

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 24, 2022**

At 6:45pm 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 Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

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

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Notaro with a second of Councilman Dewees, all members present, with the exception of Councilman Smith who abstained, were in favor of approving the minutes of May 10th, 2022 without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau announced several new businesses in Northfield, including the new ice cream business on New Road. He asked Chief Newman how the new crosswalk came about?

Chief Newman responded that he contacted the NJDOT.

Mayor Chau thanked Chief Newman for taking this action. He announced another new ice cream parlor pending, and said excavation of the site had started across from Tilton Market. He and Councilwoman Bucci attended the grand opening of Wolf Gym. He echoed Marco Polo Smigliani's sentiment regarding his appreciation of the support of the Council at the Purple Heart Way Ceremony. This week is the Memorial Day Observance, Mayor Chau had not gotten any information on what time all should be there but he would find out from Deputy Clerk Campbell, as she was coordinating. Regarding hiring of a new Police Chief, due to time constraints the process would remain unchanged, with testing to begin in October, here at City Hall for those that were eligible. All are invited to the Northfield Community School Graduation ceremony, if anyone is interested in attending. Mayor Chau was not able to attend the last City Council meeting because he was at the NJ Conference of Mayors. There was a great deal of discussion at the Conference regarding cannabis, with some concerns related to employment matters. He thanked Superintendent Vitale and Public Works for the hanging of the flags along Shore Road, it was great to have them up in time for Memorial Day. Mayor Chau attended the official grand

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opening of the Central Municipal Court; it was very well attended and Mayor Chau felt the court would be a model for the State.

Mayor Chau read the Police Department report for the month of April. He had a report from Code Enforcement as well; seven ordinance violations were issued last month.

CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer’s report as previously distributed to Council. NJ American Water continued their work to connect the mains, work should be complete in about another month and a half, and it should address the brown water. After the settlement period, about 45 days, the asphalt would be restored by the water company. Engineer Nassar spoke with the contractor regarding the reconstruction of Merritt and Ridgewood, they felt it was better to wait until school is out, and he would work with Deputy Clerk Campbell to make sure to avoid trash and recycling days. The project should take about four days. He would not have a recommendation for the 2021 Local Road project at the next meeting; the bid opening was scheduled for June 17th.

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.

Seeing no one 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”.

116-2022 Resolution Amending the Titles for Certain Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company

117-2022 Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract without Public Advertisement for Bids, and in Accordance with N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.5, for the Purchase of Steel Overhead Doors for the City of Northfield Fire Department

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- 118-2022** Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract without Public Advertisement for Bids, and in Accordance with N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.5, for the Purchase of 800 Mhz Pagers for the City of Northfield Fire Department
- 119-2022** Memorialize Resignation of Construction Official and Building Inspector
- 120-2022** Authorization to Hire Part-Time Construction Official
- 121-2022** Authorization to Hire Part-Time Building Inspector
- 122-2022** To Extend Commercial Driver’s License Deadline for Public Works Laborer
- 123-2022** 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. 10:4-12(B)(7) –Matters Covered Under The Attorney Client Privilege

On motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Smith all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 116-2022 through 123-2022, by Consent Agenda.

Council President Polistina added that “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 has concluded. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.”

Councilman Dewees 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 – yes; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Polistina announced that there was a budgetary question from the Mayor regarding Resolution 115.

Mayor Chau had no question about that; his question was about the vacancy created at the part time level. Mayor Chau said he thought the part time position had been budgeted, but Mayor Chau found out from the Chief and CFO Stollenwerk that this was not the case.

Councilman Notaro noted if we budgeted for the full and the part time, they are both still there.

Clerk Canesi explained that whether or not to fill the remaining vacant part time SLEO had nothing to do with the resolutions on the agenda tonight. Council can fill,

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or not fill, the vacant part time position that will be created by an affirmative vote on 115, in the future and based on funding.

Councilman Smith urged that we vote tonight, these resolutions aren't dependent on filling the part time position.

Councilman Leeds asked, when the Chief retires, would there be another officer hired at that time?

Council President Polistina replied there would be that discussion at that time.

Mayor Chau also replied to Councilman Leeds' question, stating we would leave that up to the new Chief.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt Resolution 114-2022.

114-2022 To Approve the Promotion of Johnathan Scull to the Position of Police Officer

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

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Resolution 115-2022.

115-2022 Employment Status Change for Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 289,842.05

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilwoman Bucci seconded, for payment of bills.

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

Councilman Utts read the meeting notices, he reminded all of the special entrances for the primary election.

Council President Polistina announced the Executive Session for Resolution 123-2022.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

123-2022 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. 10:4-12(B)(7) –Matters Covered Under The Attorney Client Privilege

Clerk Canesi announced to the members of the public who were participating via Zoom that when the Executive Session commenced, she would be muting the audio, and the video would be temporarily paused. Those in attendance in-person would need to exit Council Chambers during the Executive Session. Council would resume the public session, including reactivating the audio and video, and welcoming the in-person public, as soon as the Executive Session concluded. A public statement would be made for the record at that time.

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title. Clerk Canesi further stated that we are required to set forth as much information as possible as to the subject matter to be discussed as well as provide for the public the amount of time they can expect to elapse before the non-public portion of the minutes can be disclosed. She deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed was issues of public safety in and around the City of Northfield, requiring attorney client privilege and Council deliberation. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown. Council will remain in Council Chambers and return to the general public when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement.

At 7:09pm Council entered Executive Session, and remained in Council Chambers.

At 7:24pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. The matters discussed were issues of public safety in and around the City of Northfield, requiring attorney client privilege and Council deliberation. Matters discussed were attorney client privileged and confidential and will remain that way. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown. No official action will be taken tonight.

At approximately 7:25pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk