

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2020**

At 6:37pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2020 and May 9, 2020, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), this meeting will be live-streamed using Zoom conferencing service and the public is restricted from attending in-person. To join Zoom Meeting visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85050770861> Meeting ID: 850 5077 0861; One tap mobile +13126266799, 98717548624# US (Chicago), +16465588656, 98717548624# US (New York), Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 558 8656 US (New York), +1 253 215 8782 US, +1 301 715 8592 US, +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose); Meeting ID: 850 5077 0861

FLAG SALUTE

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

ROLL CALL

Present (in person): Councilman Dewees; Councilman O’Neill; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Perri; Mayor Chau

Solicitor Stein and Engineer Nassar were also in attendance.

Present (via telephone): Councilwoman Korngut; Councilwoman Madden

Chief Newman was also present via telephone.

Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“As everyone knows, based on an Executive Order of the governor, public gatherings are limited to not more than 10 people. Tonight, the following are in attendance via telephone only, using the speaker function of the telephone in the Council Chambers meeting room:

- Councilwoman Korngut
- Councilwoman Madden
- Chief of Police Paul Newman

Also for this reason, members of the public are not able to attend tonight’s meeting in person, but we are pleased to announce that virtual attendance has been made possible via a video-conferencing service called Zoom; participants can dial in by telephone and listen to the proceedings, or they can access the meeting using a web-browser, and be able to view and listen. Instructions on how members of the public can access Zoom have been made available on the municipal website and Facebook pages, and was published in the Press of Atlantic City.

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All participants will be ‘muted’ upon entry to the meeting. Web-browser participants will not be able to share their screens or see the camera-view of anyone other than the host, which is the City of Northfield.

When the time comes for public comment, a specific announcement will be made; one by one telephone users will be asked to identify themselves and will be unmuted to permit commentary. Web-browser attendees may ask questions or make comments via the ‘chat’ function. Comments will not be acknowledged until the public comment portion of the meeting begins; at which time they will be read aloud into the record.”

Council President Perri thanked Clerk Canesi and called for a motion of the minutes.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilwoman Madden, second of Councilman O’Neill, all present were in favor of approving the minutes of the meeting of April 28, 2020 without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman O’Neill had nothing to report for sports. He asked if work would continue on Cresson Hill.

Engineer Nassar replied; he believed the second phase was almost complete but they do not have a CO yet.

Council President Perri replied yes, they were moving forward.

Councilman Utts – Bike Path, 1st Street Playground, Veterans Park; Planning Board; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilman Utts reported that the Planning Board had its first Zoom meeting last Wednesday, it went well. The next meeting is scheduled for June 4th at 7pm with a few variances being sought.

Councilwoman Korngut – Technology/MRHS Channel; Library; Municipal Alliance; Shared Services

Councilwoman Korngut reported not much was going on for the Library; the next meeting is scheduled for May 14th, and on that agenda would be protocol and a reopening plan. Library Director Hiers and her staff have been creating and posting content, and keeping the public engaged.

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Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds; Birch Grove Park

Councilman Dewees reported on Buildings and Grounds, and said that he, Kathi Smith and Engineer Nassar have discussed the pillars out front at City Hall. There was some decay and they were working to come up with a plan.

Councilman Smith – Finance/Collections; Little League/Babe Ruth; Cultural Committee; Northfield Community School

Councilman Smith reported that Northfield Little League put out a statement that they are on hold and waiting on more word. He was glad to hear about EMS moving forward; coincidentally he inquired today with the Clerk’s Office about the process.

Councilwoman Madden – Fire Department / EMS; Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden reported that school was closed for the rest of the year. The next Mainland Board of Education meeting was scheduled for May 18th; virtual graduation would be discussed.

Council President Perri– Public Works: Roads, Engineering, Sewer Operations; Senior Citizens

Council President Perri reported that there were Resolutions on the agenda tonight to get the paperwork online for the vector. He had nothing to report for the Seniors, everyone was homebound. There were some people Council President Perri would like to recognize who volunteered thousands of hours over the years. One was Bruce DiMauro, it was an adventure working with him. Also, Faith Lancaster passed away, she had a great way of working with people. He would like to recognize them; they were in when it was all-volunteer. He offered condolences to the families. He also wanted to recognize the passing of Stan Gunnison, he was a big volunteer with All Sports and was also our safety consultant. He offered condolences to the wife and family. Also, Mrs. Small, a long-time crossing guard, he offered condolence to her family.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Chau reported that the Police Department did not have any Narcan deployments. He thanked the many community members who had made donations to the Police Department and to our employees. He reminded all that the City offices will be closed on Memorial Day and the traditional ceremony had been canceled. Shannon Campbell was working on an appropriate honor for our veterans, to be posted on Facebook. He thanked all employees of City Hall, adding that as all know, Mayor Chau had closed City Hall to the public. The Building Department has now moved upstairs. He also recognized Fire Captain Nixon for fabricating a device to be used to disinfect city buildings and vehicles. He then thanked Councilman Dewees and Superintendent Vitale and Public Works for the outstanding job they did opening

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the Park. He thanked the public for observing social distancing and wearing masks. He offered belated birthday wishes to Councilwoman Korngut.

Council President Perri noted that he was not on Facebook and asked can whatever was being done for Memorial Day be put on website as well.

Clerk Canesi replied yes, it could be put on website as well.

Councilwoman Korngut thanked Mayor Chau.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report as previously distributed to Council. He reported that the contractor finished the concrete work on Shepherd, they were waiting for it to cure before the asphalt could be poured, which was tentatively sometime next week, with hope to be done by the end of May. He was working with the contractor on a few issues residents had experienced. In regard to the ADA improvements and the parking lot, the bid package was in the Clerk's office; we needed to be able to open the bids but would like to get approval of the specifications so we are ready. New Jersey American Water Company had finished their paving work in the City, there were many sections that saved the City money. There were a few issues with damaged curbing and the contractor went back out and took care of it. On the agenda tonight we had resolutions to adopt the stormwater plans, they have to be adopted by the Council and posted on the website as part of compliance with DEP rules.

Council President Perri informed the Council that these regulations were state-mandated; and the City pays. There was no funding, this was done as a mandate.

Engineer Nassar added that there was discussion at the DEP that there may be a requirement to provide the State with a complete as-built of the City's stormwater system.

Councilman O'Neill asked who would do it?

Engineer Nassar would have to have a survey done of the entire system in the City.

Mayor Chau asked Engineer Nassar about a gentleman with broken sprinkler.

Engineer Nassar replied the contractor was working with homeowner.

Mayor Chau asked if Engineer Nassar was aware of the Route 9 paving project.

Engineer Nassar replied yes, but Northfield is already paved. We received a letter from the State that they want to discuss with us what needed to be done. There were some sections that were done poorly.

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Council President Perri replied that some was not done.

Engineer Nassar explained the locations where issues existed with the work that has already been completed.

Council President Perri noted our concern that every right-of-way was going to have to be reviewed.

Engineer Nassar agreed; we are going to be giving them a list.

Council President Perri asked if there were any questions for the Engineer.

Mayor Chau announced that one of our grievances has now reached the level of PERC and was proceeding.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Perri opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to comment on any subject.

Clerk Canesi, in Zoom chat, announced the public comment portion of this meeting was now open for anyone to speak on any topic.

Clerk Canesi confirmed that there were no requests for public comment.

Seeing no one wishing to make a comment Council President Perri closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS

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.

On a motion of Councilman Utts, second of Councilman O'Neill, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 98-2020 through 102-2020.

98-2020 A Resolution of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Filing of Applications for a Short Term Construction Loan in the Aggregate Principal Amount of \$400,000 from the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (F/K/A New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust) Under the 2020 Construction Financing Program for the Purchase of a New Jet Vector Truck

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- 99-2020** Resolution of the City of Northfield, in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey, Determining the Form and other Details of its “Note Relating to the Construction Financing Program of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (F/K/A New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust)”, to Be issued in the Principal Amount of up to \$400,000, And Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of Such Note To The New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (F/K/A The New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust), and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Such Note by the City of Northfield in Favor of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, all Pursuant to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank Construction Financing Loan Program for the Purchase of a New Jet Vector Truck
- 100-2020** Resolution of the City of Northfield, Atlantic County, New Jersey Declaring its Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures for Project Costs from the Proceeds of Debt Obligations in Connection with its Participation in the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank Financing Program
- 101-2020** Authorizing the Adoption of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and the Municipal Stormwater Management Plan
- 102-2020** Authorizing Award of Contract for Labor Relations Attorney Services Pursuant to N.J.S.A 40A:11-5 and in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, et seq.

Councilman Utts motioned, second of Councilman O’Neill, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 98-2020 through 102-2020.

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

Councilman Utts motioned, second of Councilman O’Neill, to adopt Resolution 96-2020.

- 96-2020** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - ACBL

Councilwoman Madden noted that there didn’t seem to be anyone representing the teams in attendance online. She referred to the dates in May that teams are asking for, and said as you know this is premature. She asked if distancing measures would be observed. Would they be wearing masks? Would there be spectators? Would there be contact tracing? She felt it was very premature. The Olympics had been canceled for the whole year. These Resolutions should not be approved, it was entirely too dangerous. She had the same comments for Resolution 97-2020 and 103-2020.

Council President Perri, referring to Resolution 96-2020, added that the Resolution did have language that related to Covid. This was a procedural process that if the fields were open, they could proceed.

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Councilwoman Korngut said she would defer to Councilwoman Madden as she had a nursing background. Councilwoman Korngut knew people who had been affected, and agreed that this was premature and incredibly irresponsible. She had the same objection to all three Resolutions. This gave the impression that it was safe.

Councilman Smith advised that we had approved these teams previously. It is all contingent upon the fields being open; we were just saying we were allowing the fields to be used by the teams if they were declared open. They have followed the procedures and complied with the terms.

Councilman Dewees felt there could be a timing issue; we meet once a month in the summer.

Council President Perri commented; as far as social distancing and contact issues, he agreed it could be complex, but believed the conditions would be handed down from the State and the Governor's office. The Resolution states approval is at the sole discretion of the City of Northfield. Would that be the Mayor?

Solicitor Stein replied yes.

Council President Perri reiterated that we would defer to the State government.

Councilwoman Madden added that approving these creates a very bad precedent.

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

Councilman Utts motioned, second of Councilman O’Neill, to adopt Resolution 97-2020.

97-2020 To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - Jersey Shore Baseball

Councilwoman Madden and Councilwoman Korngut had the same objections as raised with Resolution 96-2020.

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

Councilman Utts motioned, second of Councilman O’Neill, to adopt Resolution 103-2020.

103-2020 To Amend an Application for Use of Facilities – SJ Surf 13U

Councilwoman Madden and Councilwoman Korngut had the same objections as raised with Resolution 96-2020 and 97-2020.

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

ORDINANCES

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded to adopt Ordinance 6-2020, to be read by title only.

6-2020 Chapter 300: An Ordinance Prohibiting Illicit Connections to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Published in the Press of AC 5/16/2020

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption and thereafter published. Clerk Canesi announced a correction to the Ordinance in the form of an unnecessary editorial note which did not constitute a change in the ordinance, substantive or otherwise. Since introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies have been 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 requested same.

Council President Perri opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

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

Councilwoman Madden motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded to adopt Ordinance 7-2020, to be read by title only.

7-2020 Chapter 289: An Ordinance Prohibiting Improper Disposal of Waste
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Published in the Press of AC 5/16/2020

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption and thereafter published. Since introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies have been 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 requested same.

Council President Perri opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

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

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Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt Ordinance 8-2020, to be read by title only.

8-2020 Amending Chapter 315-6 of the City of Northfield Municipal Code Entitled ‘Leaves and Grass’ and Renaming Same ‘Yard Waste Collection Program’
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Published in the Press of AC 5/16/2020

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption and thereafter published. Since introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies have been 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 requested same.

Council President Perri opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

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

Councilman Utts motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt Ordinance 9-2020, to be read by title only.

9-2020 Ordinance-Stormwater Control
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Published in the Press of AC 5/16/2020

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption and thereafter published, in summary form. Since introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies have been 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 requested same.

Council President Perri opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$1,434,591.51

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

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

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Council President Perri read the meeting notices.

At 7:26pm, on motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Utts, this meeting was adjourned.

Clerk Canesi thanked all for their participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk