

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

At 7:38pm, this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 9, 2021, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), and N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 - 1.7, this meeting will be held in-person and as a remote public meeting (live-streamed) using Zoom conferencing service. Due to social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public. Visit the event calendar page for March 16, 2021 at www.cityofnorthfield.org to determine current seating availability. Face coverings and social distancing will be required for in-person attendance. To reserve an available seat, contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 609-641-2832, ext 125, no later than 4:00pm on March 16, 2021. Once all available seats have been reserved, virtual attendance will be required using a web-browser to Join the Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86922058413> or by telephone using one tap mobile +13017158592,,86922058413# or direct dial +1 301 715 8592 using Meeting ID: 869 2205 8413. For those wishing to comment during the dedicated public comment portion of the meeting, but who may be unable to attend (in person or via Zoom), public comments may also be submitted in advance via email to mcanesi@cityofnorthfield.org or by written letter to the Office of the Municipal Clerk, 1600 Shore Road, Northfield NJ 08225, or by hand delivery to the drop box in the parking lot at the south corner of the municipal building, addressed to the attention of the Municipal Clerk. Comments shall contain the name and address of the author, will be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting, and must be received by 2:00pm on March 16, 2021.

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

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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): Councilman Dewees Councilwoman Madden; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Perri; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Utts with a second of Councilman Dewees, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of February 25, 2021, and the minutes of March 2, 2021 as amended, without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Chau announced the creation, by Clerk Canesi and Deputy Clerk Campbell, of the YouTube channel for the public to view City Council meetings at their convenience, all 2021 meetings have been published on the channel and future meetings will be added the day after the meeting. The link to channel was on the City website; he thanked Clerk Canesi and Deputy Clerk Campbell once again.

Mayor Chau read the following Police Department report for February: 2,300 total calls; 136 motor vehicle stops; 1,415 property checks; 2 DWI citations.

Mayor Chau reported there was a response from the Planning Board with regard to our ordinance, Mayor Chau noted that there have been other signs and temporary banners that don’t fall within that category, he had spoken with Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Dattalo, these other types of temporary signs are not covered. The Planning Board discussed that it should be at the discretion of the Zoning Officer, but the Zoning Officer was not comfortable with that, he had offered to work with Planning Board President Levitt to address. With regard to our Memorial Day Event, Deputy Clerk Campbell and Mayor Chau have started discussion to have the

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Memorial Day Event, at Veterans Park as we've traditionally had. Mayor Chau has had discussions, along with Councilwoman Madden and with the County, to discuss some of the benefits of the County library. He asked Council in the past if there were any concerns and there were none. He assured Council, and Councilman Perri in particular, that the County was very willing to continue our current outreach programs, they agree that they are important. The difference would be that the approval process goes to the County, instead of to the Library Director. He had copies of several sample lease agreements. There would be rental income, and with all shared services, there would be pros and cons, if Council wished to move forward it would have to go to the public in the form of a referendum. Just like with county court, when the time comes, he will have county representatives come to Council to answer any questions.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report as previously distributed to the Council. He met with Public Works Superintendent Vitale and Darren Boyd regarding the slip lining project and asset management project, he would have bid specifications for Council at our next meeting for approval, so we can go out to bid. He had a company coming in to do video piping starting March 22nd for at least 5 days. He received the core samples back from Shepherd Drive and they were in compliance with DOT. The final change order would be a reduction and he would have it for the next meeting. We would be milling tomorrow and were originally going to be paving on Thursday, that will be pushed to Friday. The installation of the handicap ramp will start next week. He anticipated all to be wrapped up by the end of the month, they will come back to install the automatic door sometime in April. The library will follow, for milling and paving, then Fuae Avenue. The contractor believed all of it would take approximately 8 working days.

Mayor Chau, to Engineer Nassar, asked was the contractor coming back to do any more work?

Engineer Nassar replied, yes, restoration behind the curb, and some landscaping.

Mayor Chau was is concerned about the 2 pieces that were breaking.

Councilman Dewees responded he was aware and he would discuss with Engineer Nassar.

Mayor Chau noted there was settlement at Roosevelt Avenue.

Engineer Nassar was aware, there was a deep sewer lateral but it should not cause the problem. There was a water company issue there that had been addressed, Public Works would use cold patch temporarily and if that does not work, we will use a paving contractor.

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Councilman Dewees added that on Oak, just south of Zion, there was a patch that needed to be addressed.

Engineer Nassar was aware, it would be addressed.

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.

Clerk Canesi advised there was no one in the Zoom chat who wished to speak.

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

RESOLUTION/2021 BUDGET

67A-2021 Introduction of the 2021 Budget
No public input on introduction
Budget Synopsis Published in the Press of AC 03/20/2021
Public Hearing and Final Adoption: 7:00 pm 4/20/2021

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Notaro seconded, to adopt Resolution 67A-2021.

The Municipal Clerk read the Resolution by title, and stated that this is the introduction, and there will be no public input. The budget synopsis would be published in the Press of Atlantic City on March 20, 2021. The full budget has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website. There would be a public hearing after which the matter would be considered for final adoption at 7pm on April 20, 2021.

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

RESOLUTIONS

On a motion of Councilman Smith, second of Councilman Notaro, all members present were in favor of voting by consent agenda for Resolutions 68-2021 through 74-2021.

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Council President Polistina announced 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 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.

- 68-2021** A Resolution Establishing Salaries for Non-Union Employees of the City of Northfield for 2021
- 69-2021** Acknowledging Retirement of Michael Dattalo Zoning/Housing and Code Enforcement Officer
- 70-2021** Authorizing Release of Performance Guarantees and Inspection Escrows, and Waiver of Maintenance Guarantee, for Block 23, Lot 16
- 71-2021** Authorizing Refund of Construction Permit Fees
- 72-2021** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – 14U South Jersey Surf
- 73-2021** A Resolution Declaring a Portion of Oak Avenue, and the Walking Path at Northfield Veterans Park, to be Designated ‘Purple Heart Way’
- 74-2021** 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. 10:4-12b (7) Regarding Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality

Councilman Smith motioned, second of Councilman Notaro, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 68-2021 through 74-2021.

In regard to Resolution 72-2021, Councilman Dewees announced that the applicant was aware of pending improvements at the Babe Ruth field; the applicant was aware of the circumstances and delay.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$314,640.50

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

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

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Councilman Perri read the meeting notices.

Council President Polistina announced the Executive Session for Resolution 74-2021. The Clerk will be making a statement for the record, and we will be moving into closed session discussion. After the closed session discussion, Council will return to public session and a comment will be made for the record. Any vote on any matters will be made in public.

74-2021 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. 10:4-12b (7) Regarding Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title. Clerk Canesi announced to the members of the public who were participating via 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, audio and video, as soon as the Executive Session concluded.

Clerk Canesi further 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. She 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 City's possessory rights to a portion of a parcel of land at Zion and Mill Road, housing certain sewer infrastructure. 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 advised members of the public that they must temporarily leave the room until the doors were reopened.

At 8:04pm Council entered Executive Session.

At 8:15pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. The matter discussed was the City's possessory and acquisition efforts and rights at Zion and Mill Roads. 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.

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At 8:16pm, on motion of Councilman Notaro, seconded by Councilman Dewees, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk