

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 28, 2015**

At 6:42pm, 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 Council Pro Tem Dewees

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Dewees, Lischin, Murray, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline  
Absent: O'Neill

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

Council President Travagline welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Murray, seconded by Councilman Lischin to dispense with the reading of the minutes of April 14, 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 –absent; 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

The Planning Board will meet next week, Rutala and Associates will present their pedestrian plan. Councilman Perri thanked Marilu Gagnon from the County for her presentation at the seniors meeting. Councilman Perri stated he is still looking for Safety Coordinator and Health Coordinator for the municipality. If anyone would like to do it, contact Councilman Perri.

**Councilman Piergiovanni** - Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance

Councilman Piergiovanni stated he is in remission from his cancer and in a maintenance period for two years which will require treatment, he said his attendance at meetings has been spotty but he is not in control of when the treatments are. He wanted to update Council and the public and explain why he is absent sometimes. He

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would like to speak with the Mayor to see Northfield has to do to participate in the CDBG.

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

Councilman Dewees stated that Birch Grove Park is gearing up for the summer season, there will be a run this weekend and he is working with the Park Supervisor on an event schedule. The park is almost up to full staff, an additional maintenance worker will be hired shortly. Public Works is working on getting the vacuum machine up and running to service the basins and will be out on the streets in the next week or so, grass cutting season is also in full swing. A new score stand is being built at the fields in anticipation of a State Softball Tournament this summer, all volunteer labor, Councilman Dewees thanked Engineer Kwapinski for his contribution. Northfield Community School passed their \$15M budget.

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

Councilman Murray stated that Northfield Community School students are doing great work at the Veterans Park in preparation for the Memorial Day Ceremony this year. The issue on Vernon Avenue will come to a resolution in court that is beneficial to the complainant and the City.

Councilman Travagline commented that residents came to Council and that the City was able to move to a resolution for the problem.

Councilman Dewees feels the City should reduce the height required for a grass violation; right now it's 18 inches. He believed it should be lower.

*At 6:52pm Mayor Chau entered the meeting.*

Council President Travagline asked if the grass cutting could be contracted out.

Councilman Perri stated the taxpayer is already paying.

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

Councilman Lischin informed Council that the City will be moving forward with the Edmunds WIPP Program; residents will be able to do online payments via credit card or e-check. He will keep Council updated as to the transition. CFO Stollenwerk and Municipal Clerk Canesi met with the time clock people last Thursday; the system will integrate seamlessly with our payroll system and will track accumulated time for

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the various CBA's. We are waiting for a proposal. Sergeant Dettinger has been working hard on the P25 project, he commended him for that. The Cultural Committee had a yard sale at the school last weekend it was a great success. Mainland Regional High School passed their budget as well, around \$27M. Councilman Lischin will try to get the solar company here for the next meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau apologized for being late. He apologized to the public whose trash did not get picked up, and said the City is very happy with the service from ACUA. The Police Department will block off a portion of Mill Road for the Memorial Day parade, residents who need handicapped parking should come at 9am and officers will assist them. There will be offsite parking at Blake's Gym and at Mr. Scheffler's office. Residents who can walk to the park are encouraged to do so. Mayor Chau signed a contract with a company called CGI who will produce a video showcasing what the City has to offer; it will be posted on our website. Mayor Chau recommended staying with the CDBG program.

Councilman Dewees noted that no action is necessary unless we want to opt out of the program.

Mayor Chau mentioned a flag/banner program that he would like to institute; banner style flags that are advertiser sponsored will take the place of the present flags. The suggested flags have a much longer lifespan and no cost to the City.

Councilman Dewees asked who will install the flags.

Mayor Chau stated the Road Department.

Councilman Dewees mentioned that the City will need to borrow Somers Point's bucket truck.

Mayor Chau will draw up letter and solicit the businesses; he is shooting for 25 flags. Starting at City Hall and moving in both directions then possibly the bike path if we get more.

Councilman Dewees questioned as to whether or not we need permission from Atlantic Electric.

Mayor Chau replied yes.

Councilman Piergiovanni requested that Tilton Road be considered as well.

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Council President Travagline commented that the City would also need permission from the County for Shore or Tilton Roads.

Mayor Chau agreed, and proposed the bike path as an option. He asked for Council's go ahead to move forward.

Council President Travagline conducted a straw poll; all present in favor.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Kwapinski reviewed the engineers report. He commented that he is putting the ADA improvements for the athletic fields out to bid, with hopes to award in May. The water company has started their project on East Rosedale, the project moving forward according to plan. The paving should start in June on the SJ Gas project. The City received a letter from the Department of Transportation regarding 2015 state aid for the reconstruction of Bay Drive; the City was awarded \$190k

Mayor Chau announced commendations being presented to 4 police officers who were involved in life saving efforts. Mayor Chau read the following statement:

On Tuesday 2/10/2015, members of the Northfield Police Department were dispatched to 52 Dolphin Avenue to a report of a female having seizures. Upon arrival the fifty-two (52) year old female was found unconscious and unresponsive, without a pulse or respirations. Multiple family members were present and highly distraught. Sergeant Pollak, Patrolman Dever, Patrolman Geiger and Shore EMS immediately began CPR and hooked an A.E.D. to the patient. The patient was shocked multiple times and CPR continued. AtlantiCare medics arrived and began advanced life support measures. The patient began to exhibit signs of a pulse and respirations, and was transported to Mainland division hospital. I'm happy to report the patient was released from the hospital after a short stay and back home with her family.

Mayor Chau called forward Acting Chief Newman. They presented awards to Patrolman Michael Bach, Sergeant Scott Pollak, Acting Sergeant Robert Dever and to Patrolman William Geiger.

Acting Chief Newman thanked the men and stated that he sleeps better at night knowing these men are our protecting our town.

Traci Fisher thanked them all, hugged each officer. She and her family are so thankful to them for saving her life.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

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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.

Council President Travagline appreciates what the officers do day in and day out.

**RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA**

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 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. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Perri seconded for Resolutions 79-2015 to 93-2015 to be voted on by consent agenda.

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 to vote by consent agenda.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Perri seconded for adoption of Resolutions 79-2015 to 93-2015 by consent agenda.

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 Resolutions 79-2015 to 93-2015.

**ORIDINANCES**

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded, to introduce Ordinance 13-2015.

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

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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 13-2015.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS \$**

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

Council President Travagline stated he has concerns with Fire Department Overtime and will address it with Councilman O’Neill.

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 payment of bills.

Council President Travagline read the meeting notices.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Council President Travagline announced that Council will be entering Executive Sessions and the resolutions authorizing each session were adopted earlier in the evening as part of the Consent Agenda.

**93-2015** 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. 10:4-12B(4), Regarding Contract Negotiations for 9-1-1 Dispatch Services

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session is in regards to continued negotiations regarding 911 services. The minutes will be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. Timeframe is not known as negotiations will continue. This session is for discussion purposes only; no action is anticipated by council.

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At 7:27pm Council adjourned to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session discussion.

At 7:48pm Council returned from Executive Session.

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session has concluded no formal action was taken. The issues discussed were continued updates and contractual negotiations. Minutes were kept and once negotiations have concluded, the minutes will become available for public inspection. The timeframe is unknown as negotiations are ongoing.

At 7:48pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk