

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

At 7:21pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City 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, Lischin, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Absent: Murray

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Kris Facenda, Engineer Dan Kwapinski and Acting Chief Newman were also in attendance.

Mayor Chau called forward Councilman Perri. He announced that he had a very special award this evening; it's especially an honor because he remembered when Councilman Perri was a student at MRHS. Councilman Perri had been honored by the New Jersey State League Of Municipalities for having served at least 20 years as an elected official.

Mayor Chau read the following statement from the President of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities:

The elected officials recognized these individuals who have selflessly sided with their communities through good times and difficulties, and who often get little recognition from their public service. This small token of appreciation focuses on life on their sacrifices on reelecting tenures and demonstrating how much they care and serving as excellent examples for citizens to emulate.

There are only 566 inductees in the entire State who have received this award. On behalf of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and the Atlantic County League Of Municipalities, Mayor Chau recognized Councilman Perri and extended appreciation to Councilman Perri for his many years of service. Mayor Chau then presented Councilman Perri with a certificate.

Councilman Perri thanked Mayor Chau; in the good times and bad, it is always nice to be recognized. He thanked his wife Lynn and children Frank and Donna for their years of support. Councilman Perri noted that he was Mayor for 12 years and served on and off on Council, he can't always please everyone, but, thought he made a difference. He thanked his colleagues, and encouraged the public to get involved and thanked them for their support.

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Councilman O'Neill stated that he was proud to serve with Councilman Perri over the years and valued his opinion.

Councilman Perri stated that sometimes what he says falls on deaf ears, but he does try hard.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilman Dewees to dispense with the reading of the minutes from February 4, 2016 and February 9, 2016. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –absent; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes Motion carries.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Perri stated the traps on Wilson Drive have been completed; the Department is looking at two other areas to seal due to water intrusion. The Planning Board will hear the Max Gurwicz & Sons application on Thursday and the Seniors Luncheon will be Thursday at the Library.

Council President Travagline asked how the installation of the sewer traps went.

Councilman Perri stated that it went well; he will start working with the ACUA to see if there are long term fixes for the line.

**Councilman O'Neill - Court/Violations, FAN, Library, Shared Services**

Councilman O'Neill stated that between 2014 and 2015 the courts have seen an increase in \$9,000.00 in revenue. The Police Department issued 667 more citations in 2015 than in 2014. The issue with collections is in the courts, many people aren't paying their fines. Councilman O'Neill would like to talk with CFO Stollenwerk about a collection agency. He will also be talking with the Family Association of Northfield about the insurance expense.

Council President Travagline noted that he and Councilman Perri have discussed that all of the sports organizations that are recognized by the City should become self-sufficient, he indicated that he appreciated Councilman O'Neill talking to FAN.

**Councilman Piergiovanni – Insurance and Safety, Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School**

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Councilman Piergiovanni read the following letter from Paul J. Miola, CPCU, ARM Executive Director, Atlantic County JIF:

Dear Mayor and Council:

It is our pleasure to report that the Northfield City has earned \$2,150.00 as a result of your employees' outstanding performance in the 2015 ACMJIF Safety Incentive Program. The Safety Incentive Program is intended to foster a safety attitude among the ACM JIF members, change behaviors to create a safer work environment, as well as promote continuing efforts to "Change the Culture". The awards were announced at the Safety Coordinator's and Claims Coordinator's Regional Training held on February 11, 2016, and will be celebrated during our Annual Safety Kickoff Breakfast scheduled for April 14, 2016.

The Safety Incentive Program required the execution of the "Safety Contract" and the completion of various reports confirming compliance with JIF safety criteria. These reports were evaluated by the JIF Safety Director to determine your municipality's compliance with these criteria.

During 2015, members competed against a set of standards established by the Executive Safety Committee to determine their awards. The JIF members were sorted into five size categories (XS, S, M, L, XL) based upon their annual JIF Assessment. Each member competed against the established standards to determine if they either qualify or not (Pass or Fail) for a Safety Incentive Program Award.

Due to your employees' efforts, Northfield City has qualified (Passed!) for reimbursement of \$2,150 to be used for recognition of your employees' safety accomplishments.

We would also like to extend our CONGRATULATIONS to your Fund Commissioner, James Dickinson, your Safety Coordinator, Lauren Crooks, your Claims Coordinator, Mary Canesi, and all your employees who played an important role in achieving these results. Their dedication to the principles of the JIF has enabled them to effectively communicate the importance of the safety program and their continuing commitment to the safety of all employees. We ask that this letter be read at your next Council Meeting to acknowledge these efforts by your employees' and make these accomplishments part of the public record.

Guidelines on how to collect your award has been sent to your Fund Commissioner and Safety Coordinator. You can find additional information about the JIF Safety Program, Polices, and Safety Incentive Program Criteria, as well as the presentation given during the Safety Kickoff Breakfast, on the ACMJIF website, [www.acmjif.org](http://www.acmjif.org). I once again want to thank you for your involvement and congratulate you and everyone involved in the JIF safety program for making "Safety First in All We Say and Do"!

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Councilman O'Neill asked regarding collections, would it be a finance issue or collections.

Council President Travagline believed it to be the Court, but suggested that Councilman O'Neill confer with CFO Stollenwerk.

**Councilman Dewees** - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans' Park, 1st Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Little League/Babe Ruth, Sign Sub Committee

Councilman Dewees asked what the old school sign behind the football building is for and asked if FAN requested it.

Councilman O'Neill stated he would check with Tom Sher, FAN President.

Councilman Dewees stated he attended the public meeting on sidewalks and spoke with the concrete vendor, Lexa Concrete. They were looking for a place for their clean fill. Councilman Dewees thought this could be used at Veterans Park, and in exchange the contractor will grade the site. Councilman Dewees asked if there are any objections. There were none stated.

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

Councilman Murray was absent.

**Councilman Lischin** – Fire Department/EMS, Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Technology/MRHS Channel 2, Cultural Committee, Green Team, Sign Sub Committee

Councilman Lischin announced that the Cultural Committee Garage Sale will be held at the school March 12th. He read the inspections report for the month of January.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau read the 2015 year end Library report, highlighting attendance, programs, outside use of the facility, and computer use. The Board initiated a new logo contest with the winner to be announced shortly. He noted that he received a letter from local Board of Education member Deborah Levitt, that the Assistant Superintendent from EHT, Peter Bretones, would be the new Superintendent. All members of Council were invited to their next board meeting where he would be introduced. Mayor Chau attended the Atlantic County League Of Municipalities meeting last week where presentations were made by Senator Whelan and Freeholder

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Risley. Freeholder Risley was advocating for the County Wide Tax Assessment Program.

Councilman Dewees stated he was waiting for the document from Freeholder Risley that outlined the plan, once he had it, he would share it with Council.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Kwapinski reviewed the Engineer's report and asked if Council had any questions.

Council President Travagline asked for a status of the sidewalk project.

Engineer Kwapinski stated we have received a contact sheet with information on how to contact the key project personnel.

Council President Travagline stated that he was told by a Planning Board member that they, the Planning Board, thought they had to adopt the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and that these things would become law.

Engineer Kwapinski stated that the Plan is just a guideline; a reference document.

Council President Travagline noted that their concerns were that it was more than a guideline. He stressed that we don't ever have to implement the plan.

Councilman Perri questioned if it was going to be a document that is law, like the Land Use Ordinance.

Solicitor Facenda stated that he would look into that a little further.

Municipal Clerk Canesi noted that Urban Engineers contacted her today for a status update; she was not able to give one.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject.

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

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**RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA**

Council President Travagline 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.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Perry seconded for Resolutions 65-2016 through 74-2016 to be voted on by consent agenda.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –absent; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries to vote by consent agenda.

- 65-2016** Authorizing Refunds of Overpayment of Taxes
- 66-2016** Final Work Change Order No. 1, Broad Street Phase III
- 67-2016** Adopting the Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update as the Official Plan for the City of Northfield
- 68-2016** Amending Resolution No. 37-2016, Authorizing a Municipal Lien for Property Maintenance Costs
- 69-2016** A Resolution to Endorse and Support Atlantic County Centralized Dispatch
- 70-2016** A Resolution to Endorse and Support Atlantic County Tax Assessment Program
- 71-2016** To Approve An Application For Use of Facilities MRHS Softball
- 72-2016** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for Reconstruction of Bay Drive (FY2015 NJDOT Local Aid Grant)
- 73-2016** 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. 10:4-12b(4), Regarding Contract Negotiations for the Provision of Emergency Medical Services
- 74-2016** 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 Pending Litigation in the Matter of Daniel T. Mitchell v the City Of Northfield and Robert James

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Murray seconded for the adoption of Resolutions 65-2016 to 74-2016 by consent agenda.

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Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –absent; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries to adopt by consent agenda.

**ORINANCES**

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt Ordinance 5-2016.

**5-2016**        An Ordinance Amending Section 288 of the City of Northfield Municipal Governing Sewers  
*2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration*  
*Published in the Press of AC 2/27/2016*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance, and stated that this is the public hearing for Ordinance 5-2016. 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 between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requested same.

Council President Travagline opened the public session.

David Golstein, 116 Dolphin Avenue – stated that a fellow citizen told him that our sewers are not in great shape and that it would cost a lot of money to repair them.

Council President Travagline replied that we will be making repairs; most of the system is over 40 years old.

Mr. Goldstein asked if money had been set aside, isolated, so that it can only be used for the maintenance of the sewers.

Council President Travagline replied no.

Mr. Goldstein asked why.

Council President Travagline replied he didn’t know; that is what he was told but he would find out.

Mr. Goldstein felt Council needed to be more fiscally responsible, he gave the example of the State’s mismanagement of tax money. Two hundred and sixty-nine homes have been recently foreclosed. We are taking money and spending it in different areas. He felt money he is spending on his sewer bill should only be spent on sewer.

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Council President Travagline noted that the recent increases on sewer fees were to make sewer infrastructure improvements.

Lisa Brown, 9 Haviv Drive - thanked Council for being fiscally responsible, for attending every budget meeting and for continuing to put forth time and effort for this town. She thanked Council for setting the sewer fees aside for the sewers.

Mr. Goldstein noted that someone made a derogatory comment. He asks if that was legal and asked if anyone else heard it.

Acting Chief Newman replied that he did hear the comment.

Mr. Goldstein asked if it was slander.

Acting Chief Newman stated he didn't know if it was slander or not, he just commented that he heard the comment made.

Mr. Goldstein asked if there are rules of decorum.

Solicitor Facenda responded that Mr. Goldstein he is not here to give legal advice, he can retain counsel or consult with the Police Department.

Mr. Goldstein stated that we don't always have to agree but we have to be respectful; he expressed shock that this just happened and that someone being paid with our tax dollars cannot answer a question.

Solicitor Facenda stated that Roberts Rules controls the Council but there are no rules that control the public; if he felt slandered there are courts that Mr. Goldstein can resort to. The Council has no idea what any member of the public may say before they say it. Solicitor Facenda noted that the person whom Mr. Goldstein alleged made the comment left immediately.

Mr. Goldstein argued that the Council can and should control it so people don't feel intimidated.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Council President Travagline closed the public session.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –absent; Mr. O'Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries to adopt Ordinance 5-2016



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**PAYMENT OF BILLS \$251,493.28**

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –absent; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

Council President Travagline read the meeting notices and announced an executive session.

Municipal Clerk Canesi read Resolution 73-2016 by title.

**73-2016** 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. 10:4-12b(4), Regarding Contract Negotiations for the Provision of Emergency Medical Services

Solicitor Facenda stated the City was in possession of proposals from two contractors, the purpose of the executive session is to consider the agreements and to possibly proceed with one of them. He announced that action may be taken with respect to one of the vendors after the executive session has concluded. Minutes will be kept and made available when required and permitted by law.

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced that Council would move to the Mayor’s Office.

*At 8:12pm Council moved to the Mayor’s Office.*

*At 8:53pm Council come back from executive session.*

Solicitor Facenda announced that the executive session had concluded regarding contractual negotiations for the provision of EMS. Council generally discussed the proposals from two (2) EMS providers and Council was ready to make a decision which is contingent upon Linwood approving the same tomorrow evening. Minutes will be available when permitted by law.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded the adoption of Resolution 75-2016.

**75-2016** A Resolution Awarding the Contract to Tri-Care Medical Transportation for Shared Emergency Medical Services in the City of Linwood and the City of Northfield

Council President Travagline asked Council if there were any final questions.

Councilman Lischin noted that a lot of hard work was put in to this; the City was up against the gun with timeframe for negotiations. He thanked both bidders for their time and efforts and for the quick turnaround.

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Council President Travagline said this worked out well for the taxpayers. He also thanked both parties who expressed interest.

Solicitor Facenda amended Resolution 75-2016 to read, that the contract is subject to any revisions made to the contract as recommended by Northfield or Linwood.

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

Council President Travagline announced that Council would again be going into an executive session.

Clerk Canesi read Resolution 74-2016 by title.

**74-2016** 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 Pending Litigation in the Matter of Daniel T. Mitchell v the City Of Northfield and Robert James

Solicitor Facenda stated that he anticipated that discussion would center upon information to be relayed to Council with regard to a recent settlement conference with a retired Judge as a mediator. It was not anticipated that any vote would be taken tonight. Minutes will be kept and released when required by law.

*At 8:59pm Councilman Piergiovanni excused himself for the evening.*

*At 8:59pm Council moved to the Mayor's office.*

*At 9:34pm Council returned from executive session.*

Solicitor Facenda announced that the executive session had concluded. Council discussed pending litigation, regarding results of a confidential mediation session that took place in connection with the lawsuit. No action was taken by the Council. The litigation and settlement discussions would continue. Minutes will be kept and released when permitted by law.

At 9:35pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk