

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 24, 2015**

At 7:15pm, 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, Piergiovanni, Travagline

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

Council President Travagline welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced an Award for Detective Buccafurni, he then deferred to Mayor Chau.

Mayor Chau read the following statement:

“The 200 Club of Atlantic and Cape May Counties Presented a Certificate of Commendation for Exceptional Service in the Line of Duty to Detective Michael Buccafurni and other local Law Enforcement Officers.

Along with other local Law Enforcement Officers Detective Michael Buccafurni was assigned to the FBI Safe Streets Task Force and where they were lead detectives/agents in a five-month investigation that culminated in the arrest of 16 individuals involved in a drug-trafficking organization with ties to the Sinaloa drug cartel in Mexico. The investigation resulted in execution of 13 simultaneous arrest warrants in Atlantic City, Hamilton Township, Somers Point, Pennsylvania and California.

Seized during the investigation was \$160,000 in cash, 10 kilos of heroin and four kilos of powder cocaine. In total the street value of the drugs seized during the investigation and the execution of search warrants is \$2.25 million. Seized during the search warrants: 40 bags of heroin, more than a kilogram of crack cocaine, 2 lbs. of marijuana, \$125,000 in cash, 8 handguns, 1 shotgun, 2 Tasers, ammunition, 3 bulletproof vests, 10 motor vehicles, contents of 3 bank accounts and 8 parcels of real estate.

The outstanding, long term investigation conducted by the detectives and agents, and their diligence, dedication and commitment reflects favorably on their person and their respective agencies.”

Mayor Chau then called Detective Buccafurni to receive his award and congratulated him.

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Council President Travagline stated that he has known the Buccafurni family for many years and congratulated him.

Detective Buccafurni thanked Mayor and Council.

Councilman O'Neill asked about a recent lifesaving incident.

Mayor Chau stated that the members involved will be recognized at the next meeting.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilman O'Neill to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 10, 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 –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Perri stated that insurance is looking for a health person to take over duties, he hasn't had anyone come forward; if anyone is interested please contact Councilman Perri. Councilman Perri and Councilman Dewees will meet with sewer personnel at 10am on April 2nd. The next Planning Board meeting has one application and an overview of the Veteran's Park. Councilman Perri stated at the last meeting the City lost another opportunity for a cell tower, feels the City Hall property needs to be looked at as a possible location for a cell tower.

Council President Travagline delegated to Councilman Perri that he should look at the cell tower issue.

Councilman Perri is trying to coordinate with the Municipal Alliance to host a senior event but budget has not yet been approved.

**Councilman O'Neill** - Fire Department/EMS, Court/Violations, FAN, Library, Economic Development, Shared Services

Councilman O'Neill informed everyone that EMS has new ambulances, they are the new vendor for Shore Memorial, and will be re-lettered with the Shore logo. He received a sample RFP for debt collection services for the court, he strongly encouraged that the City engage in this service. Spoke regarding the roof issue fort

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the library, once issue is addressed the library will be grateful for the repair, the roof repair is greatly needed.

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

Councilman Dewees stated the issue of prevailing wage will be addressed; he stated that the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor did do due diligence in getting prices. Dewees discussed bike trails at the park with Park Supervisor Vicky Rutter, and will be having a meeting with her tomorrow.

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

Councilman Murray attended a meeting at Veterans' Park today with Councilman Dewees, Mr. Webb, Engineer Kwapinski and 2 members of the local Army Reserve, they want to help grade the area with their heavy machinery. They will also do projects at Birch Grove Park.

Councilman Dewees stated the army reserve may have some time in June, and may be able to spend a few weeks here in Northfield and at the park.

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

Councilman Lischin attended a meeting at the Four Seasons Condominiums with members of the Police Department, Fire Department and Mayor Chau which was very well received. Residents told great stories of how wonderful and attentive our Police and Fire Departments are. He explained the Life Liner Program. He also had a meeting today with Detective Sergeant Dettinger, the Fire Chief and County personnel regarding radios along with a representative from Harris Radios. Northfield will have to be P25 compliant, if we use a State Contract vendor it will be a nice easy transition, lifecycle of the new radios will have a useful life of at least 10 years. We can use some of our existing equipment up until 2017. The entire replacement project will cost \$300k or more, he suggested looking into a leasing option for some of the costs. \$250k was budgeted.

Councilman Perri referred to unfunded federal mandate, we had talked to Pleasantville on some other issues, they got a 5 year unconditional warranty. He urged that Northfield do that. A 1 year warranty is boiler plate, 5 year maintenance agreement is negotiable.

Councilman Lischin stated that at the last meeting Council discussed accepting credit card payments, a representative from Edmunds and Associates will be here at the next meeting, along with the Tax Collector, Cindy Ruffo. Municipal Clerk Canesi

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and CFO Dawn Stollenwerk are meeting with representatives from our payroll company this week to look at their product for time clocks. Time clocks makes sense for accountability. The Cultural Committee had meeting last week, their flea market scheduled for April 25th, they are having a reunion/open house at the museum on May 17th. He also attended the Mainland Regional High School Board of Education meeting, their budget meeting is April 27th, their preliminary budget is 4.3 cents and we are more than others because of our equalization rate of 105%. Enrollment is down and the school is attempting to save money through attrition. \$2M of the budget goes to the special services school. He will provide an update on solar at the next meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau stated that he will provide a copy of the Mainland budget report to all of Council, The Mayor then asked Councilman Perri if the Planning Board talked about the Arthur Henry project.

Councilman Perri advised that the preliminary approval was granted, but that does not include drainage. The proposal was pretty cut and dry.

Mayor Chau shared that he was invited on Sunday to the Baptist Church in recognition of Police, Fire and EMS, the City was represented. Police, Fire and EMS representatives visited the Four Seasons Condominiums, the event was very well received. Mayor Chau was approached by the Police Department and they would like to be more involved with local groups. He commended them for that. Mayor Chau advised that here are two openings on the Birch Grove Park advisory board. Interested parties should submit resume to the City Clerk's office before 3/31. He invited anyone interested to participate in the Memorial Day Parade to contact his office or the Clerk's office. Mayor Chau then referred to flood insurance rate maps provided by FEMA; if these are finalized the City will have to adopt measures to remain in the flood insurance management program. He asked the Engineer to look at the maps as well. Mayor Chau was approached by a video company who expressed interest in creating a video at no cost that promotes our City, and they will link it to our website as well as to the County website. He felt this would be great public relations for the City, won't cost anything, it is advertiser based and they will solicit area businesses and give them the same opportunity. If the company doesn't get businesses, it's still free to us.

Councilman Dewees advised that Northfield Community School will be at the next Council meeting to present their budget; they are at about 2 cents.

Engineer Kwapinski stated that he attended a meeting with the ACIA about the CDBG funds; the 2015 allocation is out and it is higher than anticipated. We can expand our ADA improvement efforts at the Park. Final plans for the Route 9 Sidewalk Project will be shared with the city by DOT and there will be a comment

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period. He also attended a meeting for multijurisdictional hazard mitigation; a committee has been formed to work on a plan.

Councilman Perri asked if Kwapinski had a plan of Veterans' Park to be used at the Planning Board Meeting; Kwapinski replied that he did and said he would be in attendance at the meeting.

**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.

**RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded for adoption of Resolution 67-2015

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

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded for adoption of Resolution 67-2015

67-2015            Authorization for Final Restoration Waiver and Execution of Agreement with South Jersey Gas Company, Inc.

Councilman O'Neill thanked everyone who worked on the project.

Council President Travagline would like to do same with the water company, the City can save up to 20% of costs.

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 Resolution 67-2015.

Council President stated that 68-2015 will be postponed until the next meeting; the CFO will check to see if the proposal included prevailing wage.

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**ORDINANCES**

**9-2015**           An Ordinance Amending Chapter 330 Of The Code Of The City Of Northfield Governing Streets And Sidewalks  
*2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 3/24/2015*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and announced the final publication date. This is the second reading and the matter will be considered for final adoption after the public hearing. Since introduction 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.

Council President Travagline opened the public hearing. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak on Ordinance 9-2015, he closed the public hearing.

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

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, to adopt Ordinance 10-2015.

**10-2015**           An Ordinance Amending Chapter 264 of the Code of the City of Northfield Governing Precious Metals and Secondhand Goods  
*2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 3/24/2015*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and announced the final publication date. This is the second reading and the matter will be considered for final adoption after the public hearing. Since introduction 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.

Council President Travagline opened the public hearing. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak on Ordinance 10-2015, he closed the public hearing.

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

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded, to introduce Ordinance 11-2015.

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11-2015        An Ordinance Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement between the City of Northfield and the Atlantic County Utilities Authority  
*Introduction/No Public Input*  
*Published in the Press of AC 3/28/2015*  
*2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 4/14/2015*

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 –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 11-2015.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$1,779,412.81.

Councilman Perri questioned the \$5,800.00 in bills for labor counsel and stated some of it could have been done in house with a Business Administrator.

Council President Travagline stated he was not sure that statement was true.

Councilman Perri disagreed.

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

Council President Travagline read the meeting notices.

At 8:05pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk