

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 7, 2019**

At 7:10pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 5, 2019, 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: Dewees, Korngut, Madden, O'Neill, Perri, Smith, Lischin

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Madden, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of April 16, 2019, without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

7PM PRESENTATION

YOUTH OF THE MONTH FOR MAY 2019 – *Miss Sophia Sylvester*

Council President Lischin announced the inaugural presentation of our Youth of the Month, he introduced Councilwoman Korngut.

Councilwoman Korngut called forward and introduced Sophia Sylvester. She said Sophia's mom sent an email sharing some of the things that Sophia was doing. Councilwoman Korngut sent that information to Mayor Chau. Around Christmas time, Sophia made blessing bags with pens, paper, socks, and other necessities, and her Mom took her to Atlantic City to pass them out, as her Christmas wish. Councilwoman Korngut commented that kids like Sophia give Northfield a good name.

Sophia introduced her friends that were here in attendance, along with her parents.

Councilwoman Korngut thanked Sophia's mom and introduced Mayor Chau for the formal presentation.

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Mayor Chau thanked Sophia for her leadership and maturity; he presented her with a certificate of recognition, and with a Mayor's coin. He informed her that her photo would be in the hallway at City Hall.

Council President Lischin thanked Councilwoman Korngut for putting this together, adding she has great ideas and has been a breath of fresh air.

Councilman Perri commented that maybe Sofia would be the next mayor!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri - Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Sewer Operations, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri recognized Councilwoman Korngut, Kathi Smith and Chief Newman for their 'Hooked on Fishing' event. The kids had a great time and it was very well attended. Things were still on hold with the ACUA. The next Seniors meeting will be on May 16th at noon and they will be having a presentation from the Atlantic County Office of Emergency Management. He congratulated Darren Boyd on the birth of his son, and extended best wishes to his family. Two applications were approved by the Planning Board. Councilman Perri complimented the city workers for the municipal facilities, park, and bike path, stating they all looked very nice.

Regarding the Planning Board application dealing with the tobacco retail, Solicitor Facenda asked Councilman Perri if there was an issue with the ordinance that needed to be addressed.

Councilman Perri replied yes, it says wholesale and should say retail.

Solicitor Facenda asked if we should address the issue.

Councilman Perri replied yes.

Councilman Perri noted he was still having issues scheduling a meeting with the ACUA. He needed proof that the metering issues were being done; he would have to go to the board president.

Clerk Canesi noted that the last email she saw from Mr. Pantalone stated that the scheduling issues had been resolved. She asked for confirmation that while Councilman Perri continued to try to schedule his meeting, that she should continue to try to schedule Mr. Pantalone for attendance at the next Council meeting on May 21st. She would advise Mr. Pantalone that Councilman Perri and Engineer Nassar would still be interested in meeting with them before that meeting.

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Councilman Perri confirmed and stated there were several issues, in addition to the flow billing issues, and we did not have the answers to them.

Councilman O’Neill - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Court/Violations, FAN

Councilman O’Neill had no report. He concurred with Councilman Perri that the fields looked great. He felt Superintendent Vitale and his team had done a great job.

Councilwoman Korngut – Library, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Technology/MRHS Channel 2

Councilwoman Korngut echoed Councilman Perri's comments about the successful fishing event; she gave all credit to Kathi Smith, Chief Newman, and the Foremans, who put on a successful event every year. The school budget increase was at 2 cents; she had requested a copy of their PowerPoint budget presentation if anyone would be interested. There will be a vaping presentation on May 22nd at the Library; she thanked the Librarian for her help with that. Councilwoman Korngut was working with Kathi Smith to have the Municipal Alliance provide refreshments at the presentation. She apologized to Councilwoman Madden for not saying something sooner about the conduct of the Council President. She was also disappointed that no one else spoke up. She was speaking up now. It wasn't right. Unfortunately, it was not the first time; she heard the apology, but was disappointed in the apology. She knew that more than one person requested the audio and video, but the audio was not working and the video was not available. She did not feel Councilman Lischin was observing Robert's Rules consistently; Council President Lischin has cut-off members of the public and had spoken inappropriately to the Planning Board Chair. She felt Council President Lischin's behavior was misogynistic; he would never have spoken to a man on this dais in that manner. She felt his tone had not fostered discussion and debate, but instead gave authoritarian members of Council the power to run roughshod over less aggressive members of this body. She did not know if others would have the courage to speak up, but felt they all agreed with her. With a heavy heart, with a tremendous sense of what was right, she made a motion to remove the Council President.

Councilwoman Madden seconded the motion.

Councilman O’Neill stated that Councilwoman Korngut has embarrassed members of Council, and had posted information on Facebook about the Police Department. He felt Councilwoman Korngut should apologize to a certain member of Council and to the Northfield and Linwood Police Departments. He felt Councilwoman Korngut's position was based in the fact that she was running for higher office. He had been appalled by Councilwoman Korngut's comments about public safety.

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Councilwoman Korngut pointed out that Councilman O'Neill was not at the last meeting.

Council President Lischin said he appreciated Councilwoman Korngut's comments, and said he started the meeting with an apology because he was remorseful, and sometimes things happen and we can move on. We have emotions, we are all human, he said he was passionate and wanted to help the residents. He understood what Councilwoman Korngut was trying to do, but wished she would keep her political aspirations separate.

With a motion on the floor by Councilwoman Korngut, seconded by Councilwoman Madden for the removal of the Council President Lischin, Clerk Canesi was asked to call roll.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - no, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O'Neill - no, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - no; Mr. Lischin – no; Motion failed.

Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Parks, Playgrounds

Councilman Dewees had no report this evening.

Councilman Smith– Finance/Collections, Little League/Babe Ruth, Shared Services

Councilman Smith reported that as the Coach of Mainland Softball, the Pink Game was held here at City fields and the fields were spectacular. The bases and lining were pink. He thanked the private members who helped do that, and City personnel who helped. He thanked all who made that happen. Tomorrow there was a Salute to Service at Mainland at 4pm.

Councilman Dewees advised Councilman Smith that he received a report about the fence on the 3rd base side and would take care of it.

Councilwoman Madden – Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden reported the next safety meeting would be held in May. The Mainland Regional High School budget meeting was last night, and the tax increase for Northfield will be \$31 per hundred thousand. She had been working with Denny Sher on the ratio of valuation issue, and would also attempt to meet with Mark Sykes. She wanted to make sure that when the apartment complex opens that we make sure that the amount of money to cover the school is collected and goes to the right place.

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Council President Lischin, referring to the increase of 3.1 cents for Mainland and 2.0 cents for Northfield, asked Councilwoman Madden and Councilwoman Korngut to have the respective boards come to Council to speak regarding their budget.

Council President Lischin - Fire Department/EMS, Cultural Committee

Council President Lischin reported that the Fire Department calls for April included: 2 total fire incidents, 4 false alarm calls, 1 good intent call, 6 hazardous condition calls, 2 service call incidents, 1 EMS 1st responder incidents and 0 mutual aid calls; for a total of 16 dispatched incidents. TriCare had a total of 110 dispatches, 102 calls with patients, 79 transports, 5 mutual aid calls to EHT and did not administer any Narcan.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau reported that after listening to Councilwoman Korngut and Councilman O'Neill's comments it was his hope that we could move forward; the people elected us. Let's move forward and do what we were supposed to be doing. He read the April Police Department report, and noted that the deadline to apply for the position of police officer was Friday May 10th. He hoped to be interviewing soon. Mayor Chau said that many know he is a big advocate of recycling; he had distributed information to Council regarding clothing recycling bins and would like Council to consider allowing placement of same. He suggested the City Garage, and offered that it would be a good way to encourage recycling of clothing and shoes. If they become unsightly the company would remove them, and they were full insured. They were offering a percentage of revenue that the City can donate to a charity of their choice.

Solicitor Facenda would be happy to look at the literature, but added that you see a lot of them, and it seemed like it had become more of a business. He explained these could become a dumping ground for furniture, trash, etc.

Councilman Dewees had concerns about the Public Works yard, vehicle access, parking, etc.

Mayor Chau replied that he was only asking Council to consider.

Councilman O'Neill announced that Friendly's had closed, and there was a new owner moving in. There was apparently a cat colony behind Friendly's.

Councilman Dewees replied that it was behind the real estate office. It is a zoning issue, and he advised Councilman O'Neill to speak with the Zoning Officer.

Councilman Perri felt that the Mayor's request for a clothing bin should be for placement in a commercial area, not in a residential zone.

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Mayor Chau reported that he recently attended the Grand Opening of Diane's Grooming, Miami Breeze, and Tilton Theatre. These were quality businesses and we welcome them to Northfield.

Mayor Chau also added that the banner program was coming along; we would start in front of City Hall, with 15 flags installed in each direction going north and south. It will be a waving, U.S. banner-style flag. He gave details on the Memorial Day Ceremony, Monday, May 27th; Tom Stark from Good Shepherd would be giving the invocation and benediction. Pastor Stark would be moving on, and had done a lot for the Fire Company and for the City. Mayor Chau recalled having a very successful program with McDonald's providing ice-cream coupons for the Police to issue to children who were riding their bicycles with a helmet. The program would start again in June. He thanked McDonald's.

Councilwoman Korngut asked Mayor Chau if it was true that he had received complaints, both formal and informal about the Council President's conduct at the last meeting. She asked if he recalled the Council President ever having gaveled Councilman O'Neill. Was there anything Mayor Chau wanted to say to Councilman O'Neill or Council President Lischin?

Mayor Chau replied that while he was not in attendance at the last meeting to witness, that this type of conduct was never appropriate. Yes, he had received complaints from the public and employees. Mayor Chau reiterated that we have to move forward. He said he had called everyone on Council in an attempt to mediate the situation. He was pleading with everyone to move forward.

Council President Lischin reminded Council that this was still his meeting to control; stating that when Councilwoman Korngut had the majority vote, she could control the meeting.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. He reiterated Councilman Perri's earlier desire to resolve the ACUA flows issue. The Davis Avenue Pump Station was online, the final site work and paving remained to be complete but the pump station was online. The tentative date for paving Cresson Avenue and Walnut Avenue was in July. The Local Road Program Resolution was on the agenda tonight. He had received a response from NJ American Water, they were working to upgrade their system, and they needed to open a portion of First Street for a hardship waiver.

Clerk Canesi asked Engineer Nassar if he wanted her to call NJAMC for the hardship waiver requirements.

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Engineer Nassar replied that he gave Mr. Green her phone number.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Lischin opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any subject. Seeing no one wishing to speak Council President Lischin closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Lischin 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.

Councilwoman Madden motioned, with a second of Councilman O’Neill to adopt Resolution 108-2019.

108-2019 Authorization for the City of Northfield to Promote Theodore Wolcott to the Title of Captain in the Northfield Fire Department

Councilman O’Neill stated that he knew Acting Captain Wolcott was not here but has had the pleasure of knowing him for many years and has had the pleasure of working with him in the Northfield Fire Department, volunteer and paid. He thanked Acting Captain Nixon as well. The acting positions had been in place for 2 years, he didn’t like acting positions for very long. He had hoped for a unanimous vote.

Council President Lischin added that he had been here 5 years, and Acting Captain Wolcott had been a staple at the Fire Department. He had 25 years as Fireman, was a Northfield resident and taxpayer as well. He appreciated his service.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – no, Mrs. Madden – no, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

Councilwoman Madden motioned, with a second of Councilman O’Neill to adopt Resolution 109-2019.

109-2019 Authorization for the City of Northfield to Promote Benjamin Nixon to the Title of Captain in the Northfield Fire Department

Councilman O’Neill wanted to make the same statements about Acting Captain Nixon, saying they’d had disagreements about budgeting etc., but Acting Captain

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Nixon had always been professional. He had always gotten positive feedback from Nixon's peers. Councilman O'Neill hoped for 7-0 vote.

Councilwoman Korngut thanked both firemen for work they had done. Her concern was that we don't know what the cost was going to be to the City. That was her only concern.

Council President Lischin said he'd spoken to Acting Captain Nixon; he appreciated the work and reaching out, it was never easy to work both sides. The Fire Department had moved in the direction to benefit the City and the Department, this action should change the dynamic, hopefully we could move forward as a team.

Councilwoman Madden added that decisions regarding police and fire are always difficult, and she had nothing but the highest respect for all. When she was campaigning, she never heard negative things about police or fire but did hear about taxes. She was sorry if the position was handled poorly.

Councilman O'Neill asked Councilman Smith if this would increase the budget.

Councilman Smith replied for this year, no.

Councilman Perri noted there had been a lot of hard economic times, he had worked with Acting Captain Wolcott and Acting Captain Nixon and this has nothing to do with their performance. The City had lost a lot of ratables. Both individuals had been very professional. Times were hard, but Councilman Perri felt they did deserve it.

In reply to Councilwoman Korngut's comment about unknown cost offered that the pension obligation is actuarial, it was not a specific finite amount. The salary number is finite, and we did have that.

Councilwoman Korngut reiterated that we did not have enough information.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut - no, Mrs. Madden - no, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin - yes; Motion carried.

Councilwoman Madden motioned, with a second of Councilman O'Neill to adopt Resolution 110-2019.

110-2019 Resolution Opposing the Legalization of Recreational Marijuana Use

Councilman O'Neill asked Chief Newman to confirm that the Police Department was not in favor of recreational marijuana.

Chief Newman confirmed.

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Councilman Smith stated that he'd introduced this resolution; as an educator it goes against everything he believed in. It as a slippery slope and he did not feel the cost benefit outweighed the societal impact. He holds fast to that belief

Councilwoman Korngut reiterated comments from the prior meeting; she just did not have enough information. It was not necessarily her personal beliefs.

Councilwoman Madden also felt more research needed to be done. As far as opioids, studies had shown that recreational marijuana reduced opioid use. She felt vaping was a much bigger problem for school-age children.

Councilman Perri also reiterated his comments from the last meeting; leave it up to the State or have it go to referendum. He felt the focus should be on opioids or on fentanyl. This was not killing people every day.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – no, Mrs. Madden – no, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – no, Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

Councilwoman Madden motioned, with a second of Councilman O'Neill to adopt Resolution 115-2019.

115-2019 To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - Yoga Instruction on the Bike Path

Councilwoman Korngut felt the resolution should be tabled.

Clerk Canesi advised that they have insurance, the issue was that it was a for profit business. If this passed would we have to figure out how to issue a mercantile license?

Councilman Perri expressed his concerns with mowing.

Councilman O'Neill responded that it's yoga; it's healthy, he was not opposed to it, even if it was for profit. You see these on the beach.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - no, Ms. Korngut – no, Mrs. Madden – no, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – no, Mr. Smith - no; Mr. Lischin – no; Motion failed.

Councilwoman Madden motioned, Councilman O'Neill seconded, all were in favor of voting Resolutions 111-2019 through 114-2019 and 116-2019 by consent agenda.

111-2019 Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for the Project Known as the 2018 Local Road Paving Project

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- 112-2019** Authorizing the Award of Contract without Public Advertisement for Bids to ‘All Covered IT Services, from Konica Minolta’ Pursuant to the Provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4
- 113-2019** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - Mainland ‘Coaches vs Cancer’ Game
- 114-2019** Authorizing Refunds of Overpayment of Taxes
- 116-2019** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - Helicopter Landing at Football Field

Councilwoman Madden motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded, to adopt Resolutions 111-2019 through 114-2019 and 116-2019.

Council President Lischin said he appreciated that Mr. Clements did a great job with his application and he hoped the kids enjoy.

Councilman Smith announced that he would be abstaining from 113-2019.

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

ORDINANCE

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to introduce Ordinance 8-2019, to be read by title only.

- 8-2019** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 215 of the Code of the City of Northfield Governing Land Use and Development
Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 05/11/2019
Referral to City of Northfield Planning Board 05/08/2019
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 06/18/2019

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication, Planning Board referral, and public hearing dates. 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.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 1,390,882.02

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

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

Council President Lischin read the meeting notices.

At 8:33pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Perri, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk