

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 26, 2016**

At 7:19pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau, followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

Present: Lischin, Murray, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Absent: Dewees, O'Neill

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Kwapinski and Chief Newman were also present.

PRESENTATION:

- Birch Grove Park Logo Contest Winner Isabelle Vandenberg

Mayor Chau stated that, unfortunately, Councilman Dewees, Chairperson for Birch Grove Park, could not be here tonight. Birch Grove Park got its name in 1951 when the local school had a contest to name our new park, and Claire Kreutz won that contest and is here with us today.

Mayor Chau read the following statement:

In 1951 The Press had a contest to name the proposed municipal park at the site of the Somers Brick Yard. Several local children submitted their choice of name for the park along with an essay. The committee chose "Birch Grove Park" as the name of the park. Claire Moyer who is with us tonight was the student who won the contest in 1951. We are pleased to have her with us as we present a new logo for the park.

Clerk Canesi along with Councilman Dewees reached out to Northfield Community School Art Teacher, Mrs. Schwanzer, who organized the contest this spring in hopes of creating the logo. Several students submitted drawings, some of which you can see here tonight. Our goal was to create a catchy logo like those you see on magnets everywhere that have a 3 letter abbreviation, such as "OBX" for Outer Banks, "LBI" for Long Beach Island, and even "NCS" for Northfield Community School. We suggested that the children incorporate "BGP" in their designs, as a catchy abbreviation for Birch Grove Park.

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The committee has several creative choices and chose the logo drawn by Isabelle Vandenberg. Currently we have backpacks and t-shirts that will be available for purchase at the park snack bar and will be ordering additional merchandise such as car magnets, with the iconic 3 letter abbreviation, BGP, soon.

Mayor Chau congratulated Isabelle and the Honorable Mention Winners.

Mayor Chau called forward Eileen Pantalena, Chairperson of the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board, along with Claire Moyer, to present and announce the runners up and winner.

Mayor Chau announced Megan Tierney and asked her to point out her entry and explain her thought process in creating the drawing.

Megan Tierney replied that she created a name art with some of the things that can be found at the park.

Mayor Chau called forward Madison O'Brien and asked her the same.

Madison O'Brien highlighted the fact that the park has lots of trees.

Mayor Chau called forward Julia Travis and asked her to explain her drawing.

Julia Travis explained that she focused on the lake and the ducks.

Mayor Chau acknowledged Alexa Thompson and Jordan Schallus who could not be here tonight, he offered congratulations.

Mayor Chau announced winner Isabelle Vandenberg.

Isabelle Vandenberg stated that she highlighted the trees and felt simpler was better.

Mayor Chau presented each with a certificate and a cinch sack, as well as one of the Mayor's coins. Isabelle Vandenberg also received a tee shirt. He noted that Claire Moyer still has the \$25 bond that she won in 1951.

Clerk Canesi thanked Deputy Clerk Campbell, she was the one who sourced the shirts and cinch sacks, and was responsible for the finished product.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilman Piergiovanni to dispense with the reading of the minutes from June 28th, 2016. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and were on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

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Roll call: Mr. Dewees –absent; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –absent; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri - Sewer Inter Local, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri reported that the Planning Board will meet August 4th; the seniors meeting will be at the library at noon on July 28th, where the Mayor will be guest speaker. Reported on issues with the installation of the valve at Wilson and Wilson; have reviewed some of the information that the ACUA sent us. Councilman Perri thanked Darren Boyd of the Sewer Department and some of the other men that have been working on this for bringing some of the issues to light. The billing calculations were very complex, he would report as he obtained more information.

Solicitor Facenda reminded Councilman Perri that the street vacation application has been sent to the Planning Board.

Councilman Perri asked about the sewer easement, and was it an issue.

Solicitor Facenda stated that he would confer with the Engineer.

Darren Boyd, sewer employee, stated there was an 8 inch main that came from Jenny Lynn to Helen Drive.

Solicitor Facenda asked if there was a schematic that showed it.

Darren Boyd replied that he would check and find something.

Engineer Kwapinski believed that the tax map may have shown the easement.

Councilman O’Neill - *Court/Violations, FAN, Library, Shared Services*

Councilman O’Neill was absent.

Councilman Piergiovanni – *Insurance and Safety, Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School*

Councilman Piergiovanni acknowledged the Veterans Park improvements, the grading had been completed and top soil had been added, it was a tremendous improvement; he thanked Dan Kwapinski and Councilman Dewees. He urged all to drive by to see the improvements. Councilman Piergiovanni also highly recommended the passage of the Resolution on tonight's Agenda to renew our membership with the JIF, as presented by Paul Miola this evening.

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Councilman Murray - *Finance/Collections, Mainland Regional, Economic Development, Traffic Safety*

Councilman Murray reported that the Tax Office had implemented an automatic debit system for payments and it had been shown to be very popular. He announced that Mark Marrone was the new Mainland Regional High School Superintendent, he was a Northfield resident, and Kevin Burns was the new Principal.

Councilman Lischin – *Fire Department/EMS, Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Technology/MRHS Channel 2, Cultural Committee, Green Team, Sign Sub Committee*

Councilman Lischin read the Fire Department and EMS reports and highlighted a list of their activities. He also read the Inspections Department reports for the month of June. He reminded all of air times for Council meetings as videotaped by the Mainland staff as Thursdays at noon and 7pm. He commented on the talent show at the park and reported that it went very well; he thanked all volunteers who made this town great, for their time and efforts.

Councilman Dewees - *Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans' Park, 1st Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Little League/Babe Ruth, Sign Sub Committee*

On behalf of Councilman Dewees who was absent, Council President Travagline reported that the Department of Public Works was assisting the Birch Grove Park staff with preparations for National Night Out. He congratulated the local baseball and softball teams as they prepared for the next level of their competitions. The drainage at Veterans Park had been completed and the paving of the walkway should be next.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau asked Eileen Pantalena to introduce the members of the Birch Grove Park Advisory committee who were here this evening.

Mrs. Pantalena introduced Joyce Pullan, Sue Dickinson, and Claire Moyer, who was here earlier.

Mayor Chau announced that National Night Out would be very exciting this year, many vendors and this year a fishing tournament was incorporated. He congratulated Councilman Lischin's two children who participated in Bandstands Got Talent; they were wonderful. The next concert is August 9th, with Maggie's Night Out. He urged all to attend. Mayor Chau explained that the Northfield Community School summer

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program kids visited the Police and Fire Departments, and sent many cards of thanks. He showed one in particular, the largest one, and read the text. He thanked the kids for coming and thanked the Police and Fire Departments for hosting them.

Mayor Chau then read the Police Department report for June. He noted that one of our cars would soon be taken out of service as it had over 100,000 miles on it; the next car to go out of service now has 87,000 miles. One officer was back to full duty, and one was still on restricted duty.

Council President Travagline asked if we were looking to add staff now that we had a Captain retire.

Mayor Chau replied that he would be meeting with CFO Stollenwerk on Thursday. We want to be sure we maintain our numbers with the Safe and Secure Grant.

Councilman Perri suggested that the franchise agreement include the flag criteria; and asked that the Mayor find out when it was up.

Mayor Chau explained that Atlantic City Electric had their own separate application; he agreed with Councilman Perri's suggestion that someone from ACE come to Council to answer questions.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Kwapinski reviewed the Engineer's report engineers report; there were no updates to the local aid shutdown that had affected our Bay Drive project. The contractor for that job, AE stone, was also our contractor for the 2015 paving project, so we would get them started on that job.

Mayor Chau amended his Mayor's report to include the mosquito spraying advisory, and urged residents to rid their yards of any standing water to minimize mosquito breeding. He noted that the sidewalks on Route 9, on the school side closest to Cedar Bridge had a post that was planted in the sidewalk, as opposed to in the dirt. He asked Engineer Kwapinski if the sign could be relocated.

Council President Travagline asked Engineer Kwapinski to elaborate on M2 from the Engineers report, with regard to the recent heavy downpours. He hoped to have a request to proceed prepared for approval at the August meeting that would address drainage issues around town.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public to speak on any subject. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public session.

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RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Travagline 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 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.

Solicitor Facenda reminded that we would not be considering 150-2016, as decided during the work session.

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded for Resolutions 144-2016 to 149-2016 and 151-2016 to 152-2016, to be voted on by Consent Agenda.

- 144-2016** Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit
- 145-2016** Recognizing the Members of the Board of Trustees for the Family Association of Northfield
- 146-2016** Recognizing Family Association of Northfield Volunteer Football and Cheerleading Coaches for 2016
- 147-2016** Authorizing the Execution of a Contract Renewing Membership in the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 148-2016** Authorizing 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
- 149-2016** Separation of Employment for Seasonal Employee
- 151-2016** 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, Regarding Personnel Matters
- 152-2016** 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 Regarding Possible Anticipated Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality – Mt Laurel Litigation

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Roll call: Mr. Dewees –absent; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill - absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Motion carried to vote the consent agenda.

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded for Resolutions 144-2016 to 149-2016 and 151-2016 to 152-2016, to be adopted on by Consent Agenda.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –absent; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill - absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Motion carried to adopt the consent agenda.

ORDINANCES

9-2016 An Ordinance Amending Section 215-17 of the City of Northfield Code, Regarding Fees for Land Use and Development Applications

Councilman Perri referred to Ordinance 9; would like to have the Planning Board review prior to introduction. They have a meeting on August 4th.

Ordinance 9-2016 was tabled until the August 30th Council meeting.

Mayor Chau referred to Resolution 148-2016, which authorized an interlocal agreement with the County for the installation of sidewalks; he noted that Mr. Webb expressed concern about monies being spent. This was a money saver and was such an important project for pedestrian safety. Shared services and interlocal agreements are important and don't necessarily cost money.

Council President Travagline added that the County had switched their position almost 180 degrees in their efforts to help us with this. He was very proud.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 4,468,507.84

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –absent; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill - absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Travagline read the meeting notices.

Solicitor Facenda requested that Resolution No. 152-2016 be done first.

President Travagline announced an Executive Session for Resolution 152-2016.

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152-2016 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 Regarding Possible Anticipated Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality – Mt Laurel Litigation

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session was in regards to status of several conferences held with the court and matters regarding to the Davis Avenue Pump Station. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law, likely when the litigation had concluded.

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced that Council would move to the Mayor's office; and would come back in public session. The solicitor would make a statement for the record.

At 8:14pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.

At 8:50pm Council returned; Clerk Canesi noted that the recording was left on in error.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. He noted that he updated Council, minutes were kept, would be released when permitted and required by law, likely when the litigation had concluded.

151-2016 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, Regarding Personnel Matters

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda stated that Resolution 151-2016 was in regards to personnel matters and the potential shared services and consolidation of certain positions within the City of Northfield with a neighboring town. Minutes would be kept and released when permitted and required by law.

Municipal Clerk Canesi advised that the 6 affected employees have all been given and signed rice notices giving Council permission to discuss the matter in closed session.

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At 8:53pm Solicitor Facenda announced that Council would be moving to the Mayor's Office.

At 9:25pm Council returned from closed session.

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session of Council had concluded and that no decision had been made. He advised that research would continue and that the minutes of the closed session would be released when permissible.

At 9:25pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk