

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 22, 2019**

At 7:54pm, 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, followed by a moment of silence.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

Regarding the upcoming budget meetings, as scheduled during the Work Session earlier this evening, Council President Lischin advised that there was a conflict for February 7<sup>th</sup> and asked if members present objected to January 31<sup>st</sup> at 5pm. There were no objections.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilman Perri, second of Councilman O'Neill, all present were in favor of approving the minutes of the meetings of January 2, 2019, without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Council President Lischin moved to committee reports.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Perri reported that he and Councilman Dewees, Mayor Chau, and CFO Stollenwerk met with members of the ACUA. Our collection contracts were going to increase 1.64% according to the consumer price index; that would be close to \$8,000.00 for Northfield. The rate for wastewater was staying the same; we were over this year by about \$38,000 on flows, although the exact figure was not known. Even though we were down, we were at 50.1% for recycling, with Northfield number one in Atlantic County again. Our tipping fees were over again a little for the year, the increase was in collection for recycling, yard waste and solid waste. The next Seniors' Meeting was scheduled for January 31st at noon; Sandy Santoro from the county would be giving a presentation. The Planning Board approved a minor subdivision, and the bank at Tilton and Cresson Avenue will be taken down and replaced with Republic Bank. There was a waiver for sidewalks on the next Planning Board meeting agenda.

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Councilman Dewees asked if Councilman Perri had any idea how the recycling changes would affect tipping.

Councilman Perri replied it would go into the tonnage, estimate is unknown.

Clerk Canesi explained the changes in the list of items that the ACUA would accept as recyclable.

Councilman Smith asked if recycling goes down, does the tonnage go up?

Council President Lischin replied yes.

Council President Lischin asked about infiltration, and this year versus last year, because of how much rain we had.

Councilman Perri noted we were in the process of putting the plan together for the Zion station, and the asset management plan.

Engineer Nassar advised that we needed to get approval to get the application together; he explained the asset management plan and how it would work.

Councilman Perri added that the sanitary sewer system was half the age of the water system.

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

Councilman O'Neill reported that he would have the monthly court reports for the next meeting. The City of Linwood gave the prosecutor a \$3,000 raise when they appointed him this year, we will need to get the agreement changed or be responsible for the increase.

Clerk Canesi, explained the terms of the Shared Court Agreement, we pay all of the expenses associated with the operation of the court; in exchange for that we get a flat fee from Linwood regardless of what the expenses were. This year Northfield appointed the judge, he was given a raise with the approval of Linwood; the court agreement was changed to reflect Linwood's payment to Northfield for their portion of the increase. Linwood appointed the prosecutor and raised his rate from the \$20,000.00 that we paid him last year to \$23,000.00. Northfield was not aware until Clerk Canesi called and asked for the contract.

Councilman Perri felt that we did not agree to it, so it should be the \$20,000.00 not the \$23,000.00.

Councilman O'Neill asked Mayor Chau if there was any conversation.

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Mayor Chau advised there was not.

Councilman O'Neill would reach out to Linwood to discuss and report at the next meeting.

Council President Lischin believed that Council was bound to pay him whether or not they agree to give us more money.

Solicitor Facenda offered to look at the shared service contract if needed.

Council President Lischin advised that Council would not be voting on 39-2019 this evening; we would wait to hear from Councilman O'Neill.

**Councilwoman Korngut** – Library, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Technology/MRHS Channel 2

Councilwoman Korngut reported that the Library held an event Sunday, co-hosted with a gentleman named Alexander Bland from Cape May. She thanked Councilman Smith for his attendance and support. They watched a video of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, and other elected officials attended as well, including several members of the Assembly, and Freeholder Board. Children were given a themed coloring project as well. She thanked the Library Director as well for her participation and support. Councilwoman Korngut shared that the Library Director praised the City and Public Works for their timely and efficient snow removal and for fixing a leaky faucet and some lighting. She complimented Kathi Smith as well, and all for their helpfulness and cooperative attitude. The 2019 library budget was approved; there was a slight increase over the prior year. In 2018, library attendance increased by over 400 members, and they offered 130 more programs in 2018 than in the year before. The circulation numbers were on par with the prior year. The next library board meeting was scheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Korngut attended the Northfield Community School Board of Education reorganization meeting. They had the election of new officers, there was not much substantive activity. She spoke with Superintendent Bretones about the water issues, but he could not be here tonight. She also thanked Superintendent Bretones for sharing her snow removal flyer with the school, it got a great response.

Council President Lischin referred to an information sheet provided to Council by the Mayor about the new preschool program; he asked Councilwoman Korngut to ask the Board of Education what happens when the grant money runs out.

Mayor Chau responded that we would continue to pay if the program were to continue.

Council President Lischin asked Councilwoman Korngut to ask the question, and to have the school come to an upcoming council meeting to present their budget.

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

Councilman Dewees had nothing to report.

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

Councilman Smith thanked Councilwoman Korngut for the Martin Luther King presentation, it was well done and an outstanding celebration of the day. It was nice to see the library room being used as well. He reported that he had a meeting set with CFO Stollenwerk next week to meet with her before the budget meetings start. He also talked with Councilwoman Korngut about shared services as well. Northfield Babe Ruth had their meeting, but, Northfield doesn't really have a team anymore, they are partnering with Linwood and Somers Point. Little League also had a meeting coming up, and there were some field use issues; Councilman Smith would report at the next meeting.

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

Councilwoman Madden announced the date of the first Safety Meeting as February 28th. The Mainland Regional High School Board meeting was tonight at 6pm, and the February and April meetings also conflict with our Council meetings. The only meeting she'll be able to attend would be March. She commented that she was also having a problem reaching the Board of Education.

Mayor Chau suggested that she contact the School Board Administrator.

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

Council President Lischin reported the Fire Department calls for December: 3 total fire incidents, 9 false alarm calls, 3 good intent calls, 2 hazardous condition calls, 0 service call incidents, 0 EMS 1st responder incidents and 1 mutual aid calls; for a total of 17 dispatched incidents.

TriCare had a total of 141 dispatches, 151 calls with patients, 86 transports, 18 mutual aid calls to Egg Harbor Township and did not administer any Narcan.

He reported that Somers Point went with Egg Harbor Township instead of Tricare, he asked Tricare to keep any eye on the mutual aid calls to Egg Harbor Township. Before the change for Somers Point to Egg Harbor Township, we provided Egg Harbor Township with 18 mutual aid calls; this would be closely watched. The Cultural Committee yard sale is scheduled for March 30th at the school.

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**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau cautioned all that there were pros and cons to shared services, and he is definitely an advocate, but they are not the answer to everything. As Council President Lischin noted, he distributed an information sheet regarding the pre-k. Mayor Chau was told by the school that the low enrollment was the result of the short notice that the school had to implement the program. Superintendent Bretones said he would be happy to come to City Council to answer any questions. He urged all to attend the next League of Municipalities meeting, which would include a legislative update on the cannabis issue; the next meeting was scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Crab Trap. All of Council received the letter from Mr. Wolf; Mayor Chau spoke with Mr. Wolf personally about the letter, he felt we needed to do something as soon as possible.

Engineer Nassar replied that the location was on the 2018 Road Paving project; splitting the contract into smaller pieces was too expensive.

Mayor Chau advised that Chief Newman received a letter from the resident on Burroughs Avenue regarding speeding, the letter contained positive feedback about police enforcement. Mayor Chau met with the Red Cross about several programs, one of which is that they will provide smoke detectors to residents free of charge. He would coordinate with the City Clerk, the Office of Emergency Management, Fire Department and others. Mayor Chau reported that Councilman Lischin had inquired about overtime in the Police Department; Mayor Chau said he did receive a response from Chief Newman. Mayor Chau read the budgeted versus actual overtime figures, and stated that in the past two years the Police Department had not used its entire overtime budgeted. In addition, the Police Department was three officers below what is allowed by ordinance, with 1 officer out of work.

Council President Lischin thanked Chief Newman and Mayor Chau.

Mayor Chau read the following year-to-date police report into the record: Citations for December: 262, Citations for 2018: 4,024; Property checks for December: 1,316, Property checks for 2018: 9,945; Motor Vehicle Stops for December: 521, Motor Vehicle Stops for 2018: 6,678. He noted this was a brief synopsis of some of the things we don't see.

Council President Lischin commended the Police Department on their activity.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed the engineer's report as previously provided to Council. He reported that the 2018 municipal aid package had been sent to the Department of Transportation; upon approval we can go out to bid, he would bring to Council for final approval. Due to weather and rain the Cresson Avenue paving was on hold; we won't pave until the spring. The Davis Avenue Pump Station experienced delays due

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to availability of equipment; the bypass pump testing was delayed by about 2 weeks. The gas company, if working along Cedar Bridge and Juniper, would work during the day and would not be closing the roadways.

Mayor Chau asked about punch lists for the gas company.

Engineer Nassar replied that all work had been done; if there were issues, we needed to be informed.

Mayor Chau asked about Roosevelt and Tilton.

Engineer Nassar advised that he met with the County, they agreed to address the issue and it should be done soon.

Solicitor Facenda reported that all easements for the Mill Road Sidewalk Project had been signed and delivered to the County.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

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

Seeing no one 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.

On a motion of Councilwoman Korngut, second of Councilwoman Madden, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 32-2019 through 38-2019, 40-2019, 41-2019 and 44-2019.

- 32-2019** Authoring the Tax Collector to Conduct a Tax Lien Sale
- 33-2019** Refund of Construction Permit Fees to Kopp Electric Company
- 34-2019** Refund of Construction Permit Fees to TTK & Associates
- 35-2019** A Resolution Memorializing a Grant Application Submitted by the Northfield Police Department for a ‘Cops In Shops’ Grant from the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control Grant #A1-19-45-05-01
- 36-2019** A Resolution Memorializing a Grant Application Submitted by the Northfield Police Department for a ‘Cops In Shops’ Grant from the

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- New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control Grant #A1-19-45-05-01
- 37-2019** Authorizing Award of Professional Services Contract for Continuing Disclosure Agent Services and Independent Registered Municipal Advisor of Record
- 38-2019** A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of Daniel M. Levine as the Public Defender for the City of Northfield
- 39-2019** DELETED
- 40-2019** Amending Resolution Amending Resolution No. 30-2019, Recognizing Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company
- 41-2019** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - Mainland Youth Lacrosse
- 44-2019** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - 13U Hammerheads

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

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded, to adopt Resolution 42-2019.

- 42-2019** ***TABLED*** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - Jersey Shore

Councilman O’Neill gave background; the application was from a resident for a mens’ senior league, the applicant gives back to the community, as the previous baseball liaison there have never been any issues.

Councilwoman Korngut announced that she’d asked for this to be voted separately because this application would require use of lights. We've been consistent with use of lights; this is why she wants a committee to create a standard for how we approve the applications. The lights would cost the taxpayers money. She noted that only 3 players were Northfield residents out of 24.

Councilman Dewees added that we have had numerous discussions about how to recoup the money for use of lights, we have not been able to come up with an answer.

Councilman O’Neill agreed with Councilwoman Korngut, but asked, would big donors not donate if they had to pay for lights?

Councilwoman Korngut replied that since it's January, we should do it this year.

Councilman Dewees felt to come up with a fee would be easy, how to be reimbursed was the challenge.

Clerk Canesi reminded council that a fee ordinance would be required for a fee we charge.

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Council President Lischin noted that we have not historically been as restrictive with the Babe Ruth Field, and lights, as we have with the youth fields.

Councilman Smith noted that the teams have to plan, they need to know what field they'll have to plan.

Councilman O'Neill asked Councilman Dewees to explain the pallet.

Councilman Dewees explained that Blair Rosenfeld (coach of the Jersey Shore Mens' team) buys the speedy-dry for all of the fields to use every year, he also buys the field line.

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded, to table Resolution 42-2019.

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

Solicitor Facenda stated that he believed a motion of 2/3 was required, which was 5 members of council.

Clerk Canesi announced the motion failed.

Solicitor Facenda asked to check Roberts Rules.

*At 9:03pm Council President Lischin called for a 5-minute recess.*

*At 9:11pm Council President Lischin resumed the meeting.*

Solicitor Facenda said after reviewing Robert's Rules he has determined that for a motion to lay on the table, the 4-3 vote was successful and the motion shall remain on the table until the next meeting.

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded, to adopt Resolution 43-2019.

**43-2019**      To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - 9U Sandsharks

Councilman O'Neill said he had spoken with Mr. Sutley. He's been a coach for many years, there had never been an issue, as per Northfield Little League there were no issues with this application.

Council President Lischin had no issue with the use by AAU, especially if the majority were Northfield residents. This was a 5-hour window - 10am to 3pm, if we grant this then no one else can have the field for the whole day. He thought a 2-hour window was more reasonable.



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Councilwoman Madden agreed that the 5-hour time seemed excessive.

Councilman Smith responded that it was for practices and games, there could be weather issues and there could be double headers.

Councilman Dewees asked about the denial.

Clerk Canesi explained that we did receive another application requesting the field from 9am-11am on the same days; Northfield Little League replied that the field was not available from 9am-10am, Councilman Smith pointed out that there was a conflict.

Council President Lischin asked if our kids won't be able to use the fields.

Councilman Smith replied that Northfield Little League said the field was available, so more than likely would not be using it.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - no, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – no, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – no, Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – no; Motion failed.

Councilman Perri felt a separate entity should be engaged to manage the field processes; other towns do it. He felt 5 hours on a Sunday was excessive.

Councilman Dewees suggested they resubmit with different times, which was what we've done in the past.

Councilman Perri asked which teams were Northfield teams.

Council President Lischin replied none of them.

Councilman Dewees replied they were comprised of Northfield kids.

Council President Lischin announced that we do it this way to keep Council control.

**ORDINANCE**

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt Ordinance 1-2019, to be read by title only.

**1-2019**            An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 11-2018 of the City of Northfield Authorizing the Sale of City Owned Land  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration  
Published in the Press of Atlantic City 1/26/2019*

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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 thereafter published. Since introduction and amendment, 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 to any member of the public who requested same.

Council President Lischin opened the public hearing on Ordinance 1-2019. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

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

**PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 2,325,896.29**

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

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, 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.

At 9:29pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk