

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 16, 2019**

At 7:06pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 5, 2019, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau, followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of Marge Banning, a long time, dedicated member of the community.

ROLL CALL

Present: Korngut, Madden, O'Neill, Perri, Lischin
Absent: Dewees, Smith

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Facenda, and Engineer Nassar were also in attendance.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Madden all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of June 18, 2019, without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

7PM PRESENTATION – Louis Bay Scholarship Semi-Finalist – Bradley Ferguson

Council President Lischin announced the Mayor's presentation to Bradley Ferguson as a Louis Bay Scholarship Finalist.

Mayor Chau said Bradley graduated from Mainland this year. He has known Bradley for many years, and he will be attending Harvard. He announced Bradley as a Louis Bay Scholarship semi-finalist, and reviewed Bradley's history of academic and volunteer accomplishments. Bradley is committed to Veterans and to the vulnerable population in the community, including the creation of Post Crashers, and a food pantry at the school. He has raised more than \$175,000. Mayor Chau read a list of Bradley's many awards, and asked him to explain his Victory Garden.

Bradley Ferguson replied that the Victory Garden raises fresh vegetables for Veterans and homeless in the area; they use the produce to make meals and share them with the Veterans, including time for fellowship.

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Mayor Chau presented Bradley with the certificate and offered his congratulations.

Councilman O'Neill spoke, and directed his comments to Bradley's mom who was in attendance in the audience, and to Bradley's dad, saying that he had coached hundreds and hundreds of kids, and that he knows 90% of the kids in town. Bradley was the most respectful kid he'd ever met.

Councilwoman Korngut congratulated Bradley, adding that she was familiar with his work, and that Northfield was better off for having him as a member of our community.

Councilman Perri congratulated him as well and looked forward to seeing what Bradley accomplishes in the future.

Councilwoman Madden congratulated Bradley and told him she was looking forward to his future.

Council President Lischin said he had known Bradley for years. He wished him all the best at Harvard, and he hoped that Bradley would come back to Northfield and make our town a better place.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri - Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Sewer Operations, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri reported that the Senior luncheon would be Thursday at noon at the Library; the Library Director would be doing a presentation. The Planning Board approved a group home in a commercial zone. The situation at Burton and Tilton would be handled by a different contractor; we had to get quotes from another vendor due to Kline not being able to handle our request to do that repair. The work would hopefully be starting Tuesday. There would be a detour and it will be completed without too much inconvenience. He thanked all for their efforts on the 4th of July event.

Councilman Lischin noted that we would need to have a Special Meeting to get out of our contract with Kline; he asked all to talk about a Special Meeting date.

Solicitor Facenda stated that he did have to review the contract and then would make a recommendation.

Council President Lischin asked if anyone was available to meet on the 23rd or 24th, whatever time works for everyone.

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Council President Lischin, Councilman Perri, Councilwoman Korngut and Councilwoman Madden were available for a Special Meeting on Tuesday, July 23rd at 9am.

Councilman Perri asked if we could have an interim contractor without going out to bid.

Solicitor Facenda replied yes, to the extent that it would qualify as an emergency under bid laws.

Councilman O'Neill - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Court/Violations, FAN

Councilman O'Neill reported the Code Enforcement Officer had been contacted in regard to a number of residents reaching out about one or two homes where the owner was renting out as Airbnb. He asked Solicitor Facenda to look into this.

Solicitor Facenda asked if we were doing this for the town or for a resident; a resident can hire their own attorney.

Clerk Canesi offered to send Solicitor Facenda Linwood's Ordinance that was adopted to regulate this type of activity.

Councilman O'Neill advised that the well at the ball fields was installed, and asked Councilman Perri, in Councilman Dewees' absence, to have Public Works take a look at the football fields.

Councilman O'Neill added that he saw a parent or coach using the softball field, a day later it was still littered with softballs. He suggested we may want to touch base with the baseball folks because the fields are not being cleaned up after use.

Councilwoman Korngut – Library, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Technology/MRHS Channel

Councilwoman Korngut reported that the July 4th Parade was a big success, and the Library had a float in honor of the moon landing. The Library Board met on July 11th, and Councilwoman Korngut read the prior month's statistics from the Board's report. Their next meeting was scheduled for August 8th. National Night Out was coming up on August 6th; she was looking forward to having a game truck there as well as a special surprise from the Mayor. She announced the next Northfield Community School Board of Education meeting as July 22.

Councilman O'Neill asked who is sponsoring the game truck.

Councilwoman Korngut replied that she was paying for it herself.

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Councilman O'Neill commented that there will be 600 kids there who want to use it.

Councilwoman Korngut replied that she had spoken with the Chief.

Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Parks, Playgrounds

Councilman Dewees was absent.

Councilman Smith– Finance/Collections, Little League/Babe Ruth, Shared Services

Councilman Smith was absent.

Councilwoman Madden – Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden reported that we had our insurance presentations this evening, and the next Safety Meeting was scheduled for the end of August. She had asked the Mainland Regional High School Board of Education members to come to one of our meetings, and they would like to know what we'd like to discuss, she would work on that for a future meeting.

Council President Lischin - Fire Department/EMS, Cultural Committee

Council President Lischin read the Fire Department and EMS reports for June. Fire Department calls for June included: 3 total fire incidents, 8 false alarm calls, 5 good intent calls, 8 hazardous condition calls, 1 service call incident, 1 EMS 1st responder incidents and 1 mutual aid calls; for a total of 26 dispatched incidents.

TriCare had a total of 122 dispatches, 95 calls with patients, 65 transports, 4 mutual aid calls to EHT and did not administer any Narcan.

The Cultural Committee did a wonderful job with the 4th of July Parade; he offered congratulations again to all. He thanked Joan Brennan as well for her efforts.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau forwarded two letters from the County Executive; the 1st was encouraging graduating students to wear a military sash during graduation if they were going into the military, which Mainland Regional High School already did. The other letter highlighted unsolicited calls to seniors being made by individuals fraudulently representing themselves as from the Social Security Administration, in an effort to get personal information. He also congratulated all who participated in the 4th of July Parade, and suggested once again that the Cultural Committee needed volunteers. He urged all interested to contact the City Clerk. Mayor Chau thanked Councilwoman Korngut, Councilwoman Madden, Councilman Dewees, and Council

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President Lischin for attending the NCS graduation with him. He thanked Councilwoman Madden and Council President Lischin for joining him at the Mainland Regional High School graduation.

The concrete pads for the New Road bus shelters had been poured, and the contractor will be installing them soon. Mayor Chau shared a story of seeing a gentleman in a wheelchair at the concrete pad waiting for the bus; he engaged the gentleman in conversation and discovered he had been coming from the Veterans Clinic, and was wearing a Marine Corp necklace. When the shelters are complete, he will invite all of Council and other dignitaries for a small celebration. He advised that another shelter was in the works for Oakcrest Avenue. He referred to the banners on Shore Road, and thanked Somers Point for the use of their cherry picker; he had received a lot of positive feedback. Anyone interested in donating can contact the City Clerk. He announced that the helmet program was in progress and the Northfield Police Department was issuing ice cream coupons to kids who were observed by the Police Officers riding their bikes while wearing helmets. This month he would be doing his recycling contest to win a recycling toter, once this month and next month. He hoped this would be an incentive to recycle.

Mayor Chau said he was approached by an individual who was interested in promoting Birch Grove Park, and had suggested a food truck rally. He did not think the City should be involved but maybe someone would organize it. He mentioned that he'd like Council to consider increasing the fees for copies of vital records, adding that we are among the lowest as compared to area towns. He suggested an increase from our current fee of \$5 to \$15. He asked Council to consider for the next meeting.

Council President Lischin conducted a straw poll, all present were in favor.

Mayor Chau announced that August 1st would be the first negotiations session with the PBA; if any Council member had suggestions or concerns, relay them to Mayor Chau for presentation to Labor Counsel. Interviews for the Police Department began today, and there were 27-28 candidates. He read the Police Department report for the month of June, and year to date.

As Mayor he was responsible for the Police Department, and there are some things he cannot divulge as they are sensitive. He told Council that it will be in the paper tomorrow, so he wanted make them aware now: Early this morning there were 7 arrests made, a substantial quantity of heroin was involved, as well as weapons. This was a concerted effort with other agencies, including the State Police and SWAT. This had been ongoing for several weeks, and Mayor Chau congratulated all involved.

Councilman O'Neill shared that he received compliments from two residents recently about Officer Evans and Officer Geiger.

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Councilwoman Korngut also congratulated all who were involved in the arrest.

Councilman Perri shared that Detective Sergeant Buccafurni sent a letter of appreciation complimenting the City mechanic, Rob Blaine; Perri said he noticed that Mayor Chau was not copied on the letter. Mr. Blaine took it upon himself to do certain work on the police vehicles, and saved the City money.

Mayor Chau noted that he had seen a great level of cooperation amongst employees, and he can't say enough about the Police Department taking the extra step. They were very enthusiastic about the work that they did.

Councilman Perri also recognized Marge Banning, who was very instrumental in the Northfield Rescue Squad and was very helpful to Councilman Perri when he was Mayor. He offered condolences to the Banning family.

Council President Lischin added there were lots of great things going on in Northfield.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. He reported that he was waiting to hear back from the ACUA regarding Catherine Place. The final change order for the Davis Avenue Pump Station was on the agenda tonight. In regard to Cresson and Walnut, they are two different projects but the same contractor, and they should have entire job complete by Friday. He mentioned an unfortunate incident yesterday where the proper signage was not put in place. Ultimately, the proper signs were not put in place before a motorist drove through the work zone and damaged her car, with the airbags deployed. Solicitor Facenda sent the contractor a letter notifying them they were in breach, and they have since contacted the motorist to assume responsibility for damages. This morning the proper signs were in place. He reviewed the recommendation of award for the 2018 Paving Project as base bid and alternate 2, due to very high costs when the bids came in. He would meet with the contractor next week and hoped to have job completed before the summer was over. He gave an overview of the depression on the asphalt at Tilton and Burton, which ended up being a broken sewer pipe. He explained that Kline cannot do the work, as a result he requested quotes from three vendors, and obtained two. The low quote was on the agenda for award this evening. If awarded tonight the contractor would be ready to move forward on Tuesday. He had been in contact with the County about the street opening permit. This investigation also revealed cracks in pipes further down the system; he recommended slip lining and is working with Councilman Perri on this. He hoped to have for Council to award contract at the next meeting. There was a pre-construction meeting with New Jersey American Water last week; they are looking to upgrade their mains down Infield Avenue to First Street to Davis Avenue. He hoped we would see some results in water quality.

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Council President Lischin asked if there were any updates on the Mill Road project.

Engineer Nassar replied that the contract had been awarded and there was a preconstruction meeting; he was not invited, but he had a conversation with the County and advised them that he needed to be involved since the City was paying for a portion of the sidewalks.

Councilman O'Neill ran in to a resident on Cresson Avenue and they asked about paving, this person also asked about storm drainage work.

Engineer Nassar replied that all drainage work had been done; this resident was on the high side.

Councilwoman Korngut complimented Engineer Nassar and Solicitor Facenda for getting the letter to the contractor right out, with regard to the accident.

Solicitor Facenda read Resolution 158-2019 into the record.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD, NJ
RESOLUTION NO. 158-2019**

AUTHORIZING REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES

BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, that a refund for overpaid taxes pursuant to the following is hereby authorized:

REFUND TO	B L K	LOT	PROPERTY ADDRESS	REFUND AMOUNT
CoreLogic Real Estate Tax Service 3001 Hackberry Road Irving, TX 75063	66	12.06	135 Fabian Avenue	\$ 2,059.02
				\$ 2,059.02

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer and other appropriate officials be and they are herewith authorized to sign the checks to accomplish the refunds authorized.

Michele L. Kirtsos, CTC

I, Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk of the City of Northfield, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, held this 16th day of July, 2019.

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Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Lischin opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any subject. Seeing no one wishing to speak Council President Lischin closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Lischin 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 Session has concluded. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded, and all were in favor of voting on Resolutions 146-2019 through 158-2019 by consent agenda.

- 146-2019** Approval of Application for a Coin Drop – Family Association of Northfield
- 147-2019** Acknowledging Retirement of Fire Official
- 148-2019** To Authorize the Sale of Surplus Property No Longer Needed for Public Use on an Online Auction Website
- 149-2019** Authorizing Release of a Performance Guarantee and Remaining Inspection Escrow Funds and the Posting of a 2-Year Maintenance Guarantee for Block 78, Lots 14, 18 and 19
- 150-2019** Authorizing the Extension of an Interlocal Agreement between the County of Atlantic and the City of Northfield for the Installation of Sidewalks along a Certain Section of Mill Road (CR 662) in the City of Northfield
- 151-2019** Award of Contract 2018 Local Road Program
- 152-2019** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers, LLC, to Proceed with Inspection and Contract Management for the Project Known as the 2018 Local Road Paving Project
- 153-2019** Amending Resolution No. 40-2019, Recognizing Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company

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- 154-2019** Authorizing the Request for a Bus Shelter and Execution of Agreement with NJ Transit
- 155-2018** Approval of Application for a Coin Drop – Volunteer Fire Company
- 156-2019** Authorizing the Award of Contract without Public Advertisement for Bids to Perna Finnigan Inc. for Sanitary Sewer Main Repair at the Intersection of Tilton Road and Burton Avenue
- 157-2019** 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
- 158-2019** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded, to adopt Resolutions 146-2019 through 158-2019 by consent agenda.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - absent; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

Councilwoman Madden motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded, to adopt Ordinance 9-2019, to be read by title only.

- 9-2019** Bond Ordinance Appropriating Seven Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$725,000) and Authorizing the Issuance of Six Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$688,750) 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
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration
Published w Statement in the Press of AC 07/20/2019

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption and thereafter published with the required estoppel statement. Since introduction the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the Municipal 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 to any member of the public who requested same.

Council President Lischin opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - absent; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

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Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded, to adopt Ordinance 10-2019, to be read by title only.

10-2019 An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Northfield, Section 330-15, Entitled "Newly Paved Streets"
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration
Published in the Press of AC 07/20/2019

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption and thereafter published. Since introduction the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the Municipal 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 to any member of the public who requested same.

Council President Lischin opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - absent; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded, to introduce Ordinance 11-2019, to be read by title only.

11-2019 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 225-5 of the Northfield Municipal Code, Littering Prohibited
Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 07/20/2019
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 08/13/2019

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 Municipal website, and copies are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same.

Councilwoman Korngut stated that she was proud to have written this ordinance with the help of Solicitor Facenda; she said prior to the meeting, she'd distributed a letter she received to the Council. She put it on Facebook and got positive feedback. She read a letter she received from Steve Jasiocki with Sustainable Margate; he could not be at the meeting. Councilwoman Korngut asked that his letter be included as part of the record:

"Dear Mayor and Council Members:

Living at the shore we are the adverse recipients of thousands of balloons that come

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our way, due to the prevailing winds. The barrier islands are the last stop before any litter goes out to sea. Thousands of balloons are found in the ocean, wetlands, Pine Barrens; virtually everywhere. These balloons are harmful to birds, marine life and animals as dangling strings and ribbons may entangle them. Marine and land animals may mistake balloons for food thus choking or suffocating to death. Because of the problems they create, the City of Margate passed an ordinance that prohibits the purposeful release of helium balloons. Longport, Ventnor, Atlantic City, Brigantine, Somers Point, Egg Harbor City and Galloway Township; eight out of the 23 municipalities in Atlantic County have also banned the intentional release of balloons.

These ordinances easily fit into already existing municipal and county nuisance littering laws.

The release of balloons, either for celebratory or memorial purposes seems innocent enough, but as they rise into the sky, they drift out of sight only to land somewhere downwind where they becomes someone else's problem. Basically it is just plain littering, but this littering can cause the death of unwitting animals and marine life.

Intentional mass balloon release, no matter how well intended, has far reaching consequences. In the ocean, balloons or pieces of balloons resemble jellyfish, a common food for marine animals. When eaten, the material gets lodged in the digestive tract, making it unable to digest its food and the animal slowly starves to death.

The Balloon Council, an advocacy group that supports balloon sales, came to our commission meetings to oppose legislation that would forbid the release of helium balloons. They did this to support the business they represent. Since that time they have changed their position. They realize the damage released balloons cause and now say that balloons should not be released. <http://www.theballooncouncil.org>

Litter is a growing problem and preventing balloon releases falls into existing litter ordinances. We would like to see an ordinance put in place that would prohibit the release of balloons and see Northfield join the ranks of the increasing number of towns taking a positive step to reduce litter.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Steve Jasiocki, Chair, Sustainable Margate.”

Councilwoman Korngt added that we may not be leading on this issue, like the plastic bags, but Councilwoman Korngut said she was happy to follow when it's the right thing to do.

Council President Lischin agreed; it made no sense not to do it.

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Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - absent; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, to introduce Ordinance 12-2019, to be read by title only.

12-2019 An Ordinance Amending Section 215 of the Code of the City of Northfield Governing Land Use and Development
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 07/20/2019
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 09/10/2019*

Clerk Canesi asked Solicitor Facenda if he heard from Dr. Levitt.

Solicitor Facenda replied that he had not. He explained that there was a question raised by Dr. Levitt with regard to a question he had with regard to the sale of ice; we can introduce tonight and change it later, however his recommendation was to hold off. It was also the more prudent course, financially.

Councilman O’Neill withdrew the motion to introduce Ordinance 12-2019.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 1,733,020.25

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - absent; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Lischin read the meeting notices and announced the Executive Session.

157-2019 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

Municipal Clerk Canesi read Resolution 157-2019 by title and deferred to Solicitor Facenda for further comment.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Resolution was in regard to contractual negotiations and deliberations in regard to a potential shared court agreement with Egg Harbor Township. Council will keep minutes of the Executive Session as required by law and they would be made promptly available for public inspection when required and permitted by law. The time frame for publication and approval was unknown.

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Clerk Canesi announced that Council would return with a public statement for the record.

At: 8:19pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office.

At 8:48pm Council returned to Council Chambers, and resumed the Regular Meeting.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. Matters discussed were contractual negotiations and deliberations in regard to a potential shared court agreement with Egg Harbor Township. No official action was taken minutes were in fact kept when law permits minutes would in fact be released in accordance with applicable law.

At 8:49pm, on a motion of Councilwoman Korngut, seconded by Councilman Perri, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk