

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2020**

At 7:27pm, 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 followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Korngut; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman O'Neill; Councilman Smith; Council President Perri

ABSENT: Councilman Utts

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

Council President Perri announced for the record that Councilman Utts was absent tonight due to a previously planned vacation.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilwoman Korngut, second of Councilwoman Madden, all present with the exception of Councilman Dewees who abstained, 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 deferred to Mayor Chau to administer the Oath of Office for Reverend Strugala.

7PM OATH OF OFFICE: Reverend Louis Strugala, Police Chaplain

Chief Newman introduced Louis Strugala; he would be sworn tonight as our new Chaplain. It was Chief Newman's pleasure to have Reverend Strugala with us.

Mayor Chau administered the oath and congratulated Reverend Strugala.

Reverend Strugala spoke to Mayor Chau and Council: he thanked them for opportunity to serve. Chaplaincy has been around a long time, but has become more formalized in recent years. Chaplains can be called upon to provide support in the event of any catastrophic event. He was looking forward to serving his fellow officers and the community. He thanked all in attendance for the applause and for their support.

Council President Perri moved to committee reports.

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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 was absent.

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

Councilwoman Korngut reported that there had not been a Library meeting since the last Council meeting. The Municipal Alliance looked forward to supporting the Mainland After-Prom event on May 30th. Shared Services was discussed during the workshop. She wanted to give a shout out to a gentleman who contacted her to invite her to watch the Mainland Marching Band some time ago; she did and was very impressed and surprised. If anyone hasn't seen it, she encouraged all to go to watch. She congratulated them again and was glad we got to honor them earlier in the evening. She announced that Jeff Reichert was 41 years old and was born and raised in Northfield. His film, American Factory, was up for an Oscar. She wished him well and wanted to acknowledge him. Rocco at Capri has a new pizza that Councilwoman Korngut was asked to announce, called 'the upside down'. She again acknowledged Republic Bank; it was nice to have them as a part of the community.

Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds; Birch Grove Park

Councilman Dewees said on behalf of Buildings and Grounds, we were looking in to several improvements to the football field. He had an informal conversation with a groundskeeper at Mainland but was looking to do some sod upgrades, with more information to follow.

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

Councilman Smith attended the Northfield Little League meeting last week, they inquired about a fence being down between the minor league field and the football field.

Councilman Dewees replied that the Department of Public Works was aware and we are working on acquiring parts for repair. He also heard informally that there was an issue with the tan snack bar lock.

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Councilman Smith replied that Northfield Little League did not have enough keys, they have also inquired about key pads.

Councilman Dewees would look into the request.

Councilman Smith reminded all about the Budget Meeting on the 13th at 6pm, with another two weeks later on the 27th. He attended the Northfield Little League and Babe Ruth meetings last week. He also attended the insurance seminar last week. He reported that registration was open for kids who want to play baseball or softball. He distributed to all a packet on the parks and recreation area, this had the redlined version of the ordinance that was discussed during the work session. If there were any questions please let Councilman Smith know. He expressed condolences to Roy Clark on recent loss of Mrs. Patrick; Mr. Clark appreciated the City's assistance with various activities. They were declining in membership and volunteers; he would like to possibly have the City help with requests for use of the Bandstand. Mr. Clark asked for an energy audit, and Councilman Smith was advised by Clerk Canesi that this was already in the works. Councilman Smith attended the Northfield Community School Board of Education Meeting, he looking forward to working with them this year.

Councilwoman Madden asked Councilman Smith for, and received, confirmation of the budget meeting dates and times.

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

Councilwoman Madden read the following report: Fire Department calls for December included 3 total fire incidents, 7 false alarm calls, 7 good intent calls, 0 rescue incidents, 3 hazardous condition calls, 2 service call incidents, 0 EMS 1st responder incidents and 0 mutual aid calls; for a total of 19 dispatched incidents. She thanked Deputy Clerk Shannon Campbell for printing the report for her. In regard to Insurance and Safety, the next meeting would be held on February 20th. The Mainland Regional High School Board of Education Meeting was tonight. She offered congratulations again to the marching band.

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

Council President Perri reported the Seniors Committee met and almost the entire year is booked for speakers; topics were ongoing, if anyone had a guest they would like to suggest, please contact Council President Perri. The ACUA did do a cleaning and video of the interceptor line, with results pending. There was no financial adjustment yet. He also attended the JIF meeting; it was very interesting and informative.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau reminded all that there was an online course that everyone had to complete. Technological challenges were very interesting. He would have a recommendation for next month for appointments to the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board. He also announced that he would provide refreshments for the budget meeting.

Councilman O'Neill noted he had one individual ask about a position at Birch Grove Park.

Mayor Chau asked for a letter of intent with background; he would review applications in a week or so. Information could be sent to the Deputy Clerk.

Councilwoman Korngut brought up that she was contacted by a resident of Mt. Vernon Avenue about a dog that was left out in the weather. When she did not hear back, she emailed Chief Newman, who responded that Councilwoman Korngut should check with the Mayor. She did not feel that was an appropriate response; we were on the same team. She sent another email to the Chief - it was the day of Mayor Chau's mother's funeral – she still did not know the answer. Councilwoman Korngut's concern was that the officer may not have known the law. The response ended up being that the police had no information on the matter. Councilwoman Korngut was being told by more than one neighbor that the call occurred, but those people don't want to come forward. She wanted to know what we could do about it because we know it is against the law.

Mayor Chau felt it was his responsibility to respond to everyone; immediately after the meeting he met with Chief Newman, who felt he had been caught off guard. Mayor Chau did write a letter to Councilwoman Korngut that Council should be free to work with Mayor Chau or the Chief to address any concern. He invited all to contact him or the appropriate body. At that time, the Chief did not have enough information. Mayor Chau offered to review the police report with Councilwoman Korngut.

Councilwoman Korngut responded that she was now more troubled. No one would have expected the Chief to know off the top of his head. She said she's repeatedly said that she trusted the Chief to look into it. She understood that a formal complaint had been filed about her. Now, there was a police report that she was not told about, and nothing had been done. Why had nothing been done?

Councilman O'Neill commented that he was at the movie theater recently, and there was a commotion involving a dog locked in a car, with a large response from the Police Department.

Mayor Chau clarified that the question was about how a particular matter was handled. Once Mayor Chau met with Chief Newman, he immediately responded to

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Mayor Chau. Mayor Chau suggested that Chief Newman would provide any additional information to Councilwoman Korngut

Councilwoman Korngut disagreed. Chief Newman had said he would no longer talk to Councilwoman Korngut. She reiterated that all she cared about was that the matter had been looked into, and that if necessary, steps be taken to correct it.

Council President Perri replied that the Mayor was the proper authority; if there was a problem it was the Mayor's problem to resolve. Council President Perri will leave the matter to the Mayor to resolve; he would have to address and resolve the issue with Ms Korngut. Airing the issue here would not resolve it.

Councilwoman Korngut looked forward to a resolution.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. The ACUA had started video piping the gravity line on Shore Road on January 22nd, they should be done by now. Engineer Nassar would ask for results or that they share the video results. The Cresson and Walnut Avenue projects have both been completed and final payments have been recommended. Engineer Nassar's firm would work on closeout documents to get final payment from the DEP. He was working on the stormwater management plan for preparation to be sent to the State, and was working on outfalls. He hoped to be complete by the end of the month and be in compliance.

Councilman Smith, regarding the ACUA and the gravity sewer main on Shore Road, a question was raised by a resident on Catherine. Last Thursday or Friday night, the ACUA came down the street from 11 am to 2 or 3am, which kept the residents up all night. He asked was there a process so that residents are notified.

Engineer Nassar replied that they should do door hangers; Engineer Nassar would check. It was not our contractor, we don't get involved, but he would follow up with the ACUA.

Council President Perri asked Engineer Nassar, were they doing video with the Asset Management Plan?

Engineer Nassar responded that would be next, they would have to target what sections. They were looking to start in April.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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

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

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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.

Solicitor Stein read the following Resolution that was added during the work session.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, NJ
RESOLUTION NO. 56-2020

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR REGISTERED MUNICIPAL
ACCOUNTANT THROUGH A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS PURSUANT TO
N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, there exists within the City of Northfield the need for the services of a Registered Municipal Accountant;

WHEREAS, the anticipated value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500.00, and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.5, also known as “Pay to Play” law, requests for proposals were properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on Saturday, November 2, 2019; and

WHEREAS proposals were received, publicly opened and announced on November 16, 2019, and the proposals submitted have been reviewed; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Common Council of the City of Northfield that the proposal submitted by Ford, Scott and Associates, LLC, indicating they will provide Registered Municipal Accountant services in the form of a basic audit for a fee of \$31,000.00, and additional services if to be billed at a rate not to exceed \$200.00 per hour, be accepted; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual value of the contract is \$35,000.00; this amount is based on a reasonable estimate of services required, and the City of Northfield is not obligated to spend the entire amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Northfield that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract as per NJSA 40A:5-4 with Ford, Scott and Associates, LLC, 1535 Haven Avenue, Ocean City, New Jersey, 08330, for Registered Municipal Accountant services for a term ending December 31, 2020, for a fee of \$31,000 for a basic audit, as defined in the contract. This contract is awarded

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pursuant to a Fair and Open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, et seq.

BE IT RESOLVED, the funds will be encumbered by purchase order on an as needed basis, as required by pursuant to N.J.A.C 5:30-5.4 and charged against line 01-20-135-200.

Solicitor Stein stated that the Clerk’s certification portion of the Resolution did not need to be read into the record because the Resolution had not been adopted yet.

On a motion of Councilman Dewees, second of Councilman O’Neill, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 51-2020 through 56-2020.

- 51-2020** A Resolution Recognizing the Importance of the 2020 Census
- 52-2020** Acknowledging Resignation of Patrolman James Evans
- 53-2020** Authorization to Hire Part-Time Firefighter/EMT
- 54-2020** To Approve the Promotion of Christian Gansert to the Position of Police Officer
- 55-2020** To Authorize the Execution of an Agreement Between the City of Northfield and Yoos Tree Service for Temporary Use of a Portion of the City of Northfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Path
- 56-2020** Authorizing Award of Contract for Registered Municipal Accountant Through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5, et seq.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded, for adoption of the consent agenda for Resolutions 51-2020 through 56-2020.

Councilman O’Neill thanked Mayor Chau so much for the professionalism in getting the new position filled in a timely manner; he had known Christian for a number of years.

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

Councilman O’Neill asked if there was a separate swearing in ceremony for going from a Class II Officer.

Council President Perri stated that Clerk Canesi advised we don't administer the oath of office on the same night as an appointment.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 130,116.12

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 - absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

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Council President Perri read the meeting notices.

At 8:05pm, on motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilwoman Korngut, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk