

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 10, 2022**

At 6:56pm 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 Council Pro Tempore Dewees.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina

Absent: Councilman Smith, Mayor Chau

Solicitor Facenda and Engineer Nassar were also in attendance.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Utts with a second of Councilman Leeds, all members present, with the exception of Councilman Notaro who abstained, were in favor of approving the minutes of April 26, 2022 without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau was absent.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. Engineer Nassar reported that the Merritt Drive project was ready to be closed out. He was ready to go out to bid for the 2021 Local Road Program, with plans to award in June, and start work in the first week of July.

Councilman Leeds asked, where Merritt and Ridgewood meet, were there plans to address the stop-issue.

Engineer Nassar advised a holly tree was removed to improve the sight line; it would be restriped as well.

Councilman Dewees asked were there any thoughts of making it one way, from the bike path?

Discussion ensued between Engineer Nassar, Councilman Leeds, Councilman Dewees and Council President Polistina regarding the width of the road and the location of the stop signs. A suggestion was made to remove the four-way stop.

Council President Polistina noted he would discuss with Police Chief Newman.

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Councilman Dewees asked if Council was still interested in a more relaxed dress code during the summer months and a suit-and-tie dress code during the other months.

All generally agreed.

Councilman Leeds reported that Commissioner Gatto did tell Councilman Leeds last night that there would be no construction on Potter's Field.

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.

Joan Brennan, 116 Dolphin Avenue (speaking via Zoom), asked to have a comment made a few minutes ago by a member of Council, about the Potter's Field to be repeated.

Council President Polistina repeated that in an unrelated meeting the county stated they don't have a plan yet where the housing would go but there were assurances that it would not be on the Potter's Field.

Ms. Brennan said she had heard multiple stories about where the bodies were buried. She sent a copy of an article to Councilman Dewees. She claimed to have been told by the County that there were 2,700 bodies; she has sent an Open Public Records request for this information but has not received it yet. She had been told the bodies are within a tree line; this was not true. The trees were part of a beautification project and nothing more. She wanted to push that no buildings were allowed to be built there, because it was unknown where the bodies were. She insisted there was already a parking lot on top of existing graves. She did not understand why people were not more outraged.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Council President Polistina closed the public comment portion of this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

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".

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- 106-2022** Employment Status Change for Temporary Part Time Electrical Inspector
- 108-2022** Authorization to Hire Part Time Building Inspector
- 109-2022** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for the Project Known as the 2021 Local Road Paving Project
- 110-2022** A Resolution Authorizing Procurement of Information Technology Upgrades Through the Competitive Contracting Process
- 111-2022** To Extend Commercial Driver’s License Deadline for Public Works Laborer
- 112-2022** A Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc., an Approved State Contract Vendor for Contracting Units Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a
- 113-2022** Refunds of Overpayment of Property Taxes

On motion of Councilman Leeds, seconded by Councilman Dewees all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 106-2022 and 108-2022 through 113-2022, 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 – yes; Mr. Smith – absent; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

- 107-2022** Authorization to Hire Part Time Construction Official

Council President Polistina moved to discussion on Resolution 107-2022.

Councilman Leeds announced that the Construction Official would like to stay.

Clerk Canesi advised that the individual resigned, he retired.

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to rescind Resolution 108-2022.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 1,438,675.00

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

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

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Councilman Dewees read the meeting notices.

Councilman Utts reminded all about the Purple Heart Way Ceremony on May 21st.

At approximately 7:16pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk