

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 13, 2018**

At 7:04pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 13, 2018, 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: Korngut, Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline, Dewees

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

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilwoman Korngut, second of Councilman Lischin, all were in favor of approving the minutes of the meetings of February 27, 2018, without formal reading. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Perri reported that sewer flows year to date are just about where they should be; he also said the new back-up generator was in service. It was a nice piece of equipment and would be a great asset in a storm or power failure. He thanked all who worked on the grant, adding that it put us in a much better position. There were 2 applications for the April 5th Planning Board meeting. Councilman Perri commented that everyone had received the Cresson Hill development estimate for the sewer main connection at Cresson Avenue, and the site has been clear cut. The white-collar unit was at an impasse and was moving forward with a hearing. Next Thursday, the senior meeting would be held at the library, a representative from Intergenerational Services will be there.

**Councilman O'Neill - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Court/Violations, Chamber of Commerce, Little League/Babe Ruth, Traffic Safety, Green Team Advisory Board**

Councilman O'Neill had nothing to report.

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**Councilwoman Korngut** – Library, Municipal Alliance, Economic Development, Shared Services

Councilwoman Korngut reported that the Municipal Alliance and Birch Grove Park are sponsoring their annual fishing tournament on Saturday, April 7th, which was the opening day for trout season. They were expecting more people this year as it was being opened up to veterans and disabled children. Chief Newman would be a featured speaker and was anticipated to do an excellent job as he did every year. The Fire Department would be there with an apparatus display. Kathi Smith had been working with Qwin Vitale to make sure the snack bar is filled; it was anticipated that this would be a profitable day. Councilwoman Korngut attended the Library Board meeting; she also contacted the gentleman who was going to donate solar panels. He said he would be willing to make a \$5,000.00 donation of panels toward a project that would cost \$10,000.00. She didn't have a lot of information, but a formal proposal was requested. The Library had been through this before but it stalled, they would revisit and go through their prior information. The Library may be planning a community garden and may ask the Friends of the Library to contribute funds. As to the Economic Development Commission, we missed being involved in restaurant week this year, but they would try to coordinate the involvement of Northfield restaurants next year. They would like to resurrect the Welcome to Northfield sign program; it was implemented back in 1996 but it was not profitable. It may be as simple as not charging enough. She would be looking into this and confer with Councilman Murray to bring this program back, perhaps giving first dibs to the former sponsors but also putting it out to business owners. She felt there may be an opportunity to make some money. Regarding complaints about 106 East Vernon Avenue, the Zoning Officer had granted an extension due to extenuating circumstances. She would keep Council informed.

Council President Dewees spoke, and advised Councilwoman Korngut that road-side signs were subject to certain requirements; he asked that she keep him and Qwin Vitale informed.

Councilwoman Korngut asked if requirements have changed since the signs were last up.

Council President Dewees replied they may have.

Councilwoman Korngut agreed to keep them informed.

Councilman Perri cautioned that we will want to have break-away posts, and that they should be made of metal, not wood.

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**Councilman Travagline** – Insurance and Safety, Northfield School, FAN; Shared Services

Councilman Travagline had nothing to report.

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

Councilman Murray announced the show times for the Mainland Regional High School production of Cinderella, and said there would also be a character breakfast on Saturday. Tickets were available through MRHS. He congratulated the Mainland Drama and Forensics Team, who recently won their 7th State Championship.

**Councilman Lischin** – Fire Department/EMS, Technology/MRHS Channel 2, Cultural Committee, Green Team Advisory

Councilman Lischin read the Fire Department report for February, which included: 3 building fires, 3 hazardous condition calls, 4 false alarm calls, 3 good intent calls, 18 EMS assist incidents and 2 mutual aid calls.

TriCare had a total of 126 dispatches, 89 transports, 10 mutual aid calls to Egg Harbor Township, and did not administer any Narcan.

**Council President Dewees** - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans' Park, 1<sup>st</sup> Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering

Council President Dewees reported that the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board meeting was canceled and had been rescheduled for next Monday. As to Mr. Webb's comments about being part of some committee, the Parks and Recreation Department has an official advisory board, and by including the Veterans Park Committee members as part of the officially recognized committee, they will be able to be recognized for what they do. Council President Dewees said he would be working with Councilman Perri and the Public Works Superintendent to work toward reorganizing the department and the job descriptions.

Councilman Perri asked when the Mothers' League spaghetti dinner was.

Council President Dewees replied Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced if anyone wanted tickets they could contact her.

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**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau reported that the Tilton Road paving contractor would be working during the day as previously discussed, for valid reasons. He read a portion of a letter sent by County Executive Dennis Levinson regarding the failure of former Governor Christie to ensure that the County received its fair share. He also passed along information received from Middle School Principal Morrison about a butterfly garden.

Council President Dewees asked Mayor Chau to forward the information so that he can confer with the Public Works Superintendent to ensure it is in an appropriate location.

Mayor Chau added that he received a letter from Northfield Community School Superintendent Bretones asking that the City consider removing the 2-hour parking restriction in the vicinity of the school.

Council President Dewees suggested sending the letter from the superintendent to the residents for their opinion.

Mayor Chau said he would give the letter to Council President Dewees.

Councilman Travagline asked if the parking lot on Mill Road was full.

Mayor Chau replied he did not know.

Councilman Travagline stated that he had never seen it full, if it was, he may consider it.

Mayor Chau asked a question about the access road for Cresson Hill.

Engineer Nassar replied that Matt Doran would know the answer.

Mayor Chau thought the road wasn't going in.

Engineer Nassar deferred to Councilman Perri.

Councilman Perri replied that there had been issues and alterations because of the unique nature of the lawsuit. The project was being built in 4 stages, he was not 100% positive, but thought the last information he had was that it would be in stages.

Councilman Travagline said he thought the road would be in the first phase because the Fire Department had to have access from 2 points.

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Councilman Perri replied that he would have to yield to the Fire Department; in all of his years on the Planning Board, these conditions, as a result of the lawsuit, have really made a difference. The City spent thousands of dollars to get to this point; Max Gurwicz & Sons was funding a large portion of the pump station that was being voted on tonight.

Solicitor Facenda noted that if there was a violation of the settlement agreement, we should be made aware of it.

Councilman Perri added that there had been much correspondence back and forth; the builder's remedy lawsuit changed a lot of what happened at the Planning Board. He asked Solicitor Facenda when the agreement would be approved.

Solicitor Facenda replied it had been rescheduled, it was supposed to be today, it will not be until mid to late April.

Councilman Perri said whether the road gets built or not would be up to the judges, it was approved conceptually but there had been changes, based on the courts, since then. This settles our affordable housing problem, but it was a major impact.

Mayor Chau said he was shocked that they had cleared the land; he was concerned about drainage and rodent infestation.

Councilman Perri stated that stabilizing the land was a condition of the CAFRA permit. The rodent ordinance had not been enforced before but it could be an issue.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed the engineer's report as distributed to Council. Relative to the ordinance tonight to borrow up to \$300,000.00 for the pump station project, we don't have to borrow the money, it is like a line of credit, and this will allow us to get the asset management plan. The plans for the Davis Avenue pump station were in the Clerk's Office and would be on the next agenda for approval. The NJEIT needed this ordinance to finalize the application for funds. Engineer Nassar explained that we used FEMA grant funds to purchase the portable generator, but had funds remaining; he suggested purchasing another generator. He would like Council's guidance.

Clerk Canesi noted that these were funds that the OEM Coordinator got through FEMA and asked if Coordinator Joo was on board with this.

Engineer Nassar responded yes.

Councilman Perri stated that it would be ideal to have stationary generators at each pump station, but with this equipment it would really help us.

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All members present were in agreement to allow Engineer Nassar to proceed with the 2nd generator.

Engineer Nassar reported that 14 bidders picked up packages for the Cresson Avenue Drainage Project; part of that included some concrete. The Cresson Avenue Paving Project was on hold. The grant for the Walnut Avenue Project came in at \$284,000.00, he would get the paperwork going on that. He was still waiting for a response regarding the bikeway grant.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Dewees opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any subject; seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public session.

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

**70A-2018** Introduction of the 2018 Budget  
*No public input on introduction*  
*Budget Synopsis Published in the Press of AC 3/17/2018*  
*Public Hearing and Final Adoption: 7:30 pm 4/10/2018*

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, to introduce Resolution 70A-2018.

Councilman Murray read the Resolution 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 Municipal User Friendly Introduced Budget 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.

Councilwoman Korngut stated she had concerns about raising taxes; this was secondary income for Council and she promised her constituents that she would work for free if she could. She thought Council could take a pay cut, that Council can do better to give citizens some relief. She appreciated everyone's hard work on this but wanted to explain her reasons.

Councilman O'Neill asked Councilwoman Korngut to clarify that she is voting no on the budget because of the salaries.

Councilwoman Korngut replied yes.

Councilman O'Neill advised that in the past he's donated his salary to charity, Councilwoman Korngut may wish to do the same.

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Roll call: Ms. Korngut – no; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Travagline – no; Mr. Dewees –yes; Motion carried to introduce Resolution 70A-2018.

Council President Dewees 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 Travagline motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded to adopt Resolution 71-2018.

**71-2018**            A Resolution Establishing Salaries for Non-Union Employees of the City of Northfield for 2018

Roll call: Ms. Korngut – no; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Travagline –absent; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried.

On a motion of Councilwoman Korngut, second of Councilman Lischin, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 72-2018 through 77-2018.

- 72-2018**            Separation of Employment Adult School Crossing Guard
- 73-2018**            Authorizing the Tax Collector to Conduct a Tax Lien Sale
- 74-2018**            Establishing the Easter Egg Hunt at Birch Grove Park as a City Event Sponsored by the Northfield Mothers’ League
- 75-2018**            To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – 8U Sandsharks
- 76-2018**            To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – 13U Hammerheads
- 77-2018**            To Hire Substitute Adult School Crossing Guard

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded, to adopt Resolutions 72-2018 through 77-2018 by consent agenda.

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

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded, to adopt Resolution 79-2018.

Solicitor Facenda read the following Resolution into the record in full, as it was not on the regular agenda and was proposed for addition during the work session:

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**RESOLUTION NO. 79-2018, A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD, ATLANTIC COUNTY, SUPPORTING ASSEMBLY BILL 3292 REQUIRING A WARNING STICKER ON CONTAINERS OF OPIOID MEDICATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, for three (3) out of four (4) heroin users, heroin use is preceded by the use/abuse of prescription drugs according to the National Institute of Health; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Center for Disease Control, (i) opioid addiction has reached epidemic proportions across our country as ninety-one (91) people die each day in the United States from an opioid overdose; (ii) overdose deaths due to prescription opioids were five times higher in 2016 than in 1999; (iii) sales of these prescription drugs have quadrupled; and (iv) New Jersey has seen a 42.3% increase in such deaths from 2015 to 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Atlantic County Assemblypersons John Armato, Vince Mazzeo and Valerie Vainieri Huttel have introduced Assembly Bill 3292 (the " Bill") which would require all prescription opioid medication containers to include a warning sticker advising patients of the risk of addiction and overdose; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bill would require the Director of Consumer Affairs of New Jersey, in consultation with the State Department of Health, to promulgate language for the sticker which, at a minimum, shall indicate that the medication is an opioid which carries a risk of addiction and overdose, and the sticker would be red in color with text printed in a white font to alert a patient and be easily and clearly legible; and

**WHEREAS**, the Atlantic County Opioid Task Force is in support of the Bill; and

**WHEREAS**, the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted Resolution 80- 2018 on February 27, 2018 in support of the Bill; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the City of Northfield does hereby support the Bill.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy; Congressman Frank LoBiondo, State Senators Chris Brown, Jeff Van Drew, Dawn Addiego, Robert Menendez and Chris Connors; Assemblypersons Vince Mazzeo, John Armato, Robert Andrzejczak, Bruce Land, Joe Howarth, Ryan Peters, Brian Rumpf and Dianne Gove; the Municipal Clerks of each of the other twenty-two (22) municipalities in Atlantic County; the Atlantic County League of Municipalities; and the Atlantic County Mayors Association.



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

Councilwoman Lischin motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to introduce Ordinance 3-2018, to be read by title only.

**3-2018** Bond Ordinance Appropriating Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) and Authorizing the Issuance of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) in Bonds or Notes of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey for the Rehabilitation and Upgrade of the Davis Avenue Sanitary Sewer Pump Station to be Undertaken by and within the City of Northfield, Atlantic County, New Jersey  
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 03/17/2018  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 03/27/2018*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication and public hearing 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 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same.

Roll call: Ms. Korngut -yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carries.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS** \$1,345,352.93

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Murray seconded, for payment of bills.

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

Council President Dewees read the meeting notices.

At 7:55pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk