

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 28, 2015**

At 7:08pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on February 14, 2015 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: Dewees, Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Kris Facenda and Engineer Dan Kwapinski were also in attendance.

Councilman Lischin motioned Resolution 134-2015, seconded by Councilman Murray.

134-2015      A Resolution of the Council for the City of Northfield to Posthumously Bestow upon Officer Martin Peary the Title of "Honorary Sergeant" of the Northfield Police Department

Councilman O'Neill described Marty as the following words: honorable, kind, caring, character, funny, respected, brotherhood, and family.

Councilman Perri thanked Marty for the years he served when Councilman Perri was Mayor, and for the community, he respected him and offered condolences to the family.

Councilman Dewees stated he had the privilege of knowing Marty for 6-7 years, and when you talked to him, you felt like you knew him forever. Councilman Dewees shared a story of Marty coming up to him when he would be cutting his grass, and offered condolences to the family.

Councilman Travagline recalled one specific time when there were discussions with the PBA, Marty called him and gave it to him pretty hard. Marty was looking out for all of the police, he took it to heart and it showed in his character.

Councilman Piergiovanni stated he can't add anything else to what has been said, condolences to the family, he will be missed.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes. Motion carries.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 28, 2015**

Mayor Chau called Sergeant Peary's family forward, and Acting Captain Steinecke. Mayor Chau offered private words to Debra Peary and to daughters Hannah and Felicia.

Mayor Chau stated that he is at a loss for words; we have lost someone who exemplified what is good about us. The City of Northfield is very grateful to Marty Peary and for the sacrifices his family made for our residents and for our community. Let us leave here tonight remembering what he has done and what he represents, for the many heroic things he has done for us. Chau said he is honored to have the unanimous vote to bestow upon Marty the rank of Sergeant.

Mayor Chau presented the family with the resolution, mounted in a plaque. He stated that Acting Chief Neman could not be here tonight due to a family commitment; he commended the Chief for keeping the City abreast of the situation. All flags will be flown at half-staff in Marty's honor.

Acting Captain Steinecke thanked all for coming, he was Marty's friend first and worked with Marty in Atlantic Highlands when they were each 23 years old, 12 years later they ended up working together here. We all loved Marty and he loved his family first. It was an honor to give the family what Marty should have had years and years ago; he presented sergeants' shields to the family.

Debra Peary thanked everyone, there's not a person who didn't love Marty.

*At 7:21pm Council President Travagline announced a brief minute recess.*

*At 7:34pm Council President Travagline resumed the meeting.*

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- Mainland Regional High School Boys' Varsity South Jersey Group 3 Champions

Councilman Lischin stated that's a tough presentation to follow but does want to recognize the happy times, he welcomed Mainland Regional High School Head Baseball Coach Billy Kern.

Councilman Lischin noted that the Mainland Regional Baseball team has gone back to back as South Jersey Group 3 Champions; kids from Linwood, Northfield and Somers Point make up the team. He introduced the team as he presented them with certificates of achievement: Jack Loefflad, George Morton, Nick Droboniku, Tyler Wray, David Yanni, Matt McLaughlin, Matt Becker, Dan Summers, Rob Wood, Dean Deveney, Matt Thomas, Nick Trifiletti, Kyle Gerace, Steve Gagnon, Mike Juliano, Anthony Capasso, Cornelius Masterson, Tyler Nutile, Sal Colangelo, Marty Cortellessa, Nick Nutile and Managers Sydney Richards and Carli Uzzolino.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 28, 2015**

Councilman Lischin offered congratulations to the MRSH Group 3 Champions.

Mayor Chau invited Mike Gatley, Athletic Director for Mainland Regional, to come forward,

Coach Billy Kern thanked Council for recognizing the team, and for all they do.

Council President Travagline said it's not just Mainland, it's Northfield, and the Kerns too, they have done a great job with these kids over the years. He thanked Mike Gatley, adding that we all make Northfield a beautiful place.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Piergiovanni, seconded by Councilman Dewees to dispense with the reading of the minutes of June 23, 2015 and July 9, 2015. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes Motion carries.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Councilman Perri** – Fire Department/EMS, Insurance and Safety, Sewer Inter Local, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri announced that there were no applications for month of August for Planning Board. There was a Senior luncheon last Thursday that was very well attended. The Sewer Interlocal is on the agenda for this evening, he was happy to answer any questions that Council had on the agreement. He read the Northfield Linwood Sewer Department report for month of June; it was a very busy month.

Council President Travagline requested that Councilman Perri make sure the Sewer Department is aware of funds being allocated due to the recent sewer increase.

Councilman Perri confirmed that is planned.

**Councilman O'Neill** - Court/Violations, FAN, Library, Economic Development, Shared Services

Councilman O'Neill had nothing to report this evening.

**Councilman Piergiovanni** - Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 28, 2015**

Councilman Piergiovanni had nothing to report this evening.

**Councilman Dewees** - Buildings/Grounds, Birch Grove, Public Works, Little League/Babe Ruth, Northfield School

Councilman Dewees thanked Public Works and Birch Grove Park employees for their efforts in getting the fields ready for the tournament this Thursday. The new walkways and handicapped spots look very nice. The Northfield girls softball team is on a roll, he won't say more, other than good luck, because he doesn't want to jinx them.

**Councilman Murray** - Finance/Collections, Inspections/Engineering, Veterans Park, County/State

Councilman Murray reported that Inspections and Public Works are keeping busy working on the lawns of the foreclosed properties.

**Councilman Lischin** - Technology, Cultural Committee, Mainland Regional, Green Team

Councilman Lischin gave an update for credit card processing system will be up and running August 3rd, he is still getting proposals for the new timecard system.

Council President Travagline wanted a new proposal just for clock, that doesn't do anything else other than record if you were here.

Councilman Lischin is waiting on bills from Kathi Smith in Finance for the solar company so we can get a proposal from them.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau stated that he was invited to attend the MRHS July Board of Education meeting, and presented a Resolution to dedicate a conference room in the name of Dr. Thomas Baruffi. He shared highlights of a report that he received that evening, and distributed highlights to Council. Next month he will be making the first of four tapes that will be placed on our website by the company CGI, the other three will highlight other aspects of the town, including Birch Grove Park and the Northfield Community School. There is an alternate position available on the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board, interested applicants should submit a resume to the City Clerk. At next month's meeting Mayor Chau will present honor to Roy Clark for serving 25 years of volunteer service with the Historical Society. The banner flag program has hit a snag and AC Electric has advised that flags are no longer permissible, only banner style are permitted. The banner will say Welcome to Northfield and it will have the US flag on it.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 28, 2015**

Councilman Dewees asked if Public Works should get all of the pole numbers, not just the 25 they've already gotten.

Mayor Chau said it may be an ambitious under taking, there is a fee for each banner. He will be soliciting businesses personally. If Public Works would like to get all pole numbers, then yes, go ahead.

Council President Travagline stated he is not sure he is in agreement with AC Electric making money off of the flags.

Mayor Chau explained that shortly before the 4th of July we were notified by AC Electric that we had to remove the flags because they were improperly installed. He will figure the City's fees into our sponsorship fees, also notes that we just learned that the banners can only be installed on the sidewalk side of the pole.

Municipal Clerk Canesi stated that she is not sure if Public Works can safely install them in that manner.

Councilman Dewees agreed that we do not have access to that type of apparatus.

Mayor Chau will be calling AC Electric to find out when the other municipalities have to take their flags down, doesn't want it to just be Northfield and have residents wonder why.

Council President Travagline suggested a straw poll, with all costs figured into it, to see if Council wishes to proceed.

Councilman Perri suggested that someone from AC Electric be invited to a Council meeting.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Kwapinski reviewed the engineer's report, he did a draft of the soil conservation permit, not sure if it has been filed he did a draft so the City can file it.

Councilman Perri asked if CDBG funding can be used for the Veteran's Park handicap accessibility and if the 2016 application has been filed.

Engineer Kwapinski stated yes, it can be.

Councilman Perri noted the need as he witnessed during the recent laying of bricks at the park. He requested that this be considered for that application. He also asked who is the proper authority to notify a homeowner when there is an encroachment of vegetation in the sight triangle of a State or County Road.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 28, 2015**

Solicitor Facenda asked who the easement runs in favor of.

Councilman Perri stated that is what he is asking.

Councilman Dewees said he knew someone who worked for the County; will check into it and call Councilman Perri tomorrow, but thinks we should be able to handle in house through the Zoning Official.

Mayor Chau announced the details for National Night Out.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject.

Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, thinks the National Night Out is better on the Bike Path. The Bike Path is a much easier venue for the many volunteers who work the event. Twenty-seven (27) bricks were laid down at Veteran's Park last Saturday, he thanked Steve Vain and Frank Perri for their assistance, we are in need of more volunteers in our community. The City will have to have patrols in the park if you have kids on the paths; they will be jumping over trees and blocks, there are kids, elderly people, it's a serious situation. He also stated that Revere Avenue needs to be paved.

Eileen Pantalena, 2002 Grove Road, President of the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board, would like to know why Council President Travagline did not come to a City appointed board about a grant for the park.

Council President Travagline stated that they haven't voted on the grant yet, it was a mistake on his part, he admitted it at the last meeting.

Mrs. Pantalena stated that she has been on the board for 27 years, and there has never been a Councilman that has ignored it, in that history. As Council President he should know the procedures. A Resolution should have been approved before the application was filled out. The Advisory Board should have been consulted and should have been given the opportunity to give their recommendation.

Council President Travagline felt the Advisory Boards job is to bring ideas to the Council, not the other way around.

Council President Travagline said he has no problem with input from a board that has been here for 27 years.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 28, 2015**

Mrs. Pantalena said she is looking forward to seeing Council President Travagline on August 12th at 7pm which is the date of the next Advisory Board meeting.

Councilman Dewees noted that as chair for the Advisory Board, discussion ensued several months ago about the possibility of bike trails and it was the understanding of Councilman Dewees that it was just an idea; he did not know the grant was to be filed. But, he did tell the Advisory Board about the possibility several months ago.

Councilman Perri said they are entrusted to run the park, as an eleven member board, we should want their blessing.

Council President Travagline stated that he could not find in the code that this is their role.

Solicitor Facenda noted that in the code their role is an advisory capacity, the Council makes the rules for the town.

Council President Travagline said the information is supposed to come to the board from the chair.

Mrs. Pantalena noted that Council President Travagline is the one that filled out the grant.

Councilman Dewees asked for clarification that if bikes are decided not to be included, does it jeopardize the grant.

Council President Travagline stated no.

*Councilman O'Neill left the meeting.*

Clare Moyer, 9 Henry Drive, member of the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board, it is not just the Park, it's the Park, Bike Path, First Street Playground and the Bird Sanctuary. If something were thought about being done, the Board should have been consulted. The Board has a more intimate knowledge and has direct contact more often with the staff, the Park Ranger, and with what is going on at the park. Perhaps this is a lesson for the future, that the Board should be consulted.

Council President Travagline said that falls to the Council Chair.

Councilman Perri asked if when the concession stand was built with grant funds was the Advisory Board consulted.

Mrs. Moyer replied yes, it was very much a back and forth with then Councilman Tim Carew and the Board.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 28, 2015**

Lisa Brown, 9 Haviv Drive, asked why her kids can't ride bikes, is there an ordinance.

Councilman Dewees stated not in the code, but bikes haven't been allowed in the park as long as he's lived there.

Mrs. Brown asked what will happen if she and her kids ride their bikes in the park.

Solicitor Facenda said there's nothing in the code to prohibit it.

Mrs. Brown asked if the grant is approved and Council votes no on it tonight, what would happen.

Councilman Travagline said we would just withdraw the application.

Councilman Dewees said the concern is a safety concern, there is not enough staffing out there to police it, and there are vehicles that use the roads.

Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, asked if the park can make its own rules for safety.

Council President Travagline stated yes.

Councilman Perri stated the Park was a nature park intended to be kept in its pristine state; it's hard to make these changes. This would be a Green Acres Grant, and that puts more restrictions on the park.

Lisa Brown said Birch Grove is an underutilized gem, in this economy it is ludicrous to tell people they can't do things in that park.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak Council President Travagline closed the public session.

**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. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.



**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 28, 2015**

Councilman Lischin motioned and Councilman Murray seconded to adopt Resolution Number 137-2015.

**137-2015** Resolution Endorsing the City of Northfield's Application for Grant Funds from the National Recreational Trails Program

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill absent; Mr. Perri – no; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries to adopt Resolution 137-2015.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to for Resolutions 135 and 136-2015 and Resolutions 138 through 147-2015 to be voted by consent agenda.

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

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to for adoption of Resolutions 135 and 136-2015 and Resolutions 138 through 147-2015 by 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.

**135-2015** Separation of Employment Birch Grove Park Seasonal Grounds Keeper

**136-2015** Authorizing Award of Professional Services Contract for Continuing Disclosure Agent Services and Independent Registered Municipal Advisor of Record

**138-2015** Annual Appointment - Collector of Sewerage Revenue and Search Officer

**139-2015** Amending Urban County Program Agreement

**140-2015** Authorizing The Award of Contract Without Public Advertisement for Bids to James Shippen General Construction

**141-2015** A Resolution of City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, Authorizing the Tax Collector to Establish a Grace Period

**142-2015** Acknowledging Retirement of Cindy Ruffo, Tax Collector

**143-2015** Authorizing the Execution of an Inter-Local Agreement for Sewer Maintenance with the City of Linwood

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 28, 2015**

- 144-2015** Amending Resolution No. 113-2015, Extending the Dates for a Previously Approved Application for Use of Facilities
- 145-2015** Release of Escrow Monies from the Planning Board
- 146-2015** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for Year 2015-2016
- 147-2015** 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. 10:4-12B(4), Regarding Contract Negotiations Between the City of Northfield and the Northfield Professional Firefighter’s Association, Local No. 2364

Councilman Perri questioned about whether the Shippen job went out to bid.

City Clerk Canesi responded that the amount for the year is about \$20,000.00 which is putting it over the threshold.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill absent; Mr. Perri – no; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries to adopt Resolutions 135 and 136-2015 and Resolutions 138 through 147-2015.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** \$1,732.292.14

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

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

Council President Travagline read the meeting notices.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council President Travagline announced that Council will be entering Executive Sessions and the resolutions authorizing each session were adopted earlier in the evening as part of the Consent Agenda.

- 147-2015 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. 10:4-12B(4), Regarding Contract Negotiations Between the City of Northfield and the Northfield Professional Firefighter’s Association, Local No. 2364

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 28, 2015**

Solicitor Facenda stated that this Executive Session is for continuing contractual negotiations, terms and conditions of a potential contract with the aforesaid association, minutes will be kept as required and will be disclosed as required and permitted by law. It is possible that Council will vote to take action in public pursuant to the agenda.

*At 8:56pm Council moved to the Mayor's office; Councilman Piergiovanni excused himself from the meeting.*

At 9:19pm Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session was completed, minutes were kept and will be kept by Council and will be promptly available for public inspection. He turned the meeting back over to Council President Travagline.

Council President Travagline motioned and Councilman Perri seconded to adopt Resolution Number 148-2015.

**148-2015**      A Resolution Approving an Agreement between the City of Northfield and Northfield Professional Fire Fighters Association, Local No. 2364, Effective January 1, 2015 Through December 31, 2019

Councilman Perri said they were good negotiations.

Council President Travagline said the City and the Firefighters did an excellent job.

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

At 9:22pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk