

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2014**

At 7:39pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2014, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor McGee. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chau, Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline
Absent: Devine

Mayor Jerry McGee, Solicitor Kris Facenda, and Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski were also in attendance.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

Council President Travagline introduced Carol Patrick.

Carol Patrick, Chairwoman of the Cultural Committee, introduced Northfield's first baby, Alexander Dionisio, born January 9th. She stated that Alexander was the latest ever first baby. She introduced the baby's parents, Bryan and Angela. She shared that they moved to Northfield in October 2013 and live on Cove Avenue. She noted this was interesting because Alexander's dad lived on Cove Avenue while he was growing up although not in the same house. She commented that many families return to Northfield to raise their children and that they will be following Alexander as he moves along on his adventures.

Both Bryan and Angela Dionisio thanked Council.

Carol Patrick introduced Miss 4th of July, Annie Goodman. She shared that Annie Goodman lives on Ridgewood Drive with her parents. Annie is an 8th grader at Northfield Community School and will be graduating on June 25, 2014. She is the youngest Miss 4th of July ever and every year for the past five years she has held a bake sale at Homecoming. She has raised an average of a \$1,000.00 per year and the proceeds are split between Northfield families and children with cancer. She shared that Ms. Goodman plans to continue to hold the bake sale even once she is at Mainland Regional High School. She also mentors 5th graders at Northfield Community School and 1st graders at Gilda's Club.

Carol Patrick introduced Northfield's Citizens of the Year: Chief Henry Martinelli, Deputy Chief Edward Hackett and Deputy Chief Robert Leeds. She noted they will all be retiring at the end of 2014 from the volunteer line. These three men have

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volunteered with a 24/7 dedication to provide Fire and Rescue services but are making way for the next generation to take over the enormous responsibility of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company. She described each of the recipient's accomplishments.

Personal Profile for Henry Martinelli

He has been a resident of Northfield since 1964 and resides on Sutton Avenue. He coached Northfield Soccer for five years in the 1970's and served on the Northfield Planning Board for 7 years. He has been married to Sue Martinelli since 1964, and is the father of two children, Nannette and Henry. He joined the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company in August 1968. He was the Volunteer 2nd Fire Lieutenant from 1973-75. He was the Volunteer Assistant Fire Chief from 1976-86 and has served as the Volunteer Fire Chief from 1986 to present.

Personal Profile Edward Hackett

He retired from the Atlantic County Prosecutors Office in 2003. He has been a life member of the International Association of Arson Investigators and is a member of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Northfield. He is currently the President of the Trustees and sings in the church choir. He is a past President of the Northfield Volunteer Firefighters Relief Association and is actively involved as a volunteer for the "Field of Dreams" organization. He helped his brother Barry, who co-founded this organization that serves many young mentally/physically challenged children that live in Atlantic County. He has been married to Pat for 50 years and they have two children and six grandchildren. They make their home on Pasadena Drive. He joined the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company in 1968. He served as Fire Inspector for City of Northfield. He was the Volunteer 3rd Lieutenant from 1976-77. He was Volunteer 1st Lieutenant from 1978-86. He was Volunteer Assistant Fire Chief from 1986-2012 and is currently Volunteer Deputy Fire Chief.

Personal Profile for Robert Leeds

He was born in Northfield at a house at the corner of Fifield Avenue and Shore Road (Mildred Harvey House). He currently lives on Steelman Avenue. He is the fourth generation of his family to live in Northfield. His Great Grandfather Pardon Ryon started a General Store in Northfield in the early 1900's and his Grandfather farmed some of the land that is now the Atlantic City Country Club. He is active in the Northfield All Sports - coaching I ball, baseball and Saturday morning basketball. He is married to June and has one son, William who lives in Northfield with his wife and two children. He joined the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company in 1970 and became the Volunteer 2nd Lieutenant from 1976-77. From 1978-86 he was the

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Assistant Volunteer Fire Chief and in 1986 he became the Volunteer Fire Deputy Chief which is a position he still holds.

Council President Travagline announced a brief recess and that refreshments are being served in the Clerk's office, courtesy of the Cultural Committee.

8:15pm Council President Travagline called the meeting to order.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Chau seconded by Councilman Dewees to dispense with the reading of the minutes of May 27, 2014. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri congratulated the Mainland Regional High School graduates from Northfield and other communities and the Northfield Community School graduates. He offered condolences to Bill Vain's family and noted that it was a very nice ceremony at the American Legion. He stated that Bill Vain was instrumental in Veterans Park. He shared that he received information from Rich Gerber as promised at the last meeting with regard to the parade. He suggested adopting policies and procedures for parades. He stated that Councilman Dewees met with Linwood regarding the Sewer Interlocal Committee and they made many good suggestions and we do have a signed agreement.

Councilman O'Neill congratulated Mainland seniors and the 8th grader from Northfield Community School. He stated he will attend the graduation Thursday at 7:00pm and noted all of Council are welcome. He said he attended Bill Vain's Memorial Service on Sunday. He commented that Bill was an amazing individual and will be missed. He thanked Bill Vain and his family for all their efforts at Veterans Park. He said he will be having a shared service meeting with Pleasantville representatives. He noted he will update Council on the Court revenue at the next meeting.

Council President Travagline stated the Pleasantville meeting will be July 2, 2014 at 10:00 am and directed the Clerk to notify Pleasantville.

Councilman Piergiovanni congratulated the graduates of 2014. He stated that he also attended Bill Vain's Memorial Service. He shared that in the short time he got to know Bill, he was very helpful to him. He wanted to acknowledge Bill and Steve's

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efforts at helping bring Veterans Park to its fruition. He said that Bill will be missed and that he had an impact on his life personally. He shared that Matt Marshall is committed to doing the irrigation and it just has to be scheduled. He stated the Calvi electrical work will be \$7,500.00 and he is negotiating with them to possibly split the cost. He reiterated that that after inspection, Calvi said is a little more work than they thought it was going to be.

Council President Travagline suggested having more donated work.

Councilman Piergiovanni stated the City is still accepting brick donations. He noted the original area has seven spots left but we have additional space identified.

Councilman Perri suggested applying for additional open space money.

Councilman Dewees reported that Department of Public Works cut ten lawns that are in foreclosure. He noted they may have to dig up conduit at Birch Grove Park but the trust is paying for it.

Councilman Perri asked for trash receptacles at Oakcrest Avenue and Shore Road. He said the one at Venturas is damaged as well.

Council President Travagline stated that Councilman Dewees and Park Supervisor Vicky Rutter are focusing on a five year plan to get the Park where it should be. He stated the Park is very nice; but we can plan to bring in more families to enjoy the Park.

Councilman Chau stated he was late due to the attendance at Mainland Regional High School graduation ceremonies. He said that he has forwarded the email from the resident, who wanted the speed bump removed, to Lieutenant Newman for review and consideration. He asked who would remove it.

Council President Travagline answered Public Works and noted that if it is removed it would be easy to find a home for it.

Councilman O'Neill stated that he wants to ensure that it is not removed based on the concerns of only one resident.

Councilman Chau congratulated the Cultural Committee on their celebration this evening and mentioned the parade and the new rules with regard to the projectiles, water guns and candy. He stated a letter has gone out to the participants and it was posted on the Mainland Channel. He read the EMS and Fire reports for May.

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Council President Travagline reiterated that Council has a process; every decision we make has a process. He added the process goes through a committee and it is discussed with the Chair and then it goes to the Council President or the Mayor, depending on the Committee, and then it goes to the Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McGee congratulated Mainland students on their graduation. He stated he will be speaking at the Northfield Community School graduation tomorrow. He stated that he would like to speak to the process between Mayor and Council. He thanked Council President Travagline for backing him up. He stated they have worked hard for the past three weeks; but it has been going on for months. He commented that he cannot explain to everyone as it happens and there was some misunderstanding tonight. He added that everything is on schedule and we feel confident in what we are doing.

Councilman Chau addressed the allegation that emails have been sent that the Mayor refused to respond to.

Solicitor Facenda noted that any emails may be with regard to a particular person's employment and would require a Rice Notice and should not be discussed tonight.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Kwapinski reported that Enclave at Shore Mill is scheduled to start next week. He stated that Kline Construction has started the spot repair paving.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject.

Lynn Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, asked if the certified electrician who is needed to do the work at Veterans Park could be a volunteer.

Council President Travagline answered yes.

Council President Travagline, seeing no one else wishing to speak closed the public session.

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RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Travagline 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 are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds.

The Executive Sessions 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. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Councilman President Travagline asked if anyone wants to vote on any resolutions separately and he received no response.

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to vote by Consent Agenda on Resolutions 112-2014 through 126-2014.

- 112-2014** Refund of Overpayment of 2014 Sewer Taxes
- 113-2014** Authorize Police Chief Robert L. James to Buy Back His City Issued Service Handgun
- 114-2014** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for the Year 2014-2015
- 115-2014** Release of Escrow Monies and Application Fees from the Planning Board
- 116-2014** To Hire a Laborer in the Public Works Department
- 117-2014** Refund of Overpayment of 2014 Taxes
- 118-2014** A Resolution Encouraging the Boards of Education of Mainland Regional High School, Somers Point, Linwood and Northfield to Thoroughly Examine an Opportunity for a Shared Service which has presented itself as a result of the fact that Somers Point currently has an Interim Superintendent and the Superintendents of Mainland Regional High School, Linwood and Northfield have Announced their Intent to Retire; and to Schedule a Joint Meeting to Receive Public Comment on Such a Proposal

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- 119-2014** A Resolution Appointing Certifying Officer in Absence of Chief Financial Officer
- 120-2014** A Resolution Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2014 Budget
- 121-2014** A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Advertisement for Bids for the Supplying and Delivery of Vehicle Maintenance and Repair for the Cities of Linwood and Northfield
- 122-2014** Resolution to Amend the Agreement between Jeffrey R. Surenian and Associates, LLC and the City of Northfield
- 123-2014** NJ Safe and Secure Communities Program Grant Application – Two (2) Police Positions - \$60,000.00
- 124-2014** Acknowledging Military Leave of Absence for Employee Daniel Mitchell
- 125-2014** 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, Regarding Possible Anticipated Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality
- 126-2014** 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, regarding an Employment Agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to adopt by Consent Agenda on Resolutions 112-2014 through 126-2014.

Councilman O’Neill asked the fees for liquor licenses.

Municipal Clerk Canesi answered that the State is \$200.00 and the City of Northfield is \$2500.00.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

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ORDINANCES

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt Ordinance 3-2014.

3-2014 An Ordinance to Make it Unlawful for any Person Under the Legal Age to Knowingly Possess or Knowingly Consume an Alcoholic Beverage on Private Property Without Legal Authority and Providing Penalties for the Violation Thereof in the City of Northfield County, of Atlantic and State of New Jersey
*Second Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption
Published in the Press of AC June 28, 2014*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that since introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies have been available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Council President Travagline opened the public hearing. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak on Ordinance 3-2014, he closed the public hearing.

Councilman Perri stated that he will be voting no. He doesn't want family members in jeopardy and liberties have been fought for to prevent this type of intrusion into our homes.

Councilman Chau asked if there was an individual under the legal age and the individual had a glass of wine, would this ordinance apply.

Solicitor Facenda explained the parental consent provision and that the Ordinance attempts to punish the child with the possibility of loss of their driving privileges.

Councilman Chau expressed concern about probable cause.

Robert Zlotnick, Atlantic Prevention Resources, explained that the intent is to be a deterrent.

Councilman O'Neill further explained that it is to target house parties and to prevent the kids from being able to drink in front of a Police officer.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – No; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

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Councilman Chau motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to adopt Ordinance 4-2014

4-2014 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 91-5 of the Northfield Municipal Code, as Adopted by Ordinance 3-1989, Regulating the Possession of Alcohol in Public Places
*Second Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption
Published in the Press of AC June 28, 2014*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that since introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies have been available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Council President Travagline opened the public hearing. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak on Ordinance 4-2014, he closed the public hearing.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – Yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

Councilman Perri noted that Councilman Devine is at the Mainland Regional High School graduation.

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to introduce Ordinance 5-2014

5-2014 An Ordinance to Mandate Direct Deposit for Municipal Employees by the City Council of the City of Northfield Pursuant To C.52:15-15F Et .Seq.
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press of AC June 28, 2014
Second Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption July 29, 2014*

Councilman Chau asked what if there is a computer error or power failure and the money is not deposited. Additionally what if that occurs and there are penalties assessed as a result.

Registered Clerk Canesi stated she does not know but in six years it has never happened.

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, announcing that there would be no public input on introduction. She provided the hearing and publication dates and noted that full copies of the Ordinance are presently posted on the City website, on

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the bulletin board at City Hall, and are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – Yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Chau motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 428,543.39.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

Councilman O’Neill read the meeting notices.

Council President Travagline stated there is a Special meeting Monday June 30, 2014 at 4:00pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS OF COUNCIL

Council President Travagline announced that Council will be adjourning to the Clerk’s office for an Executive Session and the resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

125-2014 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, Regarding Possible Anticipated Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

Solicitor Facenda stated Council will enter into an Executive Session not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, to discuss pending litigation with respect to Mount Laurel and Council on Affordable Housing issues and negotiations with a local developer for certain property in the City of Northfield. As negotiations continue it is not known when the minutes will be released. When the time comes we will release the minutes in accordance with the applicable law.

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At 9:11pm Council adjourned to the Clerk's office.

At 10:06pm the Executive Session ended and Council returned to chambers

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session had concluded and Council is back in Public Session. During the Executive Session Council continued to discuss with Mt. Laurel/COAH Counsel continuing negotiations with respect to threatened and potential Mt. Laurel litigation. He noted all discussions require confidentiality and negotiations will continue. At this time the matter remains unconcluded. Minutes are being kept as required by law but will be released only when the matter is concluded and we are permitted by law to do so. No time frame for that release is known at this time.

Council President Travagline announced that Council will be adjourning to the Clerk's office for an Executive Session and the resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

126-2014 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, regarding an Employment Agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

Solicitor Facenda stated Council will enter into an Executive Session not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. The matter to be discussed is an employment agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief. It is unknown whether the Executive Session will result in any official action but if so Council will return to Public Session and take such official action. It is unknown at this point if any formal action will be taken tonight; so therefore, it is unknown when the minutes will become available to the public.

At 10:07pm Council adjourned to the Clerk's office.

At 10:35pm the Executive Session ended and Council returned to chambers

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Solicitor Facenda stated that Council has concluded the Executive Session pertaining to an employment agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief. At this point negotiations concerning the terms and conditions of the employment agreement will continue. No official action will be taken at this time and it is unknown when minutes will become available although they are being kept in accordance with the law.

At 10:36pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk