

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2018**

At 7:06pm, 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, Dewees
Absent: Travagline

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

Council President Dewees explained that we would be going out of order on the agenda this evening, and called for approval of the minutes.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Lischin, seconded by Councilman Murray to approve the minutes from March 27, 2018 without formal reading. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

All were in favor of approving the minutes of the meetings of March 27, 2018, without formal reading.

PUBLIC HEARING 2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Murray seconded, to adopt Resolution 93-2018.

93-2018 A Resolution of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Reading of the Budget by Title Only

Councilman O'Neill spoke, and said he has had change of heart about the budget and apologized to everyone on Council. He had been very diligent with trying to watch very dollar. He repeated that he has had a change of heart, and said some of it was personal. Since the last meeting he had witnessed two drug buys; for one he called the Northfield Police Department, and the other was in a restaurant and he did not call the police. He stated he would not name restaurant. He also found used bags of heroin in the City in places he'd never want to see heroin. Since the last meeting, two friends have lost children to heroin. He had asked friends in law enforcement about

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what can be done. He felt he had been penny wise and pound foolish and wanted another police officer in Northfield. He had friends who have said taxes are too high, and friends who have said we need more police. Unless we add additional funding for public safety, and he knew it is tough that he was asking to spend a few more dollars, heroin was in this town and the only thing he could do was combat this with more public safety. He felt another police officer will help.

Council President Dewees thanked Councilman O'Neill. He heard from Councilman O'Neill about this today and did reach out to CFO Stollenwerk. It was not in this budget, but we could amend this budget if enough members felt strongly enough. The officer would add about 1.2 cents to the tax increase.

Councilman Perri asked for the deadline.

Clerks Canesi explained if we amended the budget, we would postpone adoption from tonight until May 15th. Council would amend the budget by resolution on April 24th. There would be a final public hearing and adoption on May 15th. There are statutory deadlines.

Council President Dewees reiterated that any amendment to the budget would not be to go back through the budget. It would be to add a police officer only.

Councilman Perri stated that the war on crime and drugs had been going on a long time. He recalled when he was Mayor that the FBI and County Strike Task force were involved. He requested more input from our Police Department; he felt a lot of the activity was in our school system. Is our Detective Bureau checking these people?

Council President Dewees took a straw poll, Councilman Perri was not in favor of amending this budget, nor was Councilwoman Korngut or Councilman Murray.

Councilman Lischin was not happy about raising taxes; he said he would love to have another officer, but, did not feel it was necessary in this budget.

Council President Dewees was not in favor of amending budget to add an officer. He was aware of the problem and was sensitive to it.

Clerk Canesi stated there was a motion and a 2nd on the floor to authorize a Resolution for the reading of the budget by title only.

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

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70B-2018 Adoption of the 2018 Budget
Public Hearing and Final Consideration

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, to adopt Resolution 70B-2018.

Council President Dewees opened the public hearing for the 2018 Municipal Budget. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Korngut spoke, saying in light of the events that had transpired tonight, she had been vocal before that we needed to make more cuts, but in light of the fact that there is now a risk of the budget not passing, she also did not want to risk a further increase.

Councilman Perri thanked all for their hard work on the budget including the CFO, Clerk, etc. It was not easy and took a lot of time, we were at bare bones, he hoped in the years to come it would turn around but this was a frugal budget.

Councilman Lischin appreciated the hard work that went into the budget, it was not easy, had said before that even if we cut to zero, we are only saving 30% of the total taxes.

Mayor Chau appreciated Councilman O'Neill's plea to hire more personnel, but in this time, it did not seem financially feasible. He said he'd asked CFO Stollenwerk to provide information regarding council and mayor's salaries. This totals about \$71,000.000 and about .053%. To eliminate them it would save 65 cents; approximately \$6.50 on a house assessed at \$100,000.00. It may not sound like a lot, one resident said we need to work harder and he appreciated that. If mayor and council were paid and then donated their money back, the council would still have to budget it and the mayor and council would still pay taxes. If salaries were eliminated there would be no taxes paid. In all the years he'd served it had always been a tough issue. He appreciated everyone's comments.

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

PRESENTATION: Patrolman of the Year William VanPelt presented by the American Legion

Council President Dewees referred everyone to the top of the agenda and introduced Mark Doherty for the presentation of Police Officer of the Year.

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Commander Doherty of American Legion Post 295 apologized for the delay. He announced that once each year the Legion has the opportunity to recognize an officer. This year, Officer William VanPelt had been chosen as Officer of the Year.

Chief Newman announced that Officer VanPelt received a lifesaving award this year, he led the department in DWI arrests this year, and can constantly be counted on.

Mayor Chau presented Officer VanPelt with a Mayor's coin in appreciation for all he had done for the City.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Perri reported that the Senior Social had been rescheduled for April 19th at the library with Marilu Gagnon from Atlantic County Intergenerational Services. He attended a preconstruction meeting today for the Cresson Avenue Drainage project with the contractor and Engineer Nassar. The Planning Board had three applications, one was postponed and Mason Properties was given an extension on their approval. The sign ordinance was an issue; everyone from Council had received it. Perri would like to see that resolved in the next couple months. Clerk Canesi will be presenting at the seniors meeting regarding a radon program.

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 noted there were a few zoning issues that were being addressed. Baseball was starting up.

Councilman Perri inquired about the date for baseball opening ceremonies.

Councilman Murray replied Saturday.

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

Councilwoman Korngut reported that the Alliance Fishing Tournament is this Saturday the 14th, with registration at 7am. According to Kathi Smith, local businesses had been very generous, and they are expecting a great turnout. Chief Newman will be giving a great speech. This year the event will be open to veterans and kids with disabilities. Councilwoman Korngut attended the event at the library with Jane Stark, who was instrumental in creating Stockton's Holocaust Center in 1990. The library board will meet again next week.

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Council President Dewees added that Birch Grove Park would be open all day for the fishing tournament, it was fully stocked and the bathrooms would be open. It should be a fun day.

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

Councilman Travagline was absent.

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

Councilman Murray announced that the deadline for tax appeals had passed. We are still experiencing the same numbers of appeals as in past years. Numbers were not yet available but he would keep council informed.

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

Councilman Lischin read the Fire Department and EMS report for March which included: 2 building fires, 8 hazardous condition calls, 6 false alarm calls, 5 good intent calls 13 EMS assist incidents and 3 mutual aid calls.

TriCare had a total of 115 dispatches, 86 transports, 9 mutual aid calls to EHT and did not administer any Narcan.

He reported that as all of Council knew we hired an outside consultant to do a fire department study. Councilman Lischin said he had been in contact with the consultant, who had met with the paid and volunteer fire departments and would soon be meeting with County OEM. If there are any specific questions from Council, Councilman Lischin would be happy to address them. He thanked the Cultural Committee again for all that they do, and asked Engineer Nassar for an update on the museum ramp.

Engineer Nassar replied that he was waiting for the contract to be prepared by the attorney, adding that the weather was good, they could start any time.

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

Council President Dewees had nothing to report.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau asked Chief Newman to prepare a report to expand the responsibilities of the Class II Special, including visiting the school. Mayor Chau said Chief Newman had consulted with CFO Stollenwerk and she advised there were sufficient funds to expand the duties of the Class II. Would like to move forward with the purchase from capital of 2 police vehicles; asked Council President Dewees if this could be discussed tonight or at the next council meeting.

Council President Dewees replied that he would prefer to wait until the next council meeting to discuss.

Mayor Chau received letters about the 13.5%. He apologized for his long-winded comments on the budget, but he was the Chief Executive and because of our form of government he does not get to vote on the budget and does not get an opportunity to speak because this is a Council agenda and the Mayor's report comes at the end after the resolutions.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the engineer's report as distributed to Council. He received the final invoices for Bay Drive, one has a change order reducing the price and another has a change order increasing the prices. He was working on that. Regarding movable bollards for the bike path to prevent motor vehicles, they cost approximately \$250 each. Nassar asked how they would be funded.

Council President Dewees advised they could be paid with Bike Path funds.

Engineer Nassar advised that we would need between 10 and 12. Locations suggested were Oakcrest, Zion, Mill, Tilton and Jackson.

Engineer Nassar reported that as Councilman Perri stated, they had a preconstruction meeting with the contractor for the Cresson Avenue Drainage project. Our expectations were reviewed with the contractor, including site maintenance, resident notification, etc. Last Friday he met with Michael Minton from SJ Gas to discuss the paving and related issues - there were a lot and more have arisen over the winter. It seemed like the gas company wanted to get it done properly; he may need a letter from solicitor if there are difficulties.

Councilman O'Neill asked if there was any word from the County on the Mill Road project.

Engineer Nassar replied that the paving may not happen this year.

Council President Dewees added that we were still working on the easements.

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Engineer Nassar advised that the contractor came to meet with the Chief of Police regarding the Tilton Road project; the paving will be from Burton Avenue to Rite Aid – it would take only a few days.

Councilwoman Korngut asked if there was any issue on the odor at Wilson Drive.

Engineer Nassar responded that it had not recurred; they were watching it and would take action if necessary.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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

Heather Mellon, 2509 Herbert Drive, said she'd talked to Clerk Canesi about 2511 Herbert Drive, which had been vacant for 8-10 years. She said she wouldn't say who owned it because she did not want to embarrass them. The house is literally falling down and had been gutted. Plants were growing inside the house and the lawn was overgrown, there was moss on the roof. The garage door was corroded. This had caused deterioration of the quality of the neighborhood. She had been told by Clerk Canesi and by Mike Dattalo that nothing could be done. She wanted the ordinance changed to assess some sort of fine. She asked if someone from Council could contact the owner and tell them the City is very upset about this.

Council President Dewees advised that the City would contact the resident via the Code Enforcement Officer.

Clerk Canesi stated that she was recently told the house was in foreclosure and that a neighbor was interested in buying it.

Councilman Lischin added that we had the same issue last year, and confirmed that the City could only do so much. He advised that the City was aware. If the home went into foreclosure maybe that would be the best thing that could happen.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak Council President Dewees closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS

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.

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Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilwoman O’Neill seconded, to adopt Resolution 94-2018.

94-2018 A Resolution Supporting the 2018 “Udrive. Utext. Upay.” Distracted Driving Crackdown, April 1 - 21, 2018

Mayor Chau advised that this was a grant we received.

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

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilwoman O’Neill seconded, to adopt Resolution 95-2018.

95-2018 Separation of Employment Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II

Councilmen O’Neill and Perri along with Mayor Chau thanked Captain (Retired) Clark for his service.

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

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilwoman O’Neill seconded, to adopt Resolution 96-2018.

96-2018 Authorizing Refunds of Overpayment of Taxes

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

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilwoman O’Neill seconded, to adopt Resolution 97-2018.

97-2018 Authorizing Release of Performance Guarantees and Inspection Escrows, and Waiver of Maintenance Guarantee, for Block 42, Lots 8 and 9

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

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Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilwoman O'Neill seconded, to adopt Resolution 98-2018.

98-2018 Approval of Application for a Coin Drop

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

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilwoman O'Neill seconded, to adopt Resolution 99-2018.

99-2018 Waiver of Insurance Requirements for the Northfield Mothers' League

Councilman Lischin stated that this went back to the issue of insurance requirements, in that the Northfield Mothers' League wanted to hold their meetings at the library and needed insurance.

Councilwoman Korngut asked if anyone else was waived.

Clerk Canesi responded that she was not aware of any other waivers at this time.

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

Councilman Korngut motioned, Councilwoman O'Neill seconded, to adopt Resolution 100-2018.

100-2018 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 Regarding Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality – Mt Laurel Litigation

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 2,281,469.96

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman Lischin 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 –absent; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried.

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Council President Dewees read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

100-2018 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 Regarding Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality – Mt Laurel Litigation

The Municipal Clerk 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. Clerk Canesi then deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda stated that the matter to be discussed was continued prosecution of Mt. Laurel litigation and issues that had arisen with respect to a property known as the Mason Property. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law.

At 8:02pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.

At 8:31pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. No official action had been taken. The matter discussed was continued prosecution and defense of Mt. Laurel litigation specifically a potential settlement agreement condition with Mason Properties. The minutes were kept but will not be released until the matter had concluded and they would be released when permitted by law.

At 8:32pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk