

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 24, 2020**

At 6:15pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2020, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Councilman Dewees; Councilman O'Neill; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Perri; Mayor Chau

**ABSENT:** Councilwoman Korngut; Councilwoman Madden

Solicitor Stein, Engineer Nassar, Deputy Clerk Campbell and Chief Newman were also in attendance.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilman O'Neill, second of Councilman Dewees, all present were in favor of approving the minutes of the meetings of March 10, 2020 without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau thanked all for their cooperation; these were trying times and things were evolving and changing every day. By Executive Order he had closed City Hall but we were still open for business, if anyone needed to contact City employees they were asked to call first and an appointment could be set up if necessary. Bills could be paid through various options, including the drop box at City Hall as well as some that could be made online. He announced that he had a meeting with our Emergency Management Coordinator and various Departments to discuss procedures. We were all within the scope of what was being proscribed as far as curfew, and with Police, and in keeping our City safe. New Jersey American Water would begin flushing activity during early morning hours, Mayor Chau advised the water company was aware to keep noise and light disturbances to a minimum.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Perri opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any subject.

Deputy Clerk Campbell read the following question from a live-stream participant:

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Marina Campbell, 2006 Glenwood Drive, asked if the rabies clinic had been rescheduled.

Clerk Canesi explained possible future plans for the clinic; it had not been rescheduled yet, but if it is, we would make that date available via the City's regular communication outlets and would probably re-advertise in the Current.

Council President Perri asked if there were any other questions.

Deputy Clerk Campbell read the following comment from live stream:

Clem Scharff asked that people speak closer to the microphone.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak or make a comment Council President Perri closed the public session.

**RESOLUTIONS**

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 a motion of Councilman O'Neill, second of Councilman Utts, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 76-2020 through 82-2020.

- 76-2020** Authorizing Refunds for Overpayment of taxes
- 77-2020** Authorizing Extension of the Imposition of Late Fees for Registration of Dogs and Cats
- 78-2020** Resolution Authorizing Shared Services Agreement with the Atlantic County Utilities Authority for Solid Waste Collection Services
- 79-2020** Authorizing Refund for Overpayment of Sewer
- 80-2020** Resolution Establishing Salaries for Non-Union Employees of the City of Northfield for Calendar Year 2020

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**81-2020** Approving a Sidebar Agreement between the City of Northfield and Government Workers Union Local No. 430 for White Collar Employees, with Respect to a Rider for Said Agreement which Covers Adult School Crossing Guards

**82-2020** 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.S.J.A. 10:4-12b(7), Regarding Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege

Councilman O'Neill motioned, second of Councilman Utts to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 76-2020 through 82-2020.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – absent, Mrs. Madden – absent, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES**

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Utts seconded to adopt Ordinance 2-2020, to be read by title only.

**2-2020** 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

*Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration  
Published in the Press of AC 03/28/20*

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 Perri opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to comment he closed the public hearing.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – absent, Mrs. Madden – absent, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

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Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt Ordinance 3-2020, to be read by title only.

**3-2020**           An Ordinance Amending Chapter 43 and Chapter A376 of the Code of the City of Northfield  
*Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration*  
*Published in the Press of AC 03/28/20*

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 Perri opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to comment he closed the public hearing.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – absent, Mrs. Madden – absent, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman O'Neill seconded, to adopt Ordinance 4-2020, to be read by title only.

**4-2020**           Amending Chapter 250 of the City of Northfield Municipal Code, Entitled Parks and Recreation Areas  
*Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration*  
*Published in the Press of AC 03/28/20*

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 Perri opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to comment he closed the public hearing.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – absent, Mrs. Madden – absent, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

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Councilman Utts motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Ordinance 5-2020, to be read by title only.

**5-2020**            Establishing the Position of Police Matron  
*Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration*  
*Published in the Press of AC 03/28/20*

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 Perri opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to comment he closed the public hearing.

Mayor Chau asked if the position was open to both sexes.

Council President Perri replied he would yield to Chief Newman.

Mayor Chau also referred to what he thought was a typo.

Clerk Canesi explained that “his” referred to the supervisor.

Clerk Canesi added that our labor counsel spent considerable time researching whether or not we could limit this position to just females, and it was decided that we can. We had an abundance of male officers; otherwise, we would not need the position.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – absent, Mrs. Madden – absent, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Perri asked if we could hold the public hearing.

Clerk Canesi suggested waiting until 7pm, as advertised.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**    \$1,032,369.62

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

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – absent, Mrs. Madden – absent, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Perri read the meeting notices.

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Council President Perri and Clerk Canesi discussed entering into executive session and returning to the regular meeting for the 7pm Public Hearing.

Council President Perri felt they could hold the executive session and return by 7pm or a few minutes later.

Clerk Canesi advised that Council would retire to the Clerk's Office and that social distance parameters were not labeled as they had been in Council Chambers. She advised how the meeting would be conducted, and requested that members of Council establish distance between themselves once inside the Clerk's Office.

She announced to live-stream members who may be present that the video would remain on, but the sound would be turned off until Council returned.

Council President Perri announced the Executive Session for Resolution 82-2020, Council would return to public session at the conclusion of the Executive Session and make a statement for the record.

*At 6:40pm Council President Perri motioned, Councilman Smith seconded to move to the Clerk's Office. All members present were in favor.*

*At 6:40pm Council President Perri briefly resumed the meeting to allow Solicitor Stein to make a comment.*

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Smith seconded to reopen the meeting. All members present were in favor.

**82-2020**      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.S.J.A. 10:4-12b(7), Regarding Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege

Clerk Canesi read the resolution by title, and said we are required to set forth as much information as possible about the subject matter to be discussed as well as provide for the public the amount of time that can be expected to elapse before the non-public minutes can be disclosed. Clerk Canesi deferred to Solicitor Stein for comment.

Solicitor Stein stated that the last Executive Session was closed to the public for the purpose of discussing litigation with union employees. Council would be discussing with labor counsel what was going on with the matter. He believed that 90 days would be a reasonable time for the minutes to be released due to the current state of the world and the courts may be closing down. Executive Session as it is attorney client privilege.

*At 6:42pm Councilman Dewees motioned, Council President Perri seconded to move to the Clerk's Office. All members present were in favor.*

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*At 7:06pm Council President Perri resumed the public session.*

Solicitor Stein announced that as indicated council met by phone with labor counsel. He believed that 90 days would be a reasonable time for the minutes to be released, if we meet with labor counsel again within 90 days we would update.

Councilman Perri moved to the public hearing for a hardship waiver.

**7:00PM PUBLIC HEARING**

- Street Opening Moratorium Hardship Exception Request, Block 154, Lot10, 41 East Oakcrest Avenue

**RESOLUTION**

**75-2020** A Resolution Ruling on a Request for a Hardship Exception from Road Opening Moratorium for Block 154, Lot10, 41 East Oakcrest Avenue

Solicitor Stein read the following statement into the record:

“Good afternoon, I am writing in behalf of myself and my husband, Robert Callaghan, in lieu of appearing in person tonight at the city council meeting (honoring EO107) regarding the matter of the opening of E Oakcrest Ave for gas line installation for new construction at 41 E Oakcrest Ave. We own and reside at the adjacent property, 43 E Oakcrest Ave. It is our belief that the request to provide an exception should be granted. Since we moved here in 2008, we have seen multiple street openings during the last 12 years, and witness multiple paving, 1/2 street paving and utility work projects. Further there is another property directly across the street that will likely be requesting to open the opposite side of the street anyway for their utility work as they break ground (site of fire in early 2019). If we are to move forward and look to increase the property values in the neighborhood, it would seem prudent to allow the installation of the gas line and expedite completion of the project and sale of the property. We are therefore in support of the exception to the moratorium for the installation of the gas line to 41 E Oakcrest Ave. Thank you for your consideration. Brenda and Robert Callaghan, 43 E Oakcrest Avenue”

Council President Perri directed Solicitor Stein to open the hearing because testimony would have to be given.

Council President Perri swore-in Mr. Irv Juffe, 420 West Edgewood Avenue, Linwood.

Mr. Juffe explained that he was building a house there; gas was the safest and was an energy efficient source, as opposed to oil or propane. He did not realize the other side of the street had a moratorium; the house was designed for natural gas.

Solicitor Stein asked Engineer Nassar to speak.

Engineer Nassar explained that Mr. Juffe had applied for a building permit; after the moratorium expired on other side of street, a permit was issued for sewer. The house

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was under construction. When the contractor did the sewer line, they disturbed a portion of the street that was under moratorium. The gas company would go a little further into that opening. Eighty-five square yards of restoration would be required, and a bond of \$2,125.00 needs to be posted. If the applicant did not restore the road, when we have the road program we would do at no cost to the city.

Mayor Chau asked when the moratorium expired.

Engineer Nassar replied, 2023.

Councilman Dewees asked who would inspect the restoration.

Engineer Nassar replied that he would.

Councilman Dewees noted that we have had problems with settlement in the past; how long will Engineer Nassar continue to monitor it?

Engineer Nassar replied there was a minimum of 60 days before restoration could be made; and final restoration 3 months after.

Solicitor Stein added that he preferred a cash bond.

Council President Perri asked Mr. Juffe if he understood.

Mr. Juffe replied yes.

Council President Perri asked if there were any comments from the live stream attendees. There were none.

Councilman Perri asked if there were any other comments from Council. There were none.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to approve Resolution 75-2020.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – absent, Mrs. Madden – absent, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

Clerk Canesi asked Mr. Juffe to contact her office regarding posting the bond.

Council President Perri thanked Deputy Clerk Campbell and Clerk Canesi for the live stream; he hoped it worked out. He thanked Council members for coming out in these hard times, it was much appreciated.

At 7:18pm, on motion of Councilman Utts, seconded by Councilman Dewees, this meeting was adjourned.



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Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk