

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

At 7:43pm, this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 9, 2021 in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

Municipal Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“Due to social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public this evening. For this reason, this meeting is also being presented simultaneously as a remote public meeting, live-streamed, using Zoom conferencing service, and in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Orders and the Open Public Meetings Act. Zoom meeting participants can dial in by telephone and listen to the proceedings, or they can access the meeting using a web-browser, and be able to view and listen. Instructions on how members of the public could reserve one of the limited seats, as well as how they can access Zoom have been made available on the municipal website and were published in the Press of Atlantic City. The full text of the public meeting notice has been posted at the entrances to the municipal building and includes Zoom instructions, information on where to find the meeting agenda and relevant documents, as well as instructions on how members of the public could submit comments in advance of tonight’s meeting. For those participating via Zoom, all participants will be ‘muted’ upon entry to the meeting. Web-browser participants will not be able to share their screens or see the camera-view of anyone other than the host, which is the City of Northfield. Zoom participants wishing to exercise their right to participate during the public comment portion of the meeting should wait until the specific announcement is made to open the public comment period. At this time, one by one, any telephone users will be asked to identify themselves and will be unmuted to permit commentary. For web-browser participants, comments or questions may be submitted via the chat function and will not be acknowledged outside of the designated public-comment portion of the meeting; chat-users must also provide his/her name and address for the record in order to be heard. Any written comments submitted in advance will be read aloud and addressed during the public comment portion of the meeting.”

FLAG SALUTE

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

ROLL CALL

Present (in person): Councilwoman Madden; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Perri; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

Absent: Councilman Dewees

Solicitor Facenda and Engineer Nassar was also in attendance. Chief Newman was present via Zoom.

Council President Polistina praised the Department of Public Works for work during recent storm, the City looked great.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau reported that the old generator has been moved to the City Garage. The wooden fire shed can now be removed and destroyed. The new storage container at Station Two would be refitted.

Mayor Chau, addressing Solicitor Facenda, said he has had questions from residents about the status of the affordable housing applications, can we check with Gurwicz on that?

Solicitor Facenda replied we could ask where they were with percentages.

Mayor Chau said he recently saw illuminated stop signs in another town, and did not find them to be intrusive. He was meeting with Police Department administration regarding the budget, he would ask any questions Council may have. Chief Newman sent his concerns regarding the shared court with Hamilton Township. Mayor Chau felt there should be a clause that does not lock us in for too many years. He wanted to ensure that unanticipated expenses would not be passed along to us. Mayor Chau referred to an article in the Press about regional court.

Mayor Chau noted he had always been an advocate of shared services, but they don't always work out. He announced that he had been looking for the past several years at moving to the County library system, this would require a referendum. He thought it would be a win-win to go to the County system, we would no longer be responsible for technology and upkeep. The County would rent the building from us. He was still collecting data, but wanted to bring to Council's attention.

Councilman Smith asked Mayor Chau to share information with him, as shared services chair.

Mayor Chau replied, absolutely.

Council President Polistina called for a motion to approve the minutes.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion of Councilwoman Madden with a second of Councilman Utts, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of February 2, 2021 and February 4, 2021 without formal reading.

Mayor Chau, in regard to the library, noted that the millage would not change.

Councilman Perri stated that it just moved it from the local purpose tax to the county tax rate; there were studies done in the past and they were not favorable.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report as previously distributed to the Council. Shepherd Drive was scheduled last Friday for a final walk through with the Department of Transportation, it was postponed due to the weather.

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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.

Clerk Canesi typed in the Zoom chat that the public portion of the meeting was now open.

Seeing no one wishing to make a comment Council President Polistina closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS

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 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.”

On a motion of Councilman Smith, second of Councilman Notaro, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 48-2021 through 53-2021 and 55-2021.

- 48-2021** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 49-2021** Authorization to Cancel Resolution No. 38-2021, and to Replace it in its Entirety, for the Purpose of Authorizing Cancellation of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 & N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 on the Property Known as Block 26 Lot 5 (533 Marita Ann Drive)
- 50-2021** Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract for Information Technology Service and Support, without Public Solicitation for Proposals
- 51-2021** Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a License Agreement
- 52-2021** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities
- 53-2021** Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a License Agreement
- 54-2021** DELETED FROM THE EVENING’S AGENDA

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55-2021 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

Councilman Smith motioned, second of Councilman Notaro, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 48-2021 through 53-2021 and 55-2021.

Councilman Perri requested discussion on 50-2021; did this eliminate another vendor?

Clerk Canesi replied yes, the current vendor had been put on notice.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

Councilman Perri motioned, second of Councilwoman Madden, to adopt Ordinance 1-2021.

1-2021 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40a: 4-45.14)
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration
Published in the Press of AC 02/20/2021

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this was the second reading and public hearing. Since introduction, 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 to any member of the public who requested same. If approved, final publication will be February 20, 2021.

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

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Perri motioned, second of Councilwoman Madden, to adopt Ordinance 2-2021.

2-2021 Ordinance Providing for and Establishing Salary Ranges of Officers and Employees of the City of Northfield and Repealing All Ordinances Heretofore Adopted, the Provisions of Which are Inconsistent Herewith
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration
Published in the Press of AC 02/20/2021

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Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$1,690,119.13

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

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Smith read the meeting notices.

Council President Polistina announced the Executive Session for Resolution 55-2021.

55-2021 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

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title. Clerk Canesi announced to the members in Zoom that when the Executive Session commenced, she would be turning off the audio, and the video would be temporarily paused. Council would resume the public session as soon as the Executive Session concluded.

Clerk Canesi stated that we are required to set forth as much information as possible as to the subject matter to be discussed as well as provide for the public the amount of time they can expect to elapse before the non-public portion of the minutes can be disclosed. Clerk Canesi then deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed relates to potential litigation and matters falling under the attorney client privilege with regard to confidentiality, specifically the conversation will center upon sewer capacity issues, near the property commonly known as the Mason Property. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown. Council will return to the general public when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement.

Clerk Canesi announced that Nancy Holm was attendance, she was our Special Affordable Housing Attorney.

At 8:11pm Council entered Executive Session.

At 8:36pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting

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resumed in Council Chambers.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. The matter discussed was the study of certain sewer capacity issues in areas of the City of Northfield near the property known as Mason Properties. The minutes were kept but will not be released until the matter had concluded and they would be released when permitted by law, at this time the timeframe was unknown. No official action was taken; however, the Council is looking to make a motion to approve Engineer Nassar to conduct the appropriate sewer study of the Rosedale II Pump Station at a cost not to exceed \$3000.00.

Councilman Notaro motioned, second of Councilman Smith, to adopt Resolution 56-2021.

Clerk Canesi and Solicitor Facenda would reduce the resolution to writing.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

At 8:38pm, on motion of Councilman Notaro, seconded by Councilman Smith, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk