

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2020**

At 6:48pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2020, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau; he asked all to remain standing in remembrance of Carol Patrick, who passed away last week. Carol was very active in her community. She served on the Northfield Library Board and was a founding member of the Northfield Bicentennial Committee, which later became known as the Northfield Cultural Committee. Carol served as Chairwoman for both Committees for the duration. She was a volunteer at the Northfield Museum in Birch Grove Park for many years. Carol also served in the nursery at Central United Methodist Church for 39 years. Carol loved to write, and she wrote several pamphlets about the history of Northfield. She was an educator at Mainland Regional High School and Holy Spirit High School. To know her was a privilege, she was a very dedicated person, she loved Northfield and Birch Grove Park. She will truly be missed.

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilwoman Korngut; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman O'Neill; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Perri; Mayor Chau

ABSENT: Councilman Dewees

Solicitor Stein and Chief Newman were also in attendance.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Smith, second of Councilwoman Korngut, all present were in favor of approving the minutes of the meetings of January 7, 2020, without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Council President Perri introduced Mayor Chau for retirement presentations.

7PM PRESENTATIONS:

Retirement of Municipal Court Administrator Donna Clark - Mrs. Clark was not in attendance.

Retirement of Special Law Enforcement Officer Class II, Harold Bogie

Mayor Chau called forward Harold Bogie, and handed the retirement clock to Chief Newman for presentation. Mayor Chau introduced Mr. Bogie as a gentleman he

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knew from high school at Mainland Regional High School. He was affectionately known as "Bogie", Bogie had served Northfield for 42 years in his capacity as a Class II Officer, and he played a very important role here in Northfield. Many of us may have seen him at special events, and he will be missed. Mayor Chau thanked him for his many years of service.

Chief Newman presented Mr. Bogie with the clock and read the inscription: With sincerest appreciation and gratitude for your dedicated service to the City of Northfield and its residents. He thanked Mr. Bogie on behalf of the Police Department for over four decades of service to the City. Chief Newman had known Bogie since he was a child.

Mr. Bogie said it had been a pleasure working for the City. He worked with a great group of guys.

Council President Perri asked if anyone would like any of the resolutions pulled from the consent agenda; seeing none he moved on to committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman O'Neill had no report this evening.

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

Councilman Utts reported that he has been finding his way; he was sworn into the Planning Board and heard a sign variance for the Tilton Theater and a lot subdivision. He met with the Birch Grove Park Committee and the Bike Path with Mr. Vitale; some items will come up in the budget meeting.

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

Councilwoman Korngut reported that she attended the library board meeting on the 9th. December attendance was 2,695, there were 1,616 items in circulation, and \$383.00 in fines was collected. There were 31 total programs with an attendance of 282 people. The Committee was working on after the Mainland After Prom, which would be held on May 30th. The Municipal Alliance would be contributing along with Linwood and Somers Point. She acknowledged Councilman Utts for attending the March in Pleasantville for MLK Day. She spoke earlier about the Shared Service meeting with Tricare and Linwood to discuss possible negotiations.

Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, includes Athletic Fields; Birch Grove Park

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Councilman Dewees was absent.

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

Councilman Smith offered condolences to Mayor Chau who lost his mother. He said Mayor Chau had also mentioned Carol Patrick; Councilman Smith attended her funeral service on Friday afternoon. Smith was just appointed this year to the Cultural Committee, and she was the head. He had known her for years; she was his homeroom teacher his first day of high school at Holy Spirit. Councilman Smith's parents were part of the Bicentennial Committee with Mrs. Patrick, and he knew how much the history of Northfield meant to her. He offered condolences to her family and wished them peace. He suggested all visit the house of history at the Museum, which Mrs. Patrick was instrumental in creating. He said the first Northfield Little League and Northfield Community School Board meetings are next week.

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

Councilwoman Madden had no report for Insurance and Safety, and said the next meeting would be in February. The Mainland Regional School Board meeting was tonight, so she was unable to attend. She was the new Chair for the Fire Department, and she met recently with Captain Nixon and had a tour of the Fire Department. She was looking forward to a good line of communication and to working well together. She also attended the Officers' meeting and met Chief Cummings. There would be a drill next Monday, where they will be working on the Scott packs. Her husband's father was a Battalion Chief many years ago. She attended the New Jersey League of Municipalities dinner last Friday, with speaker Michael Darcy, Executive Director of the League. She referred to 'Light Up Your Spaces for Women's Suffrage', this is the 100-year anniversary and to commemorate buildings can be lit up in purple.

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

Council President Perri reported on the force main break at Mill Road and Oxford, the Sewer Department, Superintendent Vitale, Darren Boyd, and our new contractor did a fine job, it was as smooth as it could have been for what it was. Superintendent Vitale had been working on the required stormwater ordinances, and Engineer Nassar had been working on outfalls, and a Shared Service Agreement with the County. He met with ACUA regarding budget expectations, this year we did not fare very well. He was still dealing with the ACUA to try to get an adjustment based on overage. He had not been successful. We were \$114,000.00 over for 2019. In their proposed rates there will be a 1.5% increase in the wastewater division; for recycling we went down but are still number one in the County. There was a small increase in tipping fees for 2020. For the Budget Workshop, Council may want to consider the actual increase in the wastewater flow, we have not made an adjustment in over 5 years; this was something to look at. He also expressed his condolences for Carol Patrick; she would

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be deeply missed. He had the pleasure of working with her over the years, and she had a very special way of making the presentations for 1st Baby, and Citizen of the Year. She always had the background and did it so eloquently. He offered condolences again to Mayor Chau on the loss of his mother.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau reminded all that in the hallway there were recent and historical event photos displayed. He urged all to take a look if they have the opportunity. The bus shelter that had been proposed for Oakcrest and Shore Road still has a bit of paperwork to be concluded, such as easements and so forth, but that is the next shelter. To Council President Perri, there is a young lady who would like to make a presentation to City Council regarding a skate park. She was directed to the City Clerk to make arrangements. Mayor Chau announced the resignation of Officer Evans; he was taking a job much closer to his home, and we would miss him. He and Chief Newman had started the process to replace Officer Evans. Mayor Chau read the Police Department report for December: 4 DWI citations, 179 total citations, 3 drug arrests, 1,123 property checks, and 328 motor vehicle stops. Our officers are very active and a lot is happening. He was very proud of our Police Department and the leadership of Chief Newman; he thanked Chief Newman.

7:15PM PRESENTATION, MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION: Mr. Gerald Butler

Mayor Chau announced a presentation to Gerry Butler, and called him forward. Mayor Chau was so honored to present to him, from the Executive Office, a proclamation. Mayor Chau read the following and presented Mr. Butler with the proclamation:

“WHEREAS, Gerald D. Butler has been a Northfield resident since 1967, and as the dedicated father of 5 children, raised his family here; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Butler has always been an active participant in the community including membership as a parishioner of the St Gianna Beretta Molla Parish from 1967 to present, and his work as a prominent figure in the local banking industry for 40 years; and

WHEREAS the volunteerism of Gerald D. Butler has long enriched the lives of the members of our community; and

WHEREAS, included among his many accomplishments are:

Served as an officer, coach, umpire and referee for Northfield All Sports from 1971 through 1985

Was an integral part of the team that helped build the current Cardinals' football field with the assistance of the US Army Corps of Engineers

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Was elected to a 3-year term on the Northfield School Board and served from 1977 to 1980

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Northfield wishes to recognize Gerald D. Butler for his many years of service to the Northfield community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Erland V. L. Chau, Mayor of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim Gerald D. Butler as a Distinguished Advocate for the Children and Citizens of the City of Northfield on this 21st day of January, 2020.”

Mr. Butler thanked Mayor Chau, Council and his family. He thanked his wife Vicki, daughters Jen and Emily, son Matt, other daughters Missy and Rachel, and his 17 grandkids. He thanked everyone on behalf of hundreds of people who volunteer throughout the year.

Mayor Chau added that the three to four sentences don't represent the thousands of hours Mr. Butler had given; he thanked Mr. Butler for he had done.

Council President Perri offered Mr. Butler congratulations.

Councilman O'Neill announced Mrs. Clark's retirement clock presentation would be postponed.

MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Chau apologized that he was not here for the reorganization meeting. He thanked Council President Perri and Council for allowing him to present his State of the City address tonight. Mayor Chau read the following statement:

“I want to take this opportunity to thank the voters of our City for allowing me to serve another term of office as your Mayor. As your Mayor, I am looking forward to working with our members of City Council, our City employees, Northfield residents and all other stakeholders of our community. It is my hopes that I can count on everyone to participate in our community, to hold our City government accountable, to be responsive to our citizens, and to assist City Council and Mayor in solving the challenges that will arise as we adjust to being a City. As a community, we can agree to disagree, but we also know that compromising can bring cooperation. One of my goals as it has always been is to build one - cohesive - City!

One of the strengths of Northfield, I am sure all of you will agree with me, is that we are a caring community. The voices of our veterans and the wisdom of both our older and young people should be heard and respected. As your Mayor, I will continue to reach out and ensure that your needs are taken into consideration. I believe strongly in increasing government transparency, helping local leaders with their constituents, and networking with our business community, which are all important issues that must be maintained.

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Last year, our City government officials and workers showed how progressively we can work together to make government function and improve the lives of the people of this City. Because of City Council's actions, we have increased our Birch Grove Park maintenance and are expanding park programming and activities. To this end, I want to recognize our Councilpersons for having made the following efforts this past year: Councilman Greg Dewees for his efforts to bring forth the development of our Birch Grove park bike and walking trails; Councilman Frank Perri, for his efforts to successfully negotiate with our paid Fire Department an Agreement that addresses the staffing and fire protection for our City. His work in meeting and providing a variety of informative speakers to help our senior citizens at their monthly meetings and congratulations for being chosen for our City Council President's position; Councilman Brian Smith, for his many hours of work on the Shared Court Administration service with the City of Linwood, a Shared service that I believe will become a cost savings for our City. Councilwoman Barbara Madden; our liaison to Mainland Regional High School, her diligence has represented our interests and helped to keep us informed as to the events that affects our children's education while attending Mainland Regional High School; Councilman Jim O' Neill, his work with our Administrative Shared Service Court; and to our newly elected Councilman Paul Utts, as you can see you have your work cut out before you, however, I have known you for many years, and I know you will do an outstanding job. And finally, Councilwoman Susan Korngut, her advocacy for our residents that range from soliciting volunteers to help shovel snow for our senior citizens, serving as City Council's liaison for our Otto Bruyns Library Board of Trustees, and congratulations for being chosen as our Pro Tempore for City Council.

We must all keep working together so that we can keep driving better outcomes on our important issues. So, let us all define both together. I give this charge to ask all of us to develop new goals and practices and to build public accountability and trust through a more inclusive stewardship. My vision for Northfield involves all of you. What happens from this day forward is something we can shape together. Every resident and stakeholder of Northfield has a seat at our City's table. I am honored to sit at the head of that table and lead us forward. Today, as we celebrate a new year and administration, I promise that I will always be guided by what is best for our City. I will keep our vision and our promises in front of me. To continue to integrate strategic approaches to reduce cost, increase our quality of life and to help drive economic development and sustainability in our community.

We must keep working together so that we can keep driving better outcomes on each of these vital issues. I am ready to work with everyone as your Mayor.”

CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer Nassar was absent.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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

Bill Garry, 202 St. James Place, heard in Council President Perri's earlier report that the City has a 45% recycling rate. He also heard earlier a resident suggesting the restriction of single use plastic bags. He had never seen a single use bags, he uses them all over and over again. He suggested that instead of a ban, that Northfield residents should be challenged to get our recycling rate up to 90%. He picked up more recyclable trash than he does bags. He also does not know how a ban would be enforceable. He felt increasing recycling would address the issue.

Seeing no else one wishing to speak Council President Perri closed the public session.

Councilwoman Korngut thanked Mayor Chau, and said she was honored by his kind words. What a testament it was to Mayor Chau that he was here tonight; she expressed her condolences. With regard to the Police Department, she noted Chief Newman in the audience, said she was contacted by a resident because a neighbor's dog has been outside in inclement weather. She claimed the officer said there was no law against a dog being left out in the cold. She asked Chief Newman to look in to the matter.

Solicitor Stein suggested there were laws.

Discussion ensued between Councilwoman Korngut, Councilwoman Madden and Solicitor Stein.

Council President Perri announced that Clerk Canesi had just explained that there is a local ordinance on the books; he read it aloud from the code.

Councilwoman Korngut asked Chief Newman to look at the issue.

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 Councilwoman Madden, second of Councilman O'Neill, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 36-2020 through 50-2020.

36-2020 Resolution of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Awarding a Contract to Vendor with State Contract for the Purchase of a Doosan G70WD0-3A-T4F Trailer Mounted Generator

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- 37-2020** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with the Preparation of Municipal Stormwater Management Plan and Mapping Outfall Locations
- 38-2020** Amendment to Resolution No. 247-2019 “Work Change Order No. 1 – Final” Reconstruction of Walnut Avenue and a Portion of Maple Avenue
- 39-2020** Amendment to Resolution No. 248-2019 “Work Change Order No. 1 – Final” Reconstruction of Cresson Avenue
- 40-2020** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – 10 U Ospreys
- 41-2020** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – Northfield Community School
- 42-2020** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – 9U Ospreys
- 43-2020** Authorizing Refunds of Overpayment of Taxes
- 44-2020** Reappoint Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II
- 45-2020** Authorizing the Extension of an Interlocal Agreement between the County of Atlantic and the City of Northfield for the Installation of Sidewalks along a Certain Section of Mill Road (CR 662) in the City of Northfield
- 46-2020** Appointment of Police Chaplain
- 47-2020** Authorization to Hire Temporary Part Time Electrical Inspector
- 48-2020** Authorization to Hire Part Time Firefighter/EMT
- 49-2020** Accumulated Absence Payout
- 50-2020** Accumulated Absence Payout

Councilwoman Madden motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded, for adoption of the consent agenda for Resolutions 36-2020 through 50-2020.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 3,605,638.10

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, 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.

At 7:38pm, on motion of Councilwoman Korngut, seconded by Councilman Smith, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk