

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2021

At 8:26pm, this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 9, 2021, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), and Executive Order of the Governor of the State of NJ No. 243, this meeting will be held in-person and as a remote public meeting (live-streamed) using Zoom conferencing service. Due to continued social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public. Visit the event calendar page for June 15, 2021 at www.cityofnorthfield.org to determine current seating availability. Face coverings and social distancing will be required for in-person attendance. To reserve an available seat, contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 609-641-2832, ext 125, no later than 4:00pm on June 15, 2021. Once all available seats have been reserved, virtual attendance will be required using a web-browser to Join the Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82866814195> or by telephone using one tap mobile +16465588656,,82866814195# or direct dial +1 646 558 8656 using Meeting ID: 828 6681 4195 . For those wishing to comment during the dedicated public comment portion of the meeting, but who may be unable to attend (in person or via Zoom), public comments may also be submitted in advance via email to mcanesi@cityofnorthfield.org or by written letter to the Office of the Municipal Clerk, 1600 Shore Road, Northfield NJ 08225, or by hand delivery to the drop box in the parking lot at the south corner of the municipal building, addressed to the attention of the Municipal Clerk. Comments shall contain the name and address of the author, will be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting, and must be received by 2:00pm on June 15, 2021.

Municipal Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“Due to social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public this evening. For this reason, this meeting is also being presented simultaneously as a remote public meeting, live-streamed, using Zoom conferencing service, and in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Orders and the Open Public Meetings Act. Zoom meeting 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 could reserve one of the limited seats, as well as how they can access Zoom have been made available on the municipal website and were published in the Press of Atlantic City. The full text of the public meeting notice has been posted at the entrances to the municipal building and includes Zoom instructions, information on where to find the meeting agenda and relevant documents, as well as instructions on how members of the public could submit comments in advance of tonight’s meeting. For those participating via Zoom, 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. Zoom participants wishing to exercise their right to participate during the public comment portion of the meeting should wait until the specific announcement is made

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to open the public comment period. At this time, one by one, any telephone users will be asked to identify themselves and will be unmuted to permit commentary. For web-browser participants, comments or questions may be submitted via the chat function and will not be acknowledged outside of the designated public-comment portion of the meeting; chat-users must also provide his/her name and address for the record in order to be heard. Any written comments submitted in advance will be read aloud and addressed during the public comment portion of the meeting.”

FLAG SALUTE

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

ROLL CALL

Present (in person): Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Perri; 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 motion of Councilman Utts with a second of Councilman Smith, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of May 18, 2021, without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Chau announced, as Councilman Utts mentioned, the Planning Board approved a new child care facility; it would be a beautiful facility; it was close to two million dollars. He was happy to report there would be grand opening for another new business, Mike's Pasta House. He had a meeting with County personnel, Councilwoman Madden, Councilman Dewees, Council President Polistina and Mary Canesi to discuss the library moving to the county system. They heard a proposal and would make recommendation. If we move forward will have to go to referendum. He thanked Deputy Clerk Campbell and Clerk Canesi for the Memorial Day Ceremony. We dedicated a plaque to Mr. Robert Webb, it was beautiful, the family appreciated it. Mainland Regional High School Graduation will be held the 21st, Council must RSVP if they wish to attend. Tomorrow is the Northfield Community School Graduation at the Mainland Regional High School field. The Shore Road banner project was continuing, new banners would be installed, he thanked Superintendent Vitale for organizing the installation. He noted the banner on the front lawn of City Hall, and congratulated all. Due to Covid, many municipalities are not having National Night Out in August, Sergeant DiMarco is trying to plan and organize

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something for September. Mayor Chau announced the Annual Recycling Toter Contest, contact the City Clerk's Office for more information.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report as previously distributed to the Council. NJDOT has closed out the Shepherd Drive project and final payment will be processed. When we started working on the Urban Parks Grant application, we found out we would not qualify; we would only get about 30 out of 150 possible points and we did not complete the application for this reason. The water company just finished relocating the Birch Grove Park Road water line, so that has not been paved yet. Cedar Springs has not been paved yet; both should be able to be paved in about 30 days. Reconstruction of Merritt Drive plans are in the Clerks' Office and will be sent to state for approval. He noted one modification on the plan, no change to quantities. We had the bid opening for slip lining, he was recommending awarding the base bid only. Public Works did not feel Davis Avenue was in need of rehab at this point.

Councilman Dewees, regarding the concrete slab at Atrium Court, said he was hoping to get that done with Birch Grove Road.

Engineer Nassar confirmed.

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 make a comment, Council President Polistina closed the public comment portion of this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Polistina read the following statement: "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.

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.

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Resolution 115 will not be part of the consent agenda; if it is considered it will be after the Executive Session of Council has concluded and the public portion of the meeting has resumed.”

On a motion of Councilwoman Madden, second of Councilman Smith, all members present were in favor of voting by consent agenda for Resolutions 102-2021 through 109-2021 and 111-2021 through 114-2021.

- 102-2021** Authorizing the Execution of an Amended Agreement between the County of Atlantic and the City of Northfield for Participation in the ‘Atlantic County Radio Network’
- 103-2021** Award of Contract for the Slip Lining of Portions of the Existing Sanitary Sewer Mains
- 104-2021** Authorizing the Award of Contract for the Purchase and Installation of a Limited Area Fire Suppression System without Public Advertisement for Bids
- 105-2021** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for MA-2021 Reconstruction of Merritt Drive and a Portion of Ridgewood Drive
- 106-2021** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for the Year 2021-2022 – Bootlegger’s
- 107-2021** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for the Year 2021-2022 – Ventura’s
- 108-2021** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2021 Budget - Body Worn Cameras
- 109-2021** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2021 Budget - Click it or Ticket
- 111-2021** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2021 Budget – Alcohol Education Fund
- 112-2021** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for the Year 2021-2022 - ACCC
- 113-2021** American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund
- 114-2021** 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 (8), Regarding Personnel Matters

Councilwoman Madden motioned, second of Councilman Smith, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 102-2021 through 109-2021 and 111-2021 through 114-2021.

Councilman Perri, regarding the suppression system for downstairs, asked was that something that was preexisting and we’re renewing it or was it new?

Clerk Canesi advised that was new, it was required by the NJ Division of Fire Safety, based on an inspection.

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Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

Councilman Smith motioned, second of Councilman Perri, to introduce Ordinance 5-2021.

5-2021 Bond Ordinance Appropriating Eight Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$890,000) and Authorizing the Issuance of Eight Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$845,500) in Bonds or Notes of the City of Northfield for Various Improvements or Purposes Authorized 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 06/19/2021
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 07/13/2021*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, 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.

Councilman Utts asked if we were held to these numbers.

Council President Polistina replied this was just the authorization.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Perri motioned, second of Councilman Dewees, to introduce Ordinance 6-2021.

6-2021 An Ordinance Creating a New Chapter 39 of the Municipal Code of the City of Northfield Entitled “City of Northfield Municipal Alliance”
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 06/19/2021
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 07/13/2021*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, 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: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes,

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Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Dewees motioned, second of Councilman Utts, to introduce Ordinance 7-2021.

7-2021 An Ordinance by the City of Northfield in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey Permitting the Operation of Certain Classes of Cannabis Businesses within its Geographical Boundaries
Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 06/19/2021
Referral to Planning Board 06/16/2021
*2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 07/13/2021***

Solicitor Facenda noted the following changes as discussed during the work session: Section 215-158A (26) removed “provided same are not within 500’ of any residential zoning district”, 215-158A (26) c. added “but not to be consumed on premises”.

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, 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. Pursuant to Land Use Law, this Ordinance would be referred to the Planning Board, they would have 35 days to comment.

*** it was discovered after this meeting that the July 13th date, as announced for 2nd reading and public hearing, was an error, and the true date was August 10th; August 10th is the date that was advertised.*

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – no, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – no; Motion carried.

Council President Polistina announced that the next ordinance on the agenda was not needed as Ordinance 7-2021 just passed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$2,448,693.51

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

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

Councilwoman Madden read the meeting notices.

Clerk Canesi asked if were scheduling a Special Meeting to discuss court, and what time?

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Council President Polistina announced a special meeting Thursday, June 24th at 5pm regarding possible actions with regard to municipal court.

114-2021 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 (8), Regarding Personnel Matters

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 related to personnel matters specifically an employment status change from part time to full time for a police secretary, the employee was issued a Rice Notice. 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 return to the general public when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement.

Clerk Canesi announced to the members of the public who were participating via Zoom that when the Executive Session commenced, she would be turning off the audio, and the video would be temporarily paused. Council would resume the public session, audio and video, as soon as the Executive Session concluded.

Chief Newman was in attendance during the Executive Session.

At 8:56pm Council entered Executive Session.

At 9:10pm 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 the personnel matters regarding the employment status change for the part time police records secretary, to full time status. City Council would now entertain Resolution 115-2021.

Councilwoman Madden motioned, second of Councilman Smith, to adopt Resolution 115-2021.

115-2021 Employment Status Change Part-Time Police Records Secretary

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

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At 9:12pm, on motion of Councilman Utts, seconded by Councilman Smith, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk