

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

At 7:08pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi, who welcomed the audience. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 7, 2023 and in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau, and was followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

Absent: Councilwoman Carfagno

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Nassar, and Chief VonColln were also in attendance.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Councilman Leeds with a second by Councilman Notaro, all members present, were in favor of approving the minutes of January 17, 2023, without formal reading.

PLANNING BOARD

- Presentation of Response to Ordinance No. 3-2023, Amending Sign Regulations
- Proposed Regulations Regarding Stand-by Generators

Council President Polistina stated that he felt it would be best to meet in committee with representatives of the Board.

Planning Board Chair Levitt would prefer to address the Council, to elaborate on the memo provided to the Council.

Solicitor Facenda asked would the Planning Board be issuing a revised memo?

Dr. Levitt replied, he did not know, he would address that.

Dr. Levitt stated that the Board had been accused of not being business-friendly. In Dr. Levitt's 42years on the Board there has never been a business that has been rejected, or a lawsuit, which cannot be said in all towns. The Northfield Planning Board eliminated the SIC codes that had previously made Board appearances mandatory in many cases; they expanded uses in many areas, and created and

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expanded zones such as the OP zone. The Board recognized that retail was struggling and that we have to look at nontraditional uses. The Board just approved one recently, Moppert Collision is now in a formerly retail site, to the objection of some residents; this was approved and kept the site open. They granted variances to the Veterans Administration, corrected mistakes such as those affecting tobacco sales, and more. They granted variances to Jersey Cow, with the exception of the giant ice cream cone sign. He listed many more variances the Board had granted. Ordinances have been structured so the more intense uses are on Tilton Road towards the Township and the less intense uses are closer to the residential areas. He noted the need to strike a balance because of the impact of light, noise, and traffic on residential areas. He offered suggestions about business fairs. He briefly explained the suggestions for generators, made at the request of Mary Canesi. He proceeded to review the sign ordinance changes.

At 7:20pm Mayor Chau left the dais.

Dr. Levitt continued to review the sign ordinance changes, as noted in the memo from the Planning Board Solicitor.

At 7:21pm Mayor Chau returned.

Dr. Levitt concluded his explanation of the reasons for the Planning Board memo. He apologized to Councilwoman Bucci for any misunderstanding, it was not their intention. He urged all to listen to the tapes.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau was happy to report that another new business had opened on New Road, Beach Buns Bakery. Many members of Council attended the Grand Opening, which was wonderful. He reminded all that the Atlantic County League of Municipalities meeting would be held at Smithville Inn with a guest speaker from Stockton. He read the Police Department report for January. He congratulated Councilman Dewees on the birth of his first grandchild.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineers Report as previously distributed to Council. He reviewed the sewer flows and compared them to our sister municipalities, our decreased flows far exceeded that of other towns and we will see the benefit financially, with the next phase saving even more money. NJ American Water had applied for a street opening permit in January, for a June installation. Engineer Nassar visited the area of Putting Green Avenue where the work was proposed, and on January 6th they had already done the work and opened the street. Engineer Nassar contacted Code Enforcement and two tickets were issued. They contacted Public Works for the mark-out on January 6th.

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Clerk Canesi asked if Public Works still gets road opening permits?

Engineer Nassar, replied, yes, they do.

Clerk Canesi suggested to Councilman Dewees that Public Works keep the permit list and if they see an open road, check to see if there is a permit.

Councilman Dewees responded that he was thinking the same thing.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Polistina opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to comment on any subject, he asked that they state their name and address for the record and observe the five-minute limit per speaker.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Council President Polistina closed the public comment portion of this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Polistina called for discussion on Resolution 45-2023.

Councilman Notaro spoke with Linwood, and they put it out to bid or are doing it under the threshold, and maybe we should explore that option. We should do our due diligence, if it's not the right thing for us, then so be it.

Mayor Chau asked what departments were being documented.

Council President Polistina replied the Clerk's Office and Planning Board. He noted that we'd have to see what Linwood was doing and put a bid spec together.

Councilman Leeds asked for confirmation that this was funded last year.

Clerk Canesi confirmed. She explained that this was put out to bid, just not by us.

Solicitor Facenda confirmed that Resolution 45-2023 is not being moved.

On motion of Councilwoman Bucci, seconded by Councilman Smith, all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 46-2023 through 54-2023, by Consent Agenda.

Council President Polistina read the following statement: "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

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treated as a separate matter. Any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds.”

Councilwoman Bucci motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

- 46-2023** Acceptance of the LOSAP Point System and Qualifiers for Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Co. #1
- 47-2023** Authorizing the Award of Contract without Public Advertisement for Bids to Patricia’s Cleaning Service Pursuant to the Provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5
- 48-2023** Amending Resolution No. 25-2023, Recognizing Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company
- 49-2023** Approving Participation with the State of New Jersey Federal Grant Program Administered by the Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General
- 50-2023** Authorizing Exemption of Property and 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 90 Lot 17 (13 Juniper Drive)
- 51-2023** Request to the County of Atlantic to Use County Roads for Parades and Other Functions
- 52-2023** A Resolution of the City of Northfield Authorizing the Sale of City Owned Land
- 53-2023** Authorization to Hire Temporary Part Time Payroll Specialist
- 54-2023** Approval for the Municipal Engineer to Submit the Project known as ‘Upgrading Handicap Access to the Existing Picnic Area at Birch Grove Park’ as the City’s Application for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Community Development Block Grant Program

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – absent; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

Councilman Notaro motioned, Councilman Leeds seconded, to adopt Ordinance 2-2023.

- 2-2023** Amending Chapter 117 of the City of Northfield Municipal Code, Entitled Outdoor Burning
*2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration
Published in the Press of AC 02/11/2023*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this was the second reading and that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption. Since introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted

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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. If approved, final publication will be February 11, 2023.

Council President Polistina opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – absent; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Dewees motioned; Councilman Smith seconded to introduce Ordinance 4-2023.

4-2023 Calendar Year 2023 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40a:4-45.14)

*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 2/11/2023
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 2/21/2023*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication, public hearing, and final consideration dates. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same. Clerk Canesi will amend the ordinance as published currently on the website.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – absent; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 973,021.37

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

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – absent; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

MEETING NOTICES

Councilwoman Bucci read the meeting notices.

Council President Polistina announced the budget meeting dates.

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Councilman Dewees thanked Mayor Chau for acknowledging his grandchild.

At approximately 7:44pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk