

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 10, 2015**

At 7:25pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on February 14, 2015 in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

**ROLL CALL** Present: Dewees, Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline  
Absent: Piergiovanni

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

Council President Travagline welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the Ceremonial Oath of Office for Acting Chief of Police Paul Newman.

Mayor Chau introduced Acting Chief Newman and read the following biography:

Paul is lifelong resident of Northfield where he resides with his spouse and two children. He attended Northfield public schools and graduated from Mainland Regional High School in 1985. In 1986 he enlisted in the United States Army attending Basic Training and Military Police School in Anniston, Alabama. He was stationed in Germany for about 2 1/2 years and his active duty enlistment ended in 1989. He completed 3 additional years in the United States Army Reserve attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. He attended Atlantic Community College graduating with an AS, High Honors, in Criminal Justice in 1994. He was also the founding president of the Atlantic Community College Criminal Justice Club. He was employed by the Delaware River and Bay Authority as a Class I Special Officer from 1993 to 1994 working at the Cape May Lewis Ferry.

He was hired by the City of Northfield as a Police Patrolman on August 2, 1994. He attended the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Atlantic County Police Academy and was the class president. He additionally held the position of Detective and Bicycle Patrol Officer during the 1990s and early 2000s. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on May 19, 2003. He attended Rowan University from 2002-2004 majoring in history. He attended Richard Stockton College of NJ from 2005-2010 graduating with a BA in Criminal Justice. He is a graduate of the West Point Command Leadership Program. He became Acting Lieutenant of Police in December 2012. He became Acting Captain of Police in July of 2014. Paul has also have been a Class II member of the Northfield Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment since 2012.

Mayor Chau then called Acting Chief Newman forward to administer the Ceremonial Oath.

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Acting Chief Newman came forward with his wife Kimberly, and children Jack and Patrick. He also introduced his family members that were in the audience: Mother in-law Ginny Sayegh, cousins George and Lori Butrus, parents: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Newman, brother Edward Newman, sister Chris Collett, sister Diane Scibal and brother in-law Steve Scibal.

After the ceremonial oath, Acting Chief Newman read the following:

“Before I begin we should all take a moment and reflect on the deaths of Officers Robert Wilson III (Phila) and Officer Brennan Rabain (Prince Georges County MD Police) who both lost their lives in the Line of Duty in recent days.

I would like to take a few moments of time to offer some words of gratitude for the support I've received leading up to this occasion.

I began my career in Northfield in August of 1994. I had the privilege to work under and with many fine officers since then and I often seek them out for advice to this day. I want to thank the current officers of the Northfield Police Department because I will not be successful without their continued support. I will always strive to make the best decisions for the City of Northfield. Thanks to all of you.

I want to thank Mayor Chau and the Northfield City Council. I know this was a difficult and politically risky decision to bring back our own Chief especially in these difficult financial times.

I want to thank PBA Local 77 who put a lot of time and effort into bringing about this positive change.

Both sides have there their own perspectives on this issue but looked at the facts, maintaining an open dialog and most importantly open minds and it resulted in the correct decision. Good work to both of you. That's how it should work regardless of the outcome.

To the residents of Northfield: I hope to earn your continued support as your Chief of Police. I have a simple goal: to provide quality service to this community through effective and efficient law enforcement. I welcome both your complements and criticisms. Remember, you are the eyes and ears of this community.

Most importantly, I want to thank my family who believed in me and supported all my life, especially, my wife Kimberly and boys Jack and Patrick. There are so many people, family and friends alike, who I did not mention but your kind words and support along the way were always appreciated.”

After a five minute recess, Council President Travagline called the meeting back to order and announced that Council will deviate from the agenda and vote on

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resolutions first.

**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. The Executive Sessions 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. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to vote on Resolution 59A-2015.

**59A-2015** Introduction of the 2015 Budget  
No public input on introduction  
*Budget Synopsis Published in the Press of AC 03/14/2015*  
*Public Hearing and Final Adoption: 7:30 pm 04/14/2015*

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

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman O'Neill seconded, to adopt Resolution 66-2015.

**66-2015** Memorializing the Terms and Conditions of Employment for the Assistant Fire Chief

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – no; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded to vote by consent agenda Resolutions 60-2015 through 65-2015.

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

**60-2015** Authorize The Hiring Of Zachary Pettit As A Part Time Maintenance Worker For Birch Grove Park

**61-2015** Refund of Rental Registration Fee

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- 62-2015** A Resolution Authorizing the Northfield Fire Department to Apply for and Obtain a Grant from New Jersey American Water
- 63-2015** To Temporarily Increase Weekly Hours Worked For Part Time Police Records Secretary
- 64-2015** A Resolution Establishing Salaries for Non Union Employees for the City of Northfield for 2015
- 65-2015** Appointment of Finance and Facilities Supervisor

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded to adopt by consent agenda on Resolutions 60-2015 through 65-2015.

Councilman Perri questioned the resolution for the finance and facilities supervisor and whether it would be handled separately next year.

Municipal Clerk Canesi stated it is on the Salary Resolution tonight and will be again next year.

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

*At 7:20pm Councilman O’Neill left the meeting*

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Murray to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 25, 2015 and February 26, 2015. 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 –yes; Mr. O’Neill – absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Perri announced that Northfield won \$1250 in safety money due to the efforts of the employees in maintaining the safety program, he extended congratulations to Jim Dickinson - Fund Commissioner, Cindy Ruffo - Safety Coordinator, and Mary Canesi - Claims Coordinator, and all employees who continue to contribute to and participate in the program and the safety of the City's employees. Councilman Petti congratulated all. He announced there will be a safety meeting

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March 12th at 10:30, with a guest speaker. The rescheduled Planning Board meeting has 2 applications. He mentioned the recent passing of John Thornewell, a long time Northfield resident, City employee, and member of the Northfield Rescue Squad, he offered condolences to the family. Councilman Perri stated that sewer operations going well and a senior event in the works.

**Councilman Dewees** - Buildings/Grounds, Birch Grove, Public Works, Little League/Babe Ruth, Northfield School

Councilman Dewees announced the street sweeping and household renovation collection dates. He reminded residents that the Northfield Mother's League is having their annual spaghetti dinner at the school tomorrow, encouraged all to attend and support the group who does so much for Northfield families in need.

**Councilman Murray** - Finance/Collections, Inspections/Engineering, Veterans Park, County/State

Councilman Murray had no report.

**Councilman Lischin** - Technology, Cultural Committee, Mainland Regional, Green Team

Councilman Lischin reviewed efforts to date with regard to online payment systems for tax and sewer payments, the chosen vendor insisted on contract language that the City could not agree to. He has reached out to Edmunds and there are a few other companies he has not contacted. We currently use Edmunds for other City services and as such if the City chose them it would be a seamless transition. He noted packets distributed to Council that outlined the proposal and fees from Edmunds. He has asked Edmunds to give a presentation to Council and he thinks it is worth the expense.

Council President Travagline asked Councilman Lischin to consult the CFO, Dawn Stollenwerk, for her opinion. He and asked if there will be additional, or less, work as a result, in the Tax Office.

Councilman Perri asked if any of our local banks been contacted for a proposal, he questioned if the annual fees result in non-users also paying a portion of the fee.

Councilman Murray will take a look at the banks.

Council President Travagline stated he thought that local banks were already looked at, and these are the options the CFO and Tax Office have recommended. He felt it would free up the Tax Office employee to do other tasks in that department.

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Councilman Lischin has reached out to Detective Sergeant Dettinger and will reach out to him before the upcoming demonstrative for the radio upgrade. He will provide an update at the next meeting. The Cultural Committee yard sale was canceled due to weather and they are looking to reschedule, he will attempt to assist them. Councilman Lischin thanked Devon from MRHS for video services this evening. The MRHS budget hearing has been pushed back to 4/27. MRHS is doing a production of Les Miserables, and there are elementary school students from all three sending districts in the play.

**Council President Travagline**

Council President Travagline asked Councilman Lischin about time clocks.

Councilman Lischin was advised by the CFO that the initial project was to have computer terminals for logging in and out, but that would not work because of the larger departments like public works. Time clocks, ideally, would have to be able to be programmed with the individual terms and conditions of employment, to avoid the need for manual intervention. He will look into it further for the next meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau commented on the passing of John Thornewell, he very well liked and respected, offered condolences to the family. He stated that tonight the City took a step forward with the appointment of an Acting Police Chief, some disagree, some agree, the decision was made and the Mayor asked that everyone join in moving forward to make this Department work and let them serve and protect. Conversations between the Mayor, administration and the officers have been positive.

Mayor Chau read the following statement:

“According to the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey, heroin related deaths of 18-25 year olds in NJ rose 24% in one year alone. Heroin is a white or dark brown powder or tar like substance. It is highly addictive and mainly administered by injection into a vein or muscle. It is sold in "bindles" or packets and is stamped with a logo used to identify one supplier from another.

Drug users often become addicts from abusing prescription narcotics but then move on to heroin due to its accessibility and low cost. The heroin epidemic crosses all demographic categories.

Northfield, like many suburban communities, is dealing with the Heroin epidemic and its associated criminal activity. Many of you, who follow the news reports, are aware of the recent events the Northfield Police Department is facing such as:

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A homicide investigation of deceased male located at a Virginia Ave residence in January.

A Cove Avenue residence, the subject of a search warrant and nine arrests, was described as a "one stop shop" for illegal drugs. Seized in the residence were prescription medication, marijuana, cocaine and heroin along with the accompanying sales proceeds.

In a 24 hour period last week, 5 individuals were arrested on Possession of Heroin and associated paraphernalia in two separate incidents.

There has been a total of 19 drug related arrests since February 1,2015. 15 of those 19 individuals were arrested for heroin or prescription narcotics.

Drug abusers are often involved in burglaries and thefts. Many times thefts are discovered only after people's valuables are discovered in pawn shops.

The officers of the Northfield Police Department remain committed to ensuring that those who use or peddle dangerous drugs will be pursued to extent the law allows and that those persons find no safe haven in our city.

The Northfield Police cannot fight the battle alone and welcomes the help of the community in this endeavor.

Please continue to report any tips about suspicious activity in your neighborhoods to the Northfield Police Department.

If you find a hypodermic syringe or any items you believe to be drug paraphernalia do not handle it and report its location to the police who will investigate and dispose of it.

All residents are encouraged to participate in the prescription drug take back program when and where it is offered

Anyone who witnesses or is otherwise involved with a drug overdose should call 911 and report the overdose immediately. The law provides protection from prosecution to those persons reporting a drug overdose.”

Mayor Chau noted that Police Department is very active in the community and encouraged new training for department members. He commented that Police Department and Assistant Fire Chief Crooks will be attending a meeting with the Four Seasons to show what services they provide.

Councilman Perri asked that now that the minutes are approved and the words are memorialized, he would like to see the spreadsheet that was alluded to by Mayor Chau and Councilman O’Neill, he wants to see the numbers that show that shared chief does not work.

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Mayor Chau noted that as of yesterday, Councilman O'Neill was still in the process of collating this information and has asked that it be sent to all of council.

Council President Travagline state he doesn't know about a spreadsheet, but has seen all of the numbers, overtime, court revenue, grants. It's all there. If Councilman Perri wanted to see if he can go to see the CFO it's all there.

Councilman Perri reiterated that it was in minutes and it should be produced for public record.

*At 7:54pm Mayor Chau left the meeting, as previously announced, due to another engagement.*

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer reviewed the engineer's report.

Councilman Perri asked if there are larger maps of the Veteran's Park for display.

Engineer Kwapinski stated he will get them printed for Council and the Park Committee.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Jerry McGee, 1620 Zion Road, - stated he does not think that electric prices falling are related to the CUC, there are other factors. He asked if the city goes solar will it be put out to bid and is the City still looking at purchasing at the Henry property.

Council President Travagline stated that if the City looks at solar prices it will go out for bid, and there is no interest at this time on the part of the owners of the Henry property.

Mr. McGee stated he felt the Henry property is too expensive if the city buys it.

Council President Travagline said the City would get at least 2 appraisals.

Mr. McGee asked Council President Travagline if he works for Travagline Investments and if they represent the PBA.



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Council President Travagline stated yes, he works for Travagline Investments, and the PBA account is managed by Wells Fargo, he is not associated with any accounts of the PBA, but has been previously.

Lisa Brown, 9 Haviv Drive – Congratulated Council on appointment of Paul Newman, they took courage in the face of opposition. Mrs. Brown then referred to Mr. McGee's comments and said she feels all on council do the best they can, regardless of their profession.

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

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Murray seconded, to adopt Ordinance 6-2015.

**6-2015**           An 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 Adoption 3/10/2015*

The public hearing date, and requisite publication dates were announced. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies will be 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 requests same.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill – absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries for adoption of Ordinance 6-2015.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Ordinance 7-2015.

**7-2015**           An Ordinance To Amend The Code Of The City Of Northfield By Adding A New Chapter 229 To Be Entitled Marriage And Civil Union Fees  
*2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 3/10/2015*

The public hearing date, and requisite publication dates were announced. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies will be 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 requests same.

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Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill – absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries for adoption of Ordinance 7-2015.

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded, to adopt Ordinance 8-2015.

**8-2015** Amending Chapter A376-213 of the City of Northfield Municipal Code, Regarding Transitional (Alternative) Duty Assignments  
*2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 3/10/2015*

The public hearing date, and requisite publication dates were announced. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies will be 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 requests same.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill – absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries for adoption of Ordinance 8-2015.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Murray seconded, to introduce Ordinance 9-2015.

**9-2015** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 330 Of The Code Of The City Of Northfield Governing Streets And Sidewalks  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press of AC 3/14/2015  
2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 3/24/2015*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that this is the introduction, and there will be no public input. The public hearing date, and requisite publication dates were announced. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies will be 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 requests same.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill – absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 9-2015.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded, to introduce Ordinance 10-2015.

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**10-2015**      An Ordinance Amending Chapter 264 of the Code of the City of Northfield Governing Precious Metals and Secondhand Goods  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press of AC 3/14/2015  
2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 3/24/2015*

Councilman Perri noted that this was a complicated Ordinance.

Solicitor Facenda reviewed the Ordinance at the request of the Police Department as well as the sample Ordinance that was provided, he also looked at what was in place in other towns. This has been championed by the Police Department as a way to better track the secondhand goods movement. This will reduce what they already do to an electronic format.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill – absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 10-2015.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$2,061,890.15.

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

Council President Travagline read the meeting notices.

Paul Newman thanked everyone for their support.

All members wished him luck.

At 8:35pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk