

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2023**

At 7:25pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi, who welcomed the audience. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 7, 2023 and in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

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

Present: Councilwoman Buccì; Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Nassar, and Chief VonColln were also in attendance.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Councilwoman Carfagno with a second by Councilman Notaro, all members present, were in favor of approving the minutes of March 2, 2023 and March 7, 2023, without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Related to discussion during the Work Session Meeting earlier in the evening, Mayor Chau clarified that a guinea pig is a rodent not a swine.

Ken Mosca had resigned from many years with Atlantic City Electric; he served for many years as governmental liaison, we wish him the best of luck. His replacement was Bert Lopez. Mayor Chau announced a ribbon cutting for Morgan Stanley this Thursday at 2pm, a walk-through would begin at 1pm for those who were interested. Police would be on site to assist with traffic control if needed. Mr. Gurwicz has approved the use of his property for overflow parking. The Municipal Court would have a virtual meeting on May 3rd and on August 9th; Mayor Chau would be attending. We have one vacancy on the Library Board, please submit a resume to City Clerk's office if interested. He received a letter from the County asking if we were interested in participating with a Health Insurance Fund (HIF) with the County; the Governor had kicked an increase to all municipalities. Mayor Chau did advise the County that we are interested, no Resolution is required at this time.

Councilman Smith, regarding the Court meeting on May 3rd, he asked what was the time of the meeting.

Mayor Chau replied 3pm; there was no link available yet but Mayor Chau would forward when it was available.

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CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineers Report as previously distributed to Council. He would appear before the court next week for the NJ American Water Company violation, he would discuss how to fix the area and would report back to Council. The contractor was still trying to figure out what happened with the slip lining incident in front of McDonald's. The initial attempts were unsuccessful, he would continue to report; other methods were being evaluated.

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.

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

RESOLUTION/2023 BUDGET

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilwoman Carfagno seconded, to adopt Resolution 77A-2023.

77A-2023 Introduction of the 2023 Budget
No public input on introduction
Budget Synopsis Published in the Press of AC 03/25/2023
Public Hearing and Final Adoption: 7:00 pm 4/18/2023

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 25, 2023. 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 18, 2023.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE 3-2023

Councilman Notaro motioned, Councilman Leeds seconded, to adopt Resolution 78-2023.

78-2023 Amending Ordinance No. 3-2023, as Introduced on January 17, 2023
Referral to Planning Board 03/22/2023; Published in Press of AC 03/25/2023
Public Hearing, Final Consideration 05/02/2023

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Solicitor Facenda explained that the sign ordinance was introduced, referred to the Planning Board, revisions were made, this clarified the nature of the changes. Due to the volume of changes we needed to amend by Resolution, refer it back to the Planning Board and it would come back to us for a public hearing and final consideration on May 2, 2023.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

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 motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci, all members present were in favor of voting on 79-2023 through 86-2023 by Consent Agenda.

- 79-2023** Conditional Extension of Outdoor Dining Timeframe Previously Approved by Resolution 80-2022 through December 31, 2023
- 80-2023** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Sewer Rents and Charges
- 81-2023** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - Ocean City Softball
- 82-2023** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - MRHS Softball
- 83-2023** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - NCS Field Days
- 84-2023** Reappointment of Timothy Joo to the Position of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
- 85-2023** A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to Execute an Interlocal Service Agreement with the Borough of Folsom for the Services of Chief Financial Officer
- 86-2023** 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) – Contract Negotiations and Matters Covered Under the Attorney Client Privilege

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilwoman Bucci seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

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Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds* – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith* – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

*Councilman Smith abstained from Resolution 82-2023.

*Councilman Leeds abstained from Resolution 84-2023.

ORDINANCES

Councilwoman Bucci motioned, Councilman Notaro seconded, to adopt Ordinance 5-2023.

5-2023 Repealing and Replacing Ordinance No. 4-2023, Calendar Year 2023 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 03/25/2023

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption and thereafter published. 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 Polistina opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt Ordinance 6-2023.

6-2023 An Ordinance Appropriating \$100,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Roof Replacement Project for Northfield City Hall, City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration
Published in the Press of AC 03/25/2023

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption and thereafter published. 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

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

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt Ordinance 6-2023.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 188,681.28

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

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

MEETING NOTICES

Councilwoman Bucci read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

86-2023 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) – Contract Negotiations and Matters Covered Under the Attorney Client Privilege

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title. 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 said she would defer to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Clerk Canesi announced to the members of the public who were in attendance in person that they would need to exit Council Chambers during the Executive Session. For those participating via Zoom, the audio and video portions of the meeting would be paused. At the conclusion of the Executive Session of Council, the Council would resume the public session, including reactivating the audio and video, and welcoming the return of the in-person public. A public statement would be made for the record at that time.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed was contractual negotiations pertaining to a potential joint court agreement with the town of

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Hammonton and matters requiring attorney client privilege. 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 remain in Council Chambers and return to the general public when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement. No action was anticipated to be taken.

At 7:46pm Council entered Executive Session, and remained in Council Chambers.

At 8:10pm 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 contractual negotiations pertaining to a potential joint court agreement with the town of Hammonton and matters requiring attorney client privilege. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown. No official action will be taken tonight.

At approximately 8:10pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk