

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 28, 2022**

At 6:51pm 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 Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

Absent: Councilman Dewees; Councilman Smith

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Leeds with a second of Councilman Notaro, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of June 14, 2022, without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau referred to comments made by David Goldstein during the Work Session portion of this meeting. Mayor Chau did visit the site in a police car with radar during the times that Mrs. Brennan had advised the speeding was occurring; over a two-hour period only two vehicles were speeding. He noted that this was only one day, but this was what Mayor Chau observed. The County Administrator did send a memo out to employees reminding them to observe the speed limit. Regarding the Diocese and the housing project, City representatives did emphasize the need to avoid any development that would desecrate any graves. He reminded all that this was County property. He believed senior housing and assisted living was needed; the closest one being run by the Diocese was in Pleasantville, he believes they have six throughout South Jersey. Mayor Chau reported that Chief Newman had posted the testing dates for the Chief's position for mid-October, we would follow the ordinance for testing procedures. Regarding the school, Mayor Chau had approached the school about a year ago about a School Resource Officer, but Mayor Chau never heard back.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. There was a Resolution on the agenda to authorize the Municipal Aid paving project, we were requesting \$349,000.00. New Jersey American Water finished the main connections for Shepherd, Herbert and Hemsley. The water quality issues have been resolved; we need to wait 60 days for paving. for paving of Merritt and Ridgewood, paving and striping has been completed. A few punch list items remain. He would try

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to close out the project in 60 days. Regarding the Local Road Program, we added Mazza Drive and Casey Drive. We received three bids. He read the bid amounts for all three bidders, he recommended the award to Arawak, the low bidder at \$763,000.00.

Council President Polistina asked what happened if prices still increase?

Engineer Nassar believed he had the resources to address; paving companies believe it's at the top.

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.

David Goldstein, 116 Dolphin Avenue, said he was making a statement, he had no question. He referred to the Arch Diocese, he had nothing against them, but believed they have plenty of places to go, they didn't need to take historical land that goes back to the 1830's as a potter's field. It was incumbent to preserve history and not repeat mistakes that were made when the bus parking lot was built. He hoped the Council stands up to the County and says no. County personnel know that misinformation is being relayed when they say they won't build where there are bodies, because they don't know where the bodies are. Preserve the quality of life. Listen to your constituents and do something about it.

Mayor Chau asked Mr. Goldstein how we as a City Council, tell the County what to do on their property? We have been told they will use resources and technology to determine where there may be bodies.

Mr. Goldstein replied, take the placement of bodies out of it; this is open space and should be preserved.

Mr. Notaro stated that he used the Bike Path as open space; what would Mr. Goldstein do with this piece of land, behind other buildings?

Mr. Goldstein replied they have made statements before about where things would be built. reiterates that open space should be preserved.

Seeing no one else 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

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

- 140-2022** Resolution to Amend the Agreement between Surenian, Edwards, and Nolan, LLC, Special Counsel on Affordable Housing Matters, and the City of Northfield
- 141-2022** Award of Contract 2021 Local Road Program
- 142-2022** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Engineering Services for the Project known as the 2021 Local Road Paving Project
- 143-2022** A Resolution for Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Project Known as MA-2023 Reconstruction of Ridgewood Drive – 00512
- 144-2022** Accumulated Absence Payout
- 145-2022** Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey, Authorizing Execution of First Amendment to Shared Services Agreement Between the Atlantic County Improvement Authority and the City of Northfield Regarding Property Registration
- 146-2022** Resolution Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2022 Budget
- 147-2022** 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. 10:4-12(B)(4), Regarding Contract Negotiations for Government Workers Union Local No. 410 for Supervisory Employees

On motion of Councilman Notaro, seconded by Councilman Utts, all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 140-2022 through 147-2022, by Consent Agenda.

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

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

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ORDINANCES

Councilman Utts motioned, Councilwoman Bucci seconded, to adopt 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
*2nd Reading / 7pm Public Hearing / Final Consideration 06/28/2022
Published in the Press of AC 07/02/2022*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this was the second reading and that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption. 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 to any member of the public who requested same. If approved, final publication will be July 2, 2022.

Council President Polistina opened the public hearing.

Councilman Leeds asked since the price had gone up to \$1,334,000.00 would we have the difference between the bond and the amount of the new truck price?

Council President Polistina replied, we would self-fund it.

Councilman Leeds announced that the current price expires July 24th.

Seeing no else one wishing to speak Council President Polistina closed the public hearing.

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

Councilman Utts motioned, Councilwoman Bucci seconded, to adopt Ordinance 8-2022.

8-2022 An Ordinance Amending Section 215-42 of the Code of the City of Northfield Governing Land Use And Development
*2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 06/28/2022
Published in the Press of AC 07/02/2022*

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Council President Polistina opened the public hearing.

Seeing no one wishing to speak Council President Polistina closed the public hearing.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 75,078.59

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

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

Councilman Utts read the meeting notices.

Council President Polistina reminded all about the 4th of July Parade and details.

Council President Polistina announced the Executive Session for Resolution 147-2022.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

147-2022 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. 10:4-12(B)(4), Regarding Contract Negotiations for Government Workers Union Local No. 410 for Supervisory Employees

Clerk Canesi announced to the members of the public who were participating via Zoom that when the Executive Session commenced, members of the public who were attending in person would be asked to leave the Council Chambers. She would be muting the Zoom audio, and the video would be temporarily paused. Council would resume the public session, including reactivating the audio and video, as soon as the Executive Session concluded, members of the public would be invited to return, and a statement would be made for the record.

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Solicitor Facenda announced that the matters to be discussed were the authorization and execution of a collective negotiations' agreement between the City of Northfield and union Local 410 and we will discuss the memorandum of agreement between the City and Local 410 Government Supervisory Employees covering the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025. 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 7:22pm Council entered Executive Session, and remained in Council Chambers.

At 7:33pm 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 authorization and execution of a collective negotiations' agreement between the City of Northfield and union Local 410 covering the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025. 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 would now vote on Resolution 148-2022.

Councilwoman Bucci motioned; Councilman Leeds seconded to adopt Resolution 148-2022.

148-2022 A Resolution Approving the Terms of a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Northfield and the Government Workers Union, Local 410 for Supervisory Employees, and Authorizing the Execution of a Final Collective Negotiations Agreement between the Parties Covering the Period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025

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

At approximately 7:35pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk