

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2018**

At 7:10pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 13, 2018, 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: Korngut, Lischin, Murray, Perri, Travagline

Absent: O'Neill, Dewees

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Lischin, second of Councilman Travagline, all were in favor of approving the minutes of the January 2, 2018, meeting of Council without formal reading. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Councilman Murray introduced Mayor Chau to make special presentations.

Mayor Chau stated that this was a bittersweet presentation, these individuals have devoted many years to the City, but the time comes when people need to devote more time to their personal lives.

PRESENTATIONS BY MAYOR CHAU

- Shannah Smith, Northfield Library Board of Trustees

Mayor Chau introduced Shannah Smith. He had known Shannah for many years, and said she joined the Otto Bruyns Public Library Board of Trustees in May of 2010, becoming Board President in January of 2011. She oversaw the library addition from proposal through to opening day. In 2013, she led the Board in the hiring of a new director, and throughout her service she was active at National Night Out and other Northfield community events. Mayor Chau said her commitment to the library will have a lasting impression on the City of Northfield. He added that we were the envy of Atlantic County because of the services we provide to our residents. He was proud of having worked with her and the accomplishments she's made. Mayor Chau presented her with a certificate and presented her with a Mayor's Coin.

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Shannah introduced her husband Tim Smith, and daughters Evelyn and Kinsley.

- Lou Milone, Planning Board Member

Mayor Chau introduced Lou Milone. He knew Marge, Lou's wife, very well, but tonight was Lou's special night. Mr. Milone had served on the Planning Board from 1997 to 2017; twenty years that Lou had served very faithfully. Lou should be very proud for the contributions he'd made, and they have made Northfield what it was. On behalf of the Council he presented Mr. Milone with a certificate and thanked him for his service; he presented him with Mayor's Coin as well.

Councilman Perri noted that Lou and Marge were instrumental in the 2000 Committee, and the Flag Street USA project that got all of the flags donated. Councilman Perri said in his term as Mayor, Mr. Milone was the number one guy to go to.

Shannah Smith added that Mr. Milone was on the library board when she started and it was Mr. Milone who suggested her for the presidency on the board.

Councilman Murray thanked all, and announced committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri - Sewer Inter Local, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri reported that not much was going on with the Sewer Interlocal, the new interlocal for the 31 homes had been drafted and it looked pretty good. It was just about ready to go out to Linwood. There was nothing to report for the Planning Board. The last seniors meeting went well; Councilwoman Korngut was there to discuss her shoveling program, the seniors were very excited about that.

Councilman O'Neill - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Court/Violations, Chamber of Commerce, Little League/Babe Ruth, Traffic Safety, Green Team Advisory Board

Councilman O'Neill was absent.

Councilwoman Korngut – Library, Municipal Alliance, Economic Development, Shared Services

Councilwoman Korngut reported that the Library meeting was January 11th and said she felt badly having missed it; she did however meet with Aubrey and with Board President Anne Canselmo. The next meeting was February 8th. The only library-related issue Councilwoman Korngut was aware of was a plowing issue during the recent storm, and there were some miscommunications. She reported that she did also meet with Qwin and they were short staffed in that department, and the streets were the priority. She asked clarifying question about her role, and questioned her role in

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subcontracting snow plowing out if the library were open in the future and Public Works couldn't get to them.

Clerk Canesi advised that we typically don't sub out union work, but agree that Councilwoman Korngut's role should be clarified and said she'd look into how to do so without any issues with labor.

Councilman Travagline replied that he was not sure the library should have been open.

Councilwoman Korngut said she spoke with Danielle Kelly regarding the Mainland After Prom, noting that we usually make a donation to After Prom. She also spoke with Kathi Smith who confirmed that she'd be handling it, so we'll be giving the group a donation again this year. Regarding the Economic Development Commission, she met briefly with Councilman Murray and understood there was not a lot of activity, and was looking forward to working on that Committee. She reached out to the person in charge of Somers Point's economic development group; she understands they are very vibrant and is looking forward to getting a call back.

Councilman Travagline – Insurance and Safety, Northfield School, FAN; Shared Services

Councilman Travagline had nothing to report.

Councilman Murray - Finance/Collections, Mainland Regional, Traffic Safety, Economic Development

Councilman Murray had nothing to report.

Councilman Lischin – Fire Department/EMS, Technology/MRHS Channel 2, Cultural Committee, Green Team Advisory

Councilman Lischin reported that he met with Don Huber of Public Safety Institute to get the fire study started; he would keep Council informed as we moved forward. He read the following report: The Fire Department calls for December included: 1 building fire, 6 hazardous condition calls, 6 false alarm calls, 7 good intent calls, 2 EMS assist incidents, and 1 mutual aid call. He had hoped everyone saw Santa driving around in the fire truck this year.

Council President Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans' Park, 1st Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering

Council President Dewees was absent.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau read a letter written to the Tax Collector by CFO Stollenwerk commending her for her hard work in the tax office, which saved the city \$3,300.00. Kudos to Michele Kirtsos for her outstanding work. There was a motor vehicle crash involving a police vehicle; the insurance company had advised that it will cost around \$7,000.00 to repair as opposed to totaling it. The repairs would be made as soon as

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possible. He referred to the heat not working in the Police Department and said Kathi Smith tried to get someone to come in to look at the problem, but she not able to do so. A contractor was able to come in that Monday and we were looking to have that repair made. He noted that the equipment was old, and unfortunately it happened on a day that was cold. Mayor Chau read a complaint letter into the record from a resident of Haddon Avenue who was dissatisfied about plowing. Mayor Chau said he was disappointed that the resident did not have all of their facts; this was an exceptional event, with 15-plus inches of snow. Public Works only had 5 men to clear the entire city and can only work 14 hours. Mayor Chau felt the men did an exceptional job. When cars are parked on both sides of the street, the plows can only go down the middle. Mayor Chau was advised by Public Works that they plowed every street twice. Tax dollars go to expenses other than Public Works. As far as City Hall is concerned, City Hall was open, he closed at 11am but it was open that day because Mayor Chau felt that the City needed to provide services. He urged that residents get facts before writing letters like the one he read and to come to Council or to the Mayor if they had questions.

Councilman Murray felt that Public Works and Public Safety Officials did an excellent job. With the high winds, it was an official blizzard; he thought the guys did a great job.

Councilman Travagline also commended Qwin Vitale; in the past he's had to call. They were extremely efficient and did an excellent job

Councilwoman Korngut along with Councilmen Perri and Lischin agreed.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report, previously provided to council. He made the recommendation for final payment for Bay Drive. There would be discussion regarding the Davis Avenue pump station during the closed session. He was still working on getting requested information to the ACIA. SJ Gas had to delay paving due to the cold weather; they should start up again next week, looking to be completely done by mid-March. The reconstruction of Cresson Avenue would be discussed this evening as well. The plans for the drainage on Cresson Avenue were in the Clerk's Office for review; he would like to have approval to go out to bid at the next meeting. There was no word yet on the Bike Trails Grant. He thought we should have heard by now, but had not, he would reach back out to the DOT for an update.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Councilman Murray opened the public session, seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public session.

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RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Murray 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.

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

Councilman Murray reminded everyone that Resolution 45-2018 would be voted on separately.

- 40-2018** Governing Body Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964”
- 41-2018** A Resolution Authorizing the Northfield Fire Department to Apply for and Obtain a Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- 42-2018** Resolution Authorizing Cancellation and Refund of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 & N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 on Property Known as Block 76 Lot 11
- 43-2018** A Resolution Amending Resolution No. 29-2018, Recognizing Members of the Northfield Volunteer Company Ladies’ Auxiliary
- 44-2018** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - MRHS Baseball
- 46-2018** Appointment of Risk Management Consultant in Accordance with the Bylaws of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 47-2018** Authorizing Northfield Fire Department to Apply for a Grant from the New Jersey American Water Company
- 48-2018** 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 Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality – Mt Laurel Litigation

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded for Resolutions 40-

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2018 through 44-2018 and 46-2018 through 48-2018, to be voted on by consent agenda.

All present were in favor of voting by consent agenda.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded for Resolutions 40-2018 through 44-2018 and 46-2018 through 48-2018, to be adopted by consent agenda.

Roll call: Ms. Korngut – yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill – absent; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – absent; Motion carried.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded for the adoption of Resolution 45-2018.

45-2018 To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - Athletes Arbor

Roll call: Ms. Korngut – no; Mr. Lischin –no; Mr. Murray –no; Mr. O’Neill – absent; Mr. Perri –no; Mr. Travagline –no; Mr. Dewees – absent; Motion failed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 3,500,065.63

Councilman Travagline motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll call: Ms. Korngut – yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill – absent; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – absent; Motion carried.

Councilman Murray read the meeting notices.

Councilman Murray announced an Executive Session for Resolution 48-2018.

48-2018 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(b) (7) Regarding Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality – Mt Laurel Litigation

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session was in regard to active and open litigation concerning Mt. Laurel litigation with the entity known as Max Gurwicz and Sons, and Mason Properties. The litigation continued and had not yet been resolved. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law.

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At 7:45pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.

At 8:19pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded and was in regard to active and open litigation concerning Mt. Laurel litigation with Gurwicz, and Mason properties. No official action had been taken. The minutes were kept but will not be released until the matter had concluded and they would be released when permitted by law.

At 8:20pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk