

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 26, 2020**

At 7:25pm, 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 23, 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 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86072231972>; Meeting ID: 860 7223 1972; One tap mobile +13126266799,86072231972# US (Chicago); +16465588656,86072231972# US (New York); Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 646 558 8656 US (New York); +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); Meeting ID: 860 7223 1972

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau followed by a moment of silence in honor of all who have been affected by the Corona virus, in appreciation of the efforts of all first responders and those on the front line, and in remembrance of long-time volunteer Barbara Fehr. He thanked Mrs. Fehr for everything she had done for the community and expressed his condolences.

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 Madden

Absent: Councilwoman Korngut

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 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

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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.

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 welcomed everyone, including online participants to the meeting. He recognized the memorial services and veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice, he was thankful to be here tonight because of what they did for us.

Council President Perri called for a motion of the minutes.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilwoman Madden, second of Councilman Utts, all present were in favor of approving the minutes of the meeting of May 12, 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 report.

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

Councilman Utts reported that the next Planning Board meetings were scheduled for June 4th and July 3rd. He reported an incident in Cove Avenue Park; someone had spray painted racial slurs on a tree and on some boards. Officer Van Pelt responded and made the necessary report to the State Police. Public Works will be out tomorrow to take care of it.

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

Councilwoman Korngut was absent.

Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds; Birch Grove Park

Councilman Dewees had nothing to report.

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

Councilman Smith reported that he covered everything during the work session. There were questions from the school about the tax levy and extension dates; he received a response from CFO Stollenwerk indicating we would have no changes and schools would get their money. He noted the restrictions had been lessened with regard to graduations, but after the end of the school year, July 6th.

Council President Perri added it was nice to see the signs around the community.

Councilman Smith replied that it was a parent effort, all the money was raised through donations.

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

Councilwoman Madden reported that the safety meeting had been canceled. She did not have report at this time for the Fire Department. Graduation had been canceled, but the school would look in to anything that was feasible. They were doing their best to make it memorable for the students.

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

Council President Perri reiterated what Mayor Chau said about Barbara Fehr, she was very supportive, always there and she would be missed. He offered condolences to the family.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Chau again offered sincerest condolences to the Fehr family. He was happy that we were able to honor her here at City Council about a year ago. In responding to Councilman Smith about graduation, he read from the Executive Order about updated guidance and regarding modified in-person graduations as of July 6th. He gave a shout-out to Chief Newman and Chief Cummings and staffs for their participation in honoring Veterans on Memorial Day at the Stillwater Building. He did not anticipate a large crowd, but they had an outstanding response. There was a

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motorcycle brigade and the City vehicles did a drive by (*car parade*), with the Veterans outside; he knew they thoroughly enjoyed it. Unfortunately, as the brigade moved to Atlantic City there was an accident and three of the motorcycle drivers were involved including former Freeholder John Carman who was injured and was in the hospital. The Tax Office and Building Departments have made the full transition to their new offices. Mayor Chau had requested the Fire Department and Police Department involvement in two drive-by events; one is June 8th and includes a proclamation in honor of the 90th birthday of longtime Northfield Community School teacher Bettie Cross. Mrs. Cross sent all students birthday cards until the age of 21. The other drive-by, for whom Mayor Chau said he would not announce the person's name because it was still in the planning stages, was for a woman who had served the City for a long time and was on the Cultural Committee. He hoped this would bring cheer to her.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report as previously distributed to Council. He reported that he was working with NJDEP to obtain approval for the vector truck, and has a conference call this week. South Jersey Gas had previously been taken to court over a street opening, as of last week they have fulfilled the requirements of the judge's order and the file can be closed. The Shepherd Drive project would not start until June 9th and would be finished by the middle of June. There was a resolution on the agenda for approval for the Fuae Avenue bid specs, and for the City Hall parking lot and library projects.

Councilman Dewees asked if the concrete work on Shepherd had been completed.

Engineer Nassar replied that the concrete work was complete, by the time the paving starts the 28-day curing period would be over.

Council President Perri referred to New Road and said there was one street not paved from the cartway.

Engineer Nassar replied there were some areas where there were issues. He was attempting to contact the appropriate person.

Clerk Canesi advised Engineer Nassar that the public couldn't hear him.

Engineer Nassar was compiling a list including some drainage issues.

Council President Perri hated to see a street not paved, and identified it as the street past Cedar Bridge, on the right.

Councilman Dewees made a motion to vote by consent agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Madden, on Resolutions 104-2020 through 108-2020.

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Councilman Smith noted that we had not yet convened the public comment portion of the meeting.

Councilman Dewees withdrew the motion.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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

Mary Sundra, via Zoom chat: “My further question is how long does an appeal process take? The business would already be working on outdoor dining.”

Solicitor Stein explained that the appeal process had to be filed within ten days of the decision of the Zoning Officer and then get on the next agenda for the Planning Board. If it was the business he heard about before, Solicitor Stein said it would be his recommendation to Mr. Dattalo that this property should be given a waiver since they were already denied.

Councilman O’Neill stated that was long ago, they wanted a fire pit and seating for 100's of people in the back, not talking about a table or two in the front.

Solicitor Stein replied that was only part of his rationale; explains further.

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

Seeing no one else 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 Dewees, second of Councilwoman Madden, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 104-2020 through 108-2020.

- 104-2020** Authorizing Refund of Construction Permit Fee
- 105-2020** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for the Project Known as ADA Improvements at the Rear Entrance to Municipal Building

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- 106-2020** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Engineering Services for the Project known as Reconstruction of Shepherd Drive
- 107-2020** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for Reconstruction of Fuae Avenue, FY2020 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program
- 108-2020** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes

Councilman Dewees motioned, second of Councilwoman Madden, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 104-2020 through 108-2020.

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

ORDINANCES

Councilman Utts motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded to introduce Ordinance 10-2020, to be read by title only.

- 10-2020** An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing the Code of the City of Northfield: Section 215, Article VB, Entitled “Housing Element and Fair Share Plan” and Article XI, Entitled “Zoning and District Regulations”
Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 05/30/2020
Referral to the Planning Board 05/27/2020
Public Hearing / Final Consideration 07/14/2020

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication and public hearing dates, and explained the 35-day review period by the Planning Board. 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. Canesi noted that the ordinance would be publication in summary form.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 981,081.67

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

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

Council President Perri read the meeting notices.

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At 7:54pm, on motion of Councilman Utts, seconded by Councilman Smith, this meeting was adjourned.

Council President Perri thanked all for their participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk