school board meeting was Monday night. He noticed the yard work at Mill, Tilton, and Shore had been taken care of; he thanked Public Works and Councilman Dewees.

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Council President Perri asked Councilman Smith if he received an email from Northfield Community School, as a parent, that there was a positive case of Covid at the school.

Councilman Smith replied yes, they were taking all precautions; no one was identified.

**Council President Perri**– Public Works: Roads, Engineering, Sewer Operations; Senior Citizens

Council President Perri reported that everything was good with Sewer Operations. The Senior group has not met, they were considering using a different venue to have a meeting before the end of the year but that was not final. He had nothing else to report for Public Works.

**Councilwoman Madden** – Fire Department / EMS; Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden read the EMS report for September. Total dispatched: 115; Calls with patients: 102; Transports: 67; Mutual Aid to EHT: 3; Narcan: 0.

Councilwoman Madden said she'd called Jill Osjerkis regarding volunteers from the school, she got guidelines from them. She suggested someone send letter to Mr. Marrone, it could be the individual groups, they should identify the volunteer opportunities, what was expected of them, and what is available. The volunteer student groups are Key Club or Student Council.

Councilman Dewees suggested the museum.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau was absent.

Council President Perri asked Clerk Canesi if Mayor Chau provided a report for tonight.

Clerk Canesi replied that nothing had been given to her.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report as previously distributed to the Council. Council would be awarding contracts tonight for City Hall Paving and ADA Improvements. The ADA improvements were largely funded by grants from the County. We would be moving forward with the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) resolution for the next meeting. We were waiting to hear back on the application submitted for widening a portion of Merritt Drive and Ridgewood Drive.

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In regard to the Fuae Avenue Reconstruction Project, the contractor was scheduled to start last week, however he received a call that they were running behind. Engineer Nassar met with them yesterday and walked the job, the concrete end of the job will begin tomorrow. They anticipate having Fuae Avenue done before Thanksgiving of this year.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Perri opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to comment on any subject.

Clerk Canesi typed in the Zoom chat that the public comment portion of the meeting was open.

Seeing no one wishing to make a comment Council President Perri closed the public session.

**RESOLUTIONS**

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.

On a motion of Councilman Dewees, second of Councilman O'Neill, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 160-2020 through 162-2020 and Resolutions 164-2020 through 169-2020.

- 160-2020** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed - Request for Additional Funds for the Project known as Reconstruction of Shepherd Drive
- 161-2020** Award of Contract for Project known as City Hall Parking Area Repaving and City Library Area Repaving
- 162-2020** Award of Contract for Project known as City Hall ADA Ramp/Stair/Canopy Compliance
- 164-2020** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Engineering Services for the Project known as City Hall Parking Area Repaving and City Library Area Repaving
- 165-2020** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Engineering Services for the Project Known as City Hall ADA Ramp/Stairs/Canopy Compliance
- 166-2020** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2020 Municipal Budget
- 167-2020** A Resolution to Cancel Grant Balances
- 168-2020** Amending Resolution No. 158-2020, Recognizing Members of The Northfield Volunteer Fire Company

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**169-2020**      Local Government Emergency Fund (CRF) Grant

Councilman Dewees motioned, second of Councilman O’Neill, to adopt the consent agenda for 160-2020 through 162-2020 and Resolutions 164-2020 through 169-2020.

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

Councilman Dewees motioned, second of Councilman O’Neill, to adopt Resolution 163-2020.

**163-2020**      A Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Altec Industries, Inc. for the Purchase of an Articulating Telescopic Aerial Device (“Bucket Truck”)

Councilwoman Madden stated that she had questions. We are already talking about the ability to fund School Crossing Guards; Council President Perri had reported that the school was not willing to help. She questioned do we have to buy this truck this year? Can't this money be used to offset the school crossing guards.

Council President Perri reported that the Chief Financial Officer, through the cooperative purchasing agreement and through capital, these monies were incurred as part of our budget. These monies can't be used to offset the crossing guard expenses. He asked Councilman Smith if there are any other comments.

Councilwoman Madden asked do we have to spend it now and how many times have we needed one?

Council President Perri replied we use it for bike path lights, trimming trees, street banners, and other maintenance tasks we couldn't do before.

Councilwoman Madden wanted more numbers.

Councilman Dewees felt it was a critical vehicle, we can do more with a new vehicle. It had been put off for a number of years.

Council President Perri added that safety standards are different than they were years ago; we can use it for other services. It would pay for itself over the course of a lifetime.

Councilwoman Madden didn't see numbers on how much we've spent on rent; just because the money was allocated didn't mean we should spend it. Do we need more information before we make this decision?

Council President Perri replied we could postpone it or we could approve it. The recommendation from Public Works was that we move forward. There were in-kind

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services as well. He noted that Clerk Canesi explained the CARES Grant application to offset some of the costs.

Councilman O'Neill was initially against this as well, but analysis had been done over the years, and it made sense.

Councilwoman Madden questioned the wisdom of doing it now, she felt maybe we should continue to rent equipment.

Councilman Smith advised that this was accounted for in this year's budget, he hoped we would get some relief this year. Next year would be an even tougher year, this year was pretty solid. We were at a zero and it was funded this year.

Councilwoman Korngut asked can we instead use this money to remediate the issue with the crossing guards.

Council President Perri replied it would take more than a year to change it; we would have to do amendment to the ordinance.

Clerk Canesi asked if we bonded this? She added that we can't spend capital money on people.

Council President Perri was looking to see if it was a bond. He confirmed a 10-year useful life for capital.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – no, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE**

**13-2020**      An Ordinance of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Releasing, Extinguishing and Vacating the Rights of the Public to a Portion of a Paper Street known as Spruce Avenue in the City of Northfield  
*Final Consideration / Published in the Press of AC 10/24/2020*

Councilman Utts motioned, Councilman O'Neill seconded, for adoption of Ordinance 13-2020.

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that the Ordinance was introduced on September 15<sup>th</sup> and the public hearing was held on October 6<sup>th</sup> and this evening it would be taken up for final adoption and thereafter published. 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.



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

**PAYMENT OF BILLS** \$ 3,297,712.10

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

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

Council President Perri read the meeting notices and deferred to Clerk Canesi for a statement regarding the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election. He encouraged all to get out and vote.

Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“This is a Reminder that all active registered voters in New Jersey will automatically receive their ballots in the mail. They can be returned by:

Mail: It must be postmarked on or before 8:00pm November 3 and be received by the County Board of Elections on or before November 10.

Ballot Drop Box: Place your ballot in one of the ballot drop boxes by 8:00pm on November 3. There is a box at the front entrance to Northfield City Hall, 1600 Shore Road.

Board of Elections Office: Deliver your ballot in person to the Board of Elections by 8:00pm on November 3. 5903 Main Street, Mays Landing

Polling Place: Bring your ballot to your polling place, which is the Northfield Community School, by 8:00pm on election day, November 3. Remember only you, the voter, can bring your ballot to your polling place on election day.

If you choose to vote in-person at Northfield Community School, 2000 New Road, Northfield, from 6:00am to 8:00pm on election day, November 3, you will be provided a provisional paper ballot. Accommodations will be made for people with disabilities to use an accessible voting device.”

At 8:54pm, on motion of Councilman Utts, seconded by Councilman Dewees, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk