

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 24, 2021**

At 5:04pm, this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on June 19, 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 24, 2021 at [www.cityofnorthfield.org](http://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 3:00pm on June 24, 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/86018755302> or by telephone using one tap mobile +13017158592,,83580815871# or direct dial +1 301 715 8592 using Meeting ID: 860 1875 5302. 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](mailto: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 3:00pm on June 24, 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

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comment portion of the meeting should wait until the specific announcement is made 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.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present (in person):** Councilman Dewees; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Perri; Councilman Smith; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

**Absent:** Councilwoman Madden; Councilman Utts\*

*\*Councilman Utts was not present when attendance was taken, but arrived at 5:40pm.*

Solicitor Facenda, CFO Stollenwerk and Chief Newman were also in attendance.

Council President Polistina referred to the agenda and announced that Resolution 117-2021 was not on the agenda, it was added today. After the Executive Session, Council would vote on Resolution 116-2021 if needed.

Council President Polistina made agenda assignments.

Regarding the County proposal, Council President Polistina commented that there were still questions, and the list of all participating towns was not yet known. Our resolution reflects that.

Solicitor Facenda recommended going into Executive session first.

Clerk Canesi confirmed that the public comment portion of the meeting would be after the Executive Session?

Solicitor Facenda confirmed.

Council President Polistina called for a motion to adopt Resolution 117-2021.

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Councilman Perri motioned, second of Councilman Dewees, to adopt Resolution 117-2021.

Solicitor Facenda read Resolution 117-2021 into the record.

**“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) – CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND MATTERS COVERED UNDER THE ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE**

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council of the City of Northfield is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-12 provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Common Council of the City of Northfield to discuss, in a session not open to the public, contractual negotiations pertaining to a potential Joint Court Agreement with the Township of Hamilton, a potential Joint Court Agreement with the Town of Hammonton and a potential Agreement to join the Central Municipal Court of Atlantic County, and matters that fall within the attorney client privilege related thereto.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Common Council of the City of Northfield that Council move into Executive Session, closed to the public.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be released when a decision with respect to the matter has been made and all rights to litigate or appeal are exhausted; provided, that material entitled to Court protection or subject to attorney-client privilege shall not be disclosed.

I, Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk of the City of Northfield, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a Special Meeting of the Common Council of Northfield, held this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk”

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

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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.

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 are joint court with the Township of Hamilton and the Town of Hammonton and concerned contractual negotiations and matters falling under attorney client privilege. 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 5:13pm Council entered Executive Session.*

*\*At 5:40pm Councilman Utts arrived.*

*At 5:54pm 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 contractual negotiations and matters falling under attorney client privilege. Matter discussed were potential joint court with Hamilton, Hammonton and the County. Minutes were kept and will be become public when permitted by law, as negotiations are continuing, the timeframe was unknown.

**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.

Council President Polistina announced that no formal action was being taken this evening.

Councilman Dewees read the meeting notices.

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At 5:57pm, on motion of Councilman Notaro, seconded by Councilman Dewees, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk