

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 26, 2022**

At 6:48pm 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 in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231, on January 8, 2022.

FLAG SALUTE

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

Absent: Councilman Notaro

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Smith with a second of Councilwoman Bucci, all members present, with the exception of Councilman Smith who abstained, were in favor of approving the minutes of April 12, 2022 without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau reported he had the honor of assisting Mrs. Louise Daily in celebrating her 100th birthday with a very well attended drive-by. There would be a grand opening celebration at the County Court on May 4th at 11am, all were welcome to attend and tour the facility. Councilwoman Bucci and Mayor Chau met with representatives from the County and the Diocese regarding proposed senior housing. They were interested in a portion of the property off of Dolphin Avenue, grants were available. They are proposing approximately 70-80 units, all of which would qualify for our affordable housing credits. They were asking the Council to consider this. Councilwoman Bucci noted there would be traffic concerns. The County had made adjustments to the current traffic flow and were welcoming suggestions. Mayor Chau suggested to the County and the Diocese that we would not accept any desecration of the graves in this area; Mayor Chau was assured that this would not happen. If the Council wished to proceed, having discussion with County Administration, the County had asked Mayor Chau to request that discussion be initiated, as well as any appropriate parties relative to affordable housing, our engineer, etc. be included. If Council was interested Mayor Chau would contact Mr. Delrosso to move forward, however, with no guarantees.

Mayor Chau announced that Chief Newman had submitted his retirement papers for the end of this year, he will have served for 28 years. Chief Newman had done an excellent job, Mayor Chau offered Chief Newman congratulations. Mayor Chau had formed a committee to pursue the examination of the process, there will be a meeting

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with Council President Polistina, Councilman Dewees, Councilman Utts and Labor Counsel Curio to discuss the process.

Council President Polistina advised he did receive a letter from the County inviting the City to have a committee at their meetings.

Mayor Chau asked Council President Polistina if he could proceed and notify the County.

Council President Polistina replied, yes, noting that he, Councilwoman Bucci and Councilman Notaro were the committee.

Councilman Dewees asked if the County was still interested in our parcel; we should keep that in mind.

Council President Polistina agreed; that was a good idea.

CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer’s report as previously distributed to Council. Engineer Nassar reported that NJ American Water would be finished, including paving, within sixty days for Shepherd Drive and Hemsley Place. The concrete work on Merritt Drive was complete; they found an existing pipe that was shallow, collapse became a concern and it would be replaced at the contractor's expense, because the grant will cover it. Three trees also had to be removed for safety reasons. Paving should be complete in three weeks.

7PM - PUBLIC HEARING 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

- 95-2022 A Resolution of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Reading of the Budget by Title Only
- 96-2022 Self Examination of Budget Resolution

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to vote on Resolutions 95-2022 and 96-2022 by consent agenda.

Councilwoman Bucci asked why only one person in the City was getting a raise? The Business Administrator.

Clerk Canesi explained the union employees get their contractual increases January 1, each year, by contract. This resolution provided for increases to those not in a union. Every person received a raise; some were at the recommendation of CFO Stollenwerk, Clerk Canesi and Council President Polistina. The increases for others, including the Business Administrator position, were not recommended by her (Canesi), they were made strictly at the recommendation of the Council President

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and CFO.

Council President Polistina added that some of the inspectors received increases, based on staffing challenges in that department. He noted the salary Resolution was 103-2022.

With a motion and second, on the floor, all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 95-2022 and 96-2022 by Consent Agenda.

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

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

Clerk Canesi explained the process for introducing and adopting Resolutions 84B and 84C, and the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing

Council President Polistina opened the public hearing on the 2022 Budget.

Clerk Canesi asked those in Zoom wishing to speak, to please raise their hand.

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

84B-2022 Resolution to Amend Budget

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Utts seconded, to adopt Resolution 84B-2022.

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

84C-2022 Adoption of the 2022 Budget

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Utts seconded, to adopt Resolution 84C-2022.

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

RESOLUTIONS

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Council President Polistina 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 of funds 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.”

- 97-2022** Resolution of The City of Northfield, Atlantic County, New Jersey, Authorizing Fireworks Display on Private Property Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 21:3-3
- 98-2022** Resolution of The City of Northfield, Atlantic County, New Jersey, Authorizing Fireworks Display on Private Property Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 21:3-3
- 99-2022** Resolution of The City of Northfield, Atlantic County, New Jersey, Authorizing Fireworks Display on Private Property Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 21:3-3
- 100-2022** Resolution of The City of Northfield, Atlantic County, New Jersey, Authorizing Fireworks Display on Private Property Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 21:3-3
- 101-2022** Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 1, 2022 – March 14, 2023
- 104-2022** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities
- 105-2022** 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) –Matters Covered Under The Attorney Client Privilege

On motion of Councilwoman Bucci, seconded by Councilman Smith all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 97-2022 through 101-2022 and 104-2022 and 105-2022, by Consent Agenda.

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

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

- 102-2022** A Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Execute A Contract With An Approved State Contract Vendor Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a

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Councilwoman Bucci motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt Resolution 102-2022.

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

103-2022 A Resolution Establishing Salaries For Non-Union Employees Of The City Of Northfield For 2022

Councilwoman Bucci motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt Resolution 103-2022.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$1,229,902.37

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

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

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.

Councilman Utts read the meeting notices.

Council President Polistina announced the Executive Session for Resolution 105-2022.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

105-2022 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) –Matters Covered Under The Attorney Client Privilege

Clerk Canesi announced to the members of the public who were participating via

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Zoom that when the Executive Session commenced, she would be muting the audio, and the video would be temporarily paused. Council would resume the public session, including reactivating the audio and video, as soon as the Executive Session concluded and a public statement would be made for the record.

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 deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed was issues of public safety in and around the City of Northfield, requiring attorney client privilege and Council deliberation. 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.

At 7:13pm Council entered Executive Session, and remained in Council Chambers.

At 7:37pm 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 matters discussed were issues of public safety in and around the City of Northfield, requiring attorney client privilege and Council deliberation. Matters discussed were attorney client privileged and confidential and will remain that way. 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 7:38pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk