

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JULY 19, 2022

At 7:20pm 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 followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

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

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Dewees with a second of Councilman Utts, all members present, with the exception of Councilman Dewees and Councilman Smith who abstained, were in favor of approving the minutes of June 28, 2022, without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau extended best wishes and thanks to Joan Brennan and David Goldstein for an outstanding job at the 4th of July Parade, he got rave reviews and knows it was not an easy task. He congratulated and thanked all involved in the Connolly Mile. Mayor Chau read the police department report for the month of June. He noted that September 30th was the cutoff for notice of interest in taking the Chief's exam. There was only one applicant so far. He reported he was still receiving complaints regarding the noise at the ACCC, they were issued two additional summonses this week. He lives across the street and has heard them early in the morning before the allowed time. He reported that OEM was also involved in the 4th of July parade, and Mayor Chau listed several recent activities with which OEM was involved, including a transformer explosion and a table top activity for an active shooter drill. He attended a Grand Opening for Friendly Urgent Care; it was a very nice facility. He also attended a Re-Grand Opening for Hi-Tech. These are great signs for businesses in Northfield. All of Council received an Ordinance that was passed by the City of Pleasantville regarding the ATV's and impounding them. We have had complaints about these vehicles on our City streets and on our Bike Path. Mayor Chau would like Council to consider this ordinance at our next City Council meeting.

Solicitor Facenda asked had Chief Newman weighed in on this?

Mayor Chau replied yes, as had the City Clerk.

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CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. He reviewed punch list items for Merritt Drive with the contractor, it should be closed out soon. He reviewed ACUA flows, they were down from last year.

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.

Heather Mellon, 2509 Herbert Drive, asked where we are with the cannabis situation.

Council President Polistina explained what was on the agenda tonight was a public question, to go on the November ballot, to see whether or not the residents want retail, and separately cultivation, of cannabis in Northfield. It would be non-binding, but this would give us a better idea of what the residents want.

Mrs. Mellon was sure everyone watched the news, it was very disheartening, we were very lucky to have such a great place to live, she wanted to keep it that way.

David Goldstein, 116 Dolphin Avenue, hoped everyone gets the 'Who is Buried in Northfield' book, it's very enlightening. He read names and details for one of the deceased. This person died in the Almshouse. We know where that was, chances are that if they died in the Almshouse were buried near the Almshouse. He read about another deceased who died in 1931. Most were African American, and could have property, as opposed to being citizens. They were poor and ended up in Potters field, as many were, including war veterans. This was about honoring our past. He did not believe radar would be guaranteed to find the bones. He made an argument about open space, quality of life, about listening to the constituents. Listen to the people on Dolphin Avenue. They don't want more development. He shared a story of being at Birch Grove that involved children being chased off of the baseball fields by grown men who said the fields were private and for use by leagues only. Grown men will fight against kids who want to play ball but who will fight for those buried in the Potters field.

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 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

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matter. Any items requiring expenditure of funds are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds

- 149-2022** Authorizing the Execution of a Contract Renewing Membership in the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 150-2022** Resolution Authorizing a Contract with First Choice Fire Apparatus for the Purchase of a “Ladder Truck”
- 151-2022** To Award a Contract for Information Technology Upgrades to Ocean Computer Group, Inc.
- 152-2022** Approval of Application for a Coin Drop by Northfield Volunteer Fire Company
- 153-2022** Authorizing the Tax Collector of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic to Amend the Grace Period for 3rd Quarter Property Tax Payments
- 154-2022** Resolution Amending Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company
- 155-2022** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities

On motion of Councilman Leeds, seconded by Councilman Notaro, all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 149-2022 through 155-2022, by Consent Agenda.

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

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

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Notaro seconded, to adopt Resolution 156-2022.

Council President Polistina asked for discussion or changes regarding Resolution 156-2022.

Councilman Smith announced that he had been clear in his opposition to these developments and will echo what Mrs. Mellon said, he believed this was not right for Northfield. Our Chief of Police was not in favor of it, nor are members of Council. Councilman Smith would be voting no. the impact of the message that we would support the sale or cultivation of cannabis sends the wrong message. He was vehemently opposed to this.

- 156-2022** Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey, Authorizing a Referendum Ballot Question Regarding the Retail Sale of Cannabis

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Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mr. Dewees- no; Mr. Leeds – no; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – no; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Notaro seconded, to adopt Resolution 157-2022.

Councilman Smith noted he would not belabor the point but he was not in favor.

157-2022 Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey, Authorizing a Referendum Ballot Question Regarding the Cultivation of Cannabis

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

ORDINANCE

Councilman Utts motioned, Councilwoman Bucci seconded, to introduce Ordinance 9-2022.

9-2022 Amending Chapter 366, Certified Copies, Vital Records
Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 07/23/2022
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 08/16/2022

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, there would be no public input, and announced the publication and public hearing 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 of 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 4,524,029.06

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

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

Councilman Notaro read the meeting notices.

Mayor Chau announced, once again the McDonalds owner has donated ice cream sundae coupons to be distributed to children by Northfield Police Department for following bicycle safety rules.

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At approximately 7:55pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk