

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 18, 2023**

At 6:34pm 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 on January 7, 2023, and in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Councilman Dewees with a second by Councilwoman Carfagno, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of June 27, 2023, without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau thanked Chief VonColln and all involved in working to find the missing person. He thanked the 4th of July Parade and race organizers. He reminded all the of the date for National Night Out and thanked the Police Department in advance. He announced that the Library has hired a new Director and that we have Library Assistant positions available. The promotional process for Sergeants by the Chief's Association has concluded. The candidate list would be submitted to the Police Committee. Tonight, on the agenda, there was a proposal to address the Lieutenant's positions; he hoped for the Council's support. The annual recycling contest for August and September had begun, and one lucky winner per month would receive a recycling bin. Entries need to be submitted to the City Clerk's office, and they can be emailed. Next month, Mayor Chau would be meeting with the Diocese about their planned housing project. He read the Police Department report for the month of June. At the last City Council meeting, Mayor Chau stated that he'd asked if the Council would consider the purchase of electric bikes for the Police Department. Linwood has two and they were working well. He felt this would reestablish the bike patrol in a versatile manner. Mayor Chau was proposing to purchase two; Chief VonColln had obtained specifications for the desired model. He asked for the Council's approval to seek funding from CFO Stollenwerk. The total cost for two is about \$5,000.00.

All members of Council were generally in favor.

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CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineers Report as previously distributed to Council. New Jersey American Water was still working on the water main project along Oak Avenue, the main has been installed and they were working on services; paving would be in mid-September.

Clerk Canesi suggested someone notify the school, we originally delayed paving so that it would occur when school was in summer recess.

Council President Polistina agreed.

Councilman Smith referred to English Lane and said there was a drain on English Lane that was full of debris, and a large hole in the pavement that he hoped does not become a sink hole.

Engineer Nassar offered to look at it.

Councilman Dewees advised he would have Superintendent Vitale look at it as well.

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.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Polistina read the following statement: “All matters listed under the consent agenda are 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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On motion of Councilwoman Bucci, seconded by Councilman Leeds, all members present were in favor of voting on 137-2023, 138-2023, 140-2023 through 143-2023 and 145-2023 by Consent Agenda.

- 137-2023** Authorizing Release of Performance and Waiver of Maintenance Guarantee for Block 17, Lot 8.11, Phase I
- 138-2023** A Resolution in Support of a Grant Application and Execution of a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Project Known as MA-2024 Reconstruction of Wabash Avenue – 00587
- 140-2023** Approval of Application for a Coin Drop Northfield Volunteer Fire Company
- 141-2023** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 142-2023** Authorizing the Tax Collector of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic to Amend the Grace Period for 3rd Quarter Property Tax Payments
- 143-2023** Resolution of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, Authorizing Execution of Contract for Services Between the City of Northfield and the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) NJ Department of Community Affairs
- 145-2023** 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) – Contract Negotiations and N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7) Matters Covered Under the Attorney Client Privilege

Councilwoman Bucci motioned, Councilman Leeds seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

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

Councilman Notaro motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt Resolution 139-2023.

- 139-2023** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - FAN

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

Councilman Notaro motioned, to adopt Resolution 144-2023.

Councilman Smith requested a discussion.

Councilman Smith stated they would not expect to have access to the field on days

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when Northfield had games. He asked could the group play when football is not playing. He also suggested the possibility of using the baseball outfield.

Councilman Notaro noted the wear and tear on the fields should be considered.

Council President Polistina asked if someone could reach out to them?

Clerk Canesi stated that she did advise them they were up against a competing application.

Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt Resolution 144-2023.

144-2023 To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – SOJO Sports

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – no; Mrs. Carfagno – no; Mr. Dewees- no; Mr. Leeds – no; Mr. Notaro – no; Mr. Smith – no; Mr. Polistina – no; Motion failed.

ORDINANCES

Councilwoman Carfagno motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Ordinance 9-2023.

9-2023 Amending Article I, Chapter 97, Animals
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration July18, 2023
Published in the Press of AC July 25, 2023

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 if approved, thereafter published. 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 to any member of the public who requested same.

Council President Polistina opened the public hearing.

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

Council President Polistina closed the public hearing.

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

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Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilwoman Bucci seconded, to adopt Ordinance 10-2023.

10-2023 Amending Chapter 250 of the City of Northfield Code, Article II Birch Grove Park, Veterans Park, and First Street Playground Regulations
*2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration July 18, 2023
Published in the Press of AC July 25, 2023*

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 if approved, thereafter published. 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 to any member of the public who requested same.

Council President Polistina opened the public hearing.

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

Council President Polistina closed the public hearing.

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

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilwoman Bucci seconded, to introduce Ordinance 11-2023.

11-2023 Bond Ordinance Appropriating Seven Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$740,000) and Authorizing the Issuance of Seven Hundred Three Thousand Dollars (\$703,000) 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 July 25, 2023
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration August 15, 2023*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication, public hearing, and final consideration 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

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of 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 60,816.49

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

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

MEETING NOTICES

Councilman Notaro read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

145-2023 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) – Contract Negotiations and N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7) Matters Covered Under the Attorney Client Privilege

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 said she would defer to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Clerk Canesi announced that when the Executive Session of Council commenced, the audio and video portions of this meeting would be paused for those participating via Zoom, and in-person members of the public would need to exit Council Chambers. At the conclusion of the Executive Session of Council, the Council would resume the public session, welcome the return of the in-person public, and the audio and video functions would be reactivated in Zoom. A public statement would be made for the record at that time.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed centered around contractual negotiations and required confidential attorney client communications, subject matter to be discussed was the PBA collective negotiations agreement, more specifically an alternative promotion process. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those

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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. There may be official action at the conclusion of the executive session.

At 7:07pm the Council entered Executive Session and remained in Council Chambers.

At 7:18pm 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 matter discussed centered around contractual negotiations and required confidential attorney client communications. The subject matter discussed was the PBA collective negotiations agreement, more specifically an alternative promotion process and matters requiring 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 would be voting on Resolution 146-2023 tonight.

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilwoman Carfagno seconded, to adopt Resolution 146-2023.

146-2023 A Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Northfield and Mainland PBA Local No. 77 Regarding Promotional Process for Lieutenants in the Northfield Police Department

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

At approximately 7:18pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk