

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2022**

At 6:53pm 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; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

Absent: Councilman Utts

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilwoman Bucci with a second of Councilman Leeds, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of May 24th, 2022, without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau reported he held his annual employee luncheon this week, it was well attended and employees from all departments enjoyed it. The Memorial Day ceremony was very well done and well attended. Mayor Chau has been trying to meet with the new manager of the Republic Bank, they are anxious to introduce themselves to the Council. He was still waiting on the legal opinion from our labor counsel about replacing Chief Newman on the Planning Board. Mayor Chau expressed his concern about having enough members for an upcoming application. Regarding Central Court, the members were asked if there were any objections to Corbin City joining, he had no objections. Mayor Chau received a letter from Mainland Regional High School regarding graduation, anyone who wants to attend please notify Mainland officials. He reported that an individual had been exposing himself at the school, on the bike path and at the library; Mayor Chau had a meeting scheduled with Superintendent Bretones tomorrow. The individual was apprehended and charged, but released.

Councilman Leeds noted that EHT arrested the individual today and he is back in jail.

Mayor Chau announced that the Police Department Shop Steward did an informal survey and only 2-3 individuals were interested in testing for chief. The union asked if the Council would consider forgoing the test, to save the City money and the

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employees the costs associated with testing. Mayor Chau discussed this with our labor attorney, she was reluctant to change the ordinance because we have a limited amount of time. Mayor Chau intended to make changes after January with regard to having the Chief's Association do the oral interview.

Council President Polistina felt we should go with the guidance of the labor attorney.

Councilman Leeds also felt it should be made clear that this test was for Chief only.

Mayor Chau read the Police Department report for the month of May. He had a report from Code Enforcement as well; he had gotten complaints about dog waste on the bike path, and dogs at large. He read the OEM report for May and announced an internship with Rowan University had been approved and was on the agenda tonight.

Council President asked, to fill the Chief's place on the Planning Board, did it have to be someone from the Police Department?

Mayor Chau replied, no.

Clerk Canesi added that the Class II member must be a City Official, but cannot be an Elected Official.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. He suggested Ridgewood Drive, from Route 9 to Sutton Avenue, for the Municipal Aid Grant.

Council President Polistina asked if there were other suggestions? There were none.

Engineer Nassar reported the NJ American Water project was progressing. Merritt Drive was paved and widened; the contractor widened the bike path also. He suggested including sections of the bike path in future paving projects.

Clerk Canesi asked if bollards were needed at the widened bike path location, as we had installed at Zion Road?

Engineer Nassar did not believe so, they only added two feet.

Engineer Nassar predicted a 30% increase on fuel and asphalt prices on future paving jobs. If the bids come in too high, we may have to cut back on the scope of the project.

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Councilman Dewees reported the he had received complaints on Ridgewood in the past about railroad ties being damaged; he knew we weren't responsible but asked what can we do to prevent this.

Engineer Nassar advised he had spoken with residents, if the grade was changed we install curb, if not, we take the railroad ties out and then put them back.

Mayor Chau has had questions from residents about a long white line, is this necessary?

Engineer Nassar replied yes, stop bars were necessary.

Mayor Chau noticed we have streets that don't have stop bars, do we have to do that?

Engineer Nassar replied, that should be Public Works.

Councilman Dewees noted it was an issue because we don't have the funds to do the stop bars and crosswalks.

Councilman Smith asked was there the potential for a shared service with the County, to share their equipment since they have it.

Councilman Dewees replied we can request it; he suggested sending a letter or Mayor Chau talk to the County.

Councilman Dewees would get a list together of streets.

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

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

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session has concluded. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.”

- 124-2022** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for the Year 2022-2023
- 125-2022** Authorizing an Interlocal Services Agreement with the Atlantic County Improvement Authority for the Administration of the Program Income from Small Cities Grants for Housing Rehabilitation
- 126-2022** Resolution Expressing Support for Ukraine as its People Fight for Freedom
- 127-2022** Resolution Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2022 Budget
- 128-2022** Resolution Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2022 Budget
- 129-2022** A Resolution Authorizing Contract with General Recreation, Inc., an Approved State Contract Vendor for Contracting Units Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a
- 130-2022** Approval of Application for a Coin Drop Family Association of Northfield
- 131-2022** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for the Year 2022-2023
- 132-2022** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for the Year 2022-2023
- 133-2022** Resolution of Support from the City of Northfield Authorizing the Sustainable Jersey Grant Application
- 134-2022** Resolution Establishing the 2022 City of Northfield Municipal Community Emergency Response Team
- 135-2022** Accept Rescission of Offer of Employment and Rescind Approval of Resolution Nos. 120-2022 and 121-2022
- 136-2022** To Rescind Approval of Resolution 119-2022
- 137-2022** A Resolution Ratifying an Amendment to Northfield Fire Department and Company Fire Manual as Authorized in Section 25-2 of the Code of the City of Northfield
- 138-2022** Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey, Authorizing Execution of Agreement for Student Internships Between Rowan University and the City Of Northfield
- 139-2022** 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. 10:4-12b(4), Regarding Potential Contract Negotiations between the City of Northfield and the Northfield Professional Firefighter’s Association, Local No. 2364

On motion of Councilman Leeds, seconded by Councilman Notaro, all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 124-2022 through 139-2022, by Consent Agenda.

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Notaro seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

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

ORDINANCES

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Notaro seconded, to introduce Ordinance 7-2022.

7-2022 Bond Ordinance Appropriating One Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,300,000) and Authorizing the Issuance of One Million Two Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,235,000) in Bonds or Notes of the City of Northfield for the Purchase of a New Fire Truck to be Undertaken by the City of Northfield, in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey
Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 06/18/2022
2nd Reading / 7pm Public Hearing / Final Consideration 06/28/2022

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, there would be no public input, and announced the publication and public hearing dates. 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 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same.

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

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Notaro seconded, to introduce Ordinance 8-2022.

8-2022 An Ordinance Amending Section 215-42 of the Code of the City of Northfield Governing Land Use And Development
Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 06/18/2022
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 06/28/2022

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, there would be no public input, and announced the publication and public hearing dates. 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 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same.

Clerk Canesi explained that the Planning Board had provided written notice of their concurrence with the contents of ordinance 8-2022 in advance of tonight's introduction.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 1,195,878.73

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 – yes; Mr. Utts – absent; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Dewees read the meeting notices.

Mayor Chau wanted Council to know that he personally paid for the graduation sign out front of City Hall.

Council President Polistina announced the Executive Session for Resolution 139-2022.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

139-2022 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. 10:4-12b(4), Regarding Potential Contract Negotiations between the City of Northfield and the Northfield Professional Firefighter’s Association, Local No. 2364

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.

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.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed were terms and conditions of the CBA between the City and the fire union and potential negotiations of the terms and conditions of that agreement. 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

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general public when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement.

At 7:29pm Council entered Executive Session, and remained in Council Chambers.

At 7:58pm 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 terms and conditions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the fire union and potential negotiations of the terms and conditions of that agreement. 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 7:58pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk