

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 21, 2019**

At 7:29pm, 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, Lischin
Absent: Smith

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 May 7, 2019, without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

7:00PM OATH OF OFFICE – FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPTAIN BENJAMIN NIXON

Council President Lischin announced that Mayor Chau would administer the Oath of Office for Fire Captain Ben Nixon.

Mayor Chau thanked all for coming, he acknowledged the many police and fire personnel in attendance who serve Northfield. He thanked them all for their service and for protecting our residents and our community. He was proud to announce Captain Nixon's promotion; he had known Ben and his family for years, he was a fine example for the community and we were lucky to have him. Captain Nixon's wife and son held the Bible while Mayor Chau administered the Oath of Office. Mayor Chau congratulated Captain Nixon.

Captain Nixon thanked Council, and said he did not want to let anyone down. He wanted to move the City forward.

At 7:35pm, on motion of Councilman Perri, with a second from Councilwoman Korngut, all present were in favor of a five-minute recess.

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At 7:40pm Council President Lischin resumed the meeting.

Council President Lischin stated that he started on Council 5 years ago as the Fire Chair, noting he didn't have much experience then, and 5 years later we had a discussion among Council about how the department had evolved. He appreciated all Captain Nixon and the Volunteer Fire Department had done, and that Captain Wolcott, also promoted to Captain, had done. He appreciated all they do to protect the residents of our town.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Perri reported that the Sewer operation was covered during work session. There were no applications on the June Planning Board agenda but the sign ordinance resolution would be done. The next Senior Meeting was scheduled for June 20th. Councilman Perri was asked by Carolyn Peterson to mention the opportunity for Northfield to be a dementia-friendly town, with Northfield as lead agent for the County. She asked to meet with Mayor Chau and Councilman Perri.

Mayor Chau agreed.

Council President Lischin thanked Councilman Perri for his work on the sewer issue, and praised his expertise.

Councilman Perri thanked Council President Lischin.

Councilwoman Korngut added that the senior luncheon this past month was a success as it was every month.

Councilman Perri noted that Vince Jones, from the County Office of Emergency Management, did a great presentation, hurricane season was coming; many seniors had animals.

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

Councilman O'Neill had no report.

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

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Councilwoman Korngut reported that the Library Board met on May 9th, she read the library circulation numbers. She repeated information about the vaping seminar at the Library tomorrow at 5:30pm sponsored by Atlantic Prevention Resources; Councilwoman Korngut did not realize how young kids were when they start vaping. She thanked Kathi Smith for providing refreshments through the Municipal Alliance. She hoped to see all there who had children. She announced the next library meeting date. She reported that the school board meeting was last night; the calendar for next year was approved amid objections due to the number of half days, which was hard for working parents. Graduation is June 19th at 5pm. As per Council President Lischin's previous request to have the Board come to the Council to review the budget, she did so and they declined our request.

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

Councilman Dewees reported the irrigation well at the fields would be replaced within the next few weeks; to clarify past misinformation, he advised that this well irrigated all of the fields with the exception of the infield at the Babe Ruth Field. Once this was complete, he would seek out contractors to reseed, saying there was no point in doing it until then. The Department of Public Works had opened up about 25 fishing spots to get people out along the lake, and did some stump clearing near the bandstand.

Council President Lischin added that the Cultural Committee appreciated the extra work around the bandstand.

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

Councilman Smith was absent.

Councilwoman Madden – Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden reported the next safety meeting would be held on May 30th. The Mainland Regional High School board meeting was canceled; she would ask at their next meeting if they would like to come discuss their budget to the Council.

Council President Lischin - Fire Department/EMS, Cultural Committee

Council President Lischin reported that the Cultural Committee met recently about summer concert series, details to follow.

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MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Chau reported that Friday was the deadline to apply for the position of police officer; there were quite a few applicants and Chief Newman will be moving forward with that process. He announced the Memorial Day Ceremony details, there were several speakers and he hoped all would join. He then referred to a letter he received from the Mayor's Association regarding a bill to remove local tax assessment and move it to the County level. The Mayor’s Association needed to explore further to determine the savings, future funding, etc. He would provide more information as it became available. Our Atlantic County Freeholders had not decided if they were going to endorse this or not. He referred to a comment made earlier in the evening about a sign on his lawn, the sign was in support of the NJEA; of which he was a member. He did not say he endorsed the sign, he didn’t say he didn't. Our Country has the freedom of speech, but his duty and oath is always and will be to the residents of this City.

CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer’s report as previously distributed to Council. The Walnut Avenue project started last week; concrete will start full force after Memorial Day weekend. The project should be wrapped up by the end of July, the same time we’ll be paving Cresson Avenue. He referred to the Municipal Aid issue expediting the deadline for the Municipal Aid project. He needed direction from Council. He will also need authorization at the next meeting to apply so we didn’t miss deadline. He advised that bikeway improvements can also be included. He suggested possibly upgrading the bike path, possibly adding a focal point, hard scape, or a pavilion; something to bring people to the bike path and enhance it.

Councilman Dewees asked what could be covered, the walking trail along the bike path needed to be widened.

Councilwoman Madden agreed with the idea of improving the bike path.

Clerk Canesi reiterated that Council needed to decide tonight on very specific projects, the authorization to apply for the grants had to be on the next agenda. It couldn’t be decided between tonight and the next meeting, that would violate sunshine.

Council President Lischin did a straw poll regarding bike path improvements – all members present were in favor; Councilman Smith was absent.

Engineer Nassar added that for this grant it had to be a substantial project, it couldn’t just be one block. He suggested Fuae Avenue, and Ridgewood Drive from Route 9 to Sutton Avenue.

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Councilman Dewees asked if it included curbing.

Engineer Nassar responded that we could request money for paving and curbing, or the City could add funds for curbing. Grants would be issued the first week of November. He asked Council how they would like him to proceed.

Council President Lischin asked did anyone have any suggestions other than what the Engineer mentioned.

Councilman Dewees deferred to the Engineer.

Council President Lischin conducted a straw poll, all members present except Councilman O'Neill chose Fuae Avenue.

Engineer Nassar reported that the contract for Mill Road was awarded to AE Stone, they would move forward as soon as possible.

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.

Councilman Perri recognized Councilman Dewees for his work on the Mill Road project; it was a lot of work.

Councilman O'Neill thanked Councilman Dewees as well, noting that all of Council worked on this, but Councilman Dewees pushed it through.

Councilman Dewees acknowledged the thanks but said it was all of Council.

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, Councilman O'Neill seconded, all were in favor of voting Resolutions 117-2019 through 119-2019 and 121-2019 by consent agenda.

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- 117-2019** Authorization for William Ward to Purchase His City Issued Service Handgun
- 118-2019** Authorization for William Cornell to Purchase His City Issued Service Handgun
- 119-2019** Resolution Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2019 Budget
- 121-2019** Authorizing an Agreement between the County of Atlantic and the City of Northfield Regarding the Installation and Maintenance of Flashing Signal Equipment on Shore Road

Councilman Perri, referring to the terms and conditions of 121-2019, asked if we have the capability of repairing the flashing beacons if they go bad.

Municipal Clerk Canesi believed we would have to have a contractor do it.

Councilman Dewees advised the County was replacing almost every one of them throughout the County.

Councilman Perri suggested an interlocal for repair.

Mayor Chau would get more information.

Councilwoman Madden motioned, Councilman O'Neill seconded, to adopt Resolutions 117-2019 through 119-2019 and 121-2019.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 901,166.56

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman 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 - absent; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Lischin read the meeting notices.

At 8:14pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilwoman Korngut, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,


Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk