

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 11, 2020**

At 8:08pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2020 and August 8, 2020, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

*Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), this meeting will be live-streamed using Zoom conferencing service and the public is restricted from attending in-person. To join Zoom Meeting Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84524726994>; Meeting ID: 845 2472 6994; One tap mobile +13017158592,,84524726994# US (Germantown) +13126266799,,84524726994# US (Chicago) Dial by your location +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) Meeting ID: 845 2472 6994*

**FLAG SALUTE**

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

Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“Since March 24, 2020, Northfield City Council continues to provide access to and participation at its meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic through the use of Zoom video-conferencing and in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Orders and the Open Public Meetings Act. Participants can dial in by telephone and listen to the proceedings, or they can access the meeting using a web-browser, and be able to view and listen. Instructions on how members of the public can access Zoom have been made available on the municipal website and FB pages, and were published in the Press of Atlantic City.

All participants will be ‘muted’ upon entry to the meeting. Web-browser participants will not be able to share their screens or see the camera-view of anyone other than the host, which is the City of Northfield.

When the time comes for public comment, a specific announcement will be made; one by one, any telephone users will be asked to identify themselves and will be unmuted to permit commentary. Web-browser attendees may ask questions or make comments via the ‘chat’ function at the designated time. Please note that comments made via the chat function will not be acknowledged until the public comment portion of the meeting begins, at which time they will be read aloud into the record.”

**ROLL CALL**

**Present (in person):** Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Korngut; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman O’Neill; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Perri; Mayor Chau

Solicitor Stein, Engineer Nassar were also in attendance. Chief Newman was in attendance via telephone.

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Council President Perri called for a motion to approve the minutes.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilman O’Neill, second of Councilman Smith, all present were in favor of approving the minutes, as amended, of the meeting of July 14th, 2020 without formal reading.

Clerk Canesi noted the amendments to the minutes that had been redistributed to Council earlier in the day. There were comments that were made during the meeting that were not put into the minutes, however they were not substantive. The minutes were being approved as revised.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Councilman O’Neill** - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning; Court/Violations; FAN

Councilman O’Neill reported that FAN was moving forward and they would be having some fundraisers.

**Councilman Utts** – Bike Path, 1st Street Playground, Veterans Park; Planning Board; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilman Utts reported that at the last Planning Board meeting a subdivision was approved at the Hansen property. He thanked the Department of Public works for their hard work after the storm, their hard work was appreciated.

Mayor Chau added that he was not able to attend the last Planning Board meeting. He asked Councilman Utts about the Hansen subdivision and if there was any commentary about the Fire Department?

Councilman Utts replied it was a single lot subdivision; the driveway configuration would ensure that any vehicle that goes down the lane can turn around.

**Councilwoman Korngut** – Technology/MRHS Channel; Library; Municipal Alliance; Shared Services

Councilwoman Korngut reported that the next Library Board meeting would be the 13<sup>th</sup> via Zoom, she would report back.

**Councilman Dewees** - Buildings/Grounds; Birch Grove Park

Councilman Dewees reported that Birch Grove Park opened up today, some trees and wires were down, some cleanup remained.

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**Councilman Smith** – Finance/Collections; Little League/Babe Ruth; Cultural Committee; Northfield Community School

Councilman Smith noted that he already reported on the ACBL with Joe Bunting, and the crossing guard issue. School will re-open on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The next Northfield Community School Board meeting will be the 24<sup>th</sup> of August and the next Little League meeting would be on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman O'Neill commented that it seemed like we haven't had much contact with Northfield Community School, they used to come in to discuss their budget. He felt issues could have been worked out ahead of time if we had better communication. He felt we should reach out and get some more dialogue.

Mayor Chau responded that he has had dialogue with the school on other issues; as Councilman Smith pointed out earlier, we were not prepared for this most recent issue. It was not fair to put Councilman Smith on the spot, as he was given no opportunity to respond. This was not an easy matter, logistically and financially.

Councilman O'Neill noticed that it seemed like there were double sessions, so that would double the crossing guards.

Clerk Canesi replied, more than that.

Council President Perri added that they were dealing with trying to resolve their issues, but they created another issue they did not know about. He hoped it could be resolved. Other than getting the minutes sent to us, or the getting agenda prior to the meeting, that may help.

Councilman Smith replied that he has been in attendance at every meeting and had made his presence known. It was not as if we have an absentee liaison; when this came up it did not cross Councilman Smith's mind, but they did not raise it either.

Councilwoman Korngut believed their agenda was on their website in advance of their meetings.

Councilwoman Madden asked Councilman Smith to explain their plan.

Councilman Smith reported that the plan will have an AM and PM session, for four half days, with an hour virtual learning for an hour. One each for elementary and middle schools. Either 8am-11am or 9am-noon, or 12pm-3pm or 1pm-4pm. They were also required to provide an all-distance learning option.

**Councilwoman Madden** – Fire Department / EMS; Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden reported that Mainland Regional High School had their special meeting yesterday via Zoom. Every student will get a laptop, there was a

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hybrid schedule and they have hired a wellness coordinator. Virtual learning four days a week, and in-school one day a week. Half of the students will be in the school at a time. There was no five day per week in-person schedule; parents had the option to have all virtual. They are working on the HVAC system to ensure it meets standards. Students would not have access to lockers or the pool, and students would carry all materials with them. Sports remain undecided.

Councilwoman Madden did not have a Fire Department report for this month. She read the following EMS report for July:

TriCare had a total of 153 dispatches, 115 calls with patients, 90 transports, 13 mutual aid calls to EHT and administered 1 Narcan.

**Council President Perri**– Public Works: Roads, Engineering, Sewer Operations; Senior Citizens

Council President Perri reported that he had a report from Public Works on storm activity, he did not have it with him at present. They had to have generators in use at pump stations due to power outages. There were large sections of Northfield that were without power for several days. Council President Perri commended Public Works for doing a great job.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Chau said as Council would recall, we had budgeted for three Class II officers; this has been up in the air due to uncertainty with the school schedule. We had two qualified individuals, and one would need to attend school.

Mayor Chau read the following letter into record:

“Thomas Wolfe  
317 Davis Avenue  
Northfield, NJ 08225

August 10, 2020

Dear Mayor Chau and City Council

I have lived in Northfield for over 50 years. Back in the day things were a lot different. If you had a problem you would go to a council meeting and they would discuss the problem. If they were unable to resolve the problem that night they would always get back to you. It has been two and a half years since I requested to have blinking red lights on the stop signs on Davis Avenue. One council person mentioned to me that they cost too much money. That was two and a half years ago and I have not heard anything since. I don't understand why. The speeding is just as bad as before, with many cars going right through the signs without stopping. There are ten

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young children who live on the 300 block of Davis Avenue and four of them live 75 feet from the stop signs.

Also while I am writing this letter I would like to see the city buy recycle and trash bins for all residents. I am sure there must be some grants available. It would make the city much cleaner looking. Northfield always seems to be the last town in the area to implement these types of changes. Blinking stop signs and trash/recycling bins are measures that will improve Northfield.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Wolfe”

Mayor Chau noted that he would address the blinking lights. Mayor Chau was an advocate and has witnessed cars going through this heavily traveled intersection. He would like to see blinking stop signs at this area. He had discussed this with Chief Newman; this of course has to be budgeted. All of Council had received reports from Mayor Chau regarding the storm, he thanked OEM Coordinator Joo, Chiefs Newman and Cummings, and the Public Works Department. Mayor Chau was out on the roads until 3am and Public Works did a great job. We lost power to street lights, and traffic lights at Tilton and New Road, and at Mill and New Roads. We have no portable lights in Northfield. We have lights attached to our fire apparatus. Due to the storm we could not get any lights from the County, even from County OEM. Coordinator Joo had a connection from Barnegat from whom we were able to get portable lights. Mayor Chau would be budgeting for portable lights so we can be prepared in the future. He also wants to get a storage container for the Police Department. He was not able to attend all budget meetings due to illness. The Police Department needed more storage and mayor Chau would like Council to consider the purchase of an 8' x 40' used shipping container for use in storing Police Department equipment. The cost was approximately \$7,000.00 including shipping. If Council is amendable, Mayor Chau would like to approach CFO Stollenwerk regarding this purchase if funding was available. He was looking at it earlier in the year but forgot about it.

City Hall was now open to the public; he thanked all City Hall employees. The Tax Office had relocated. Public Works fogs all of the rooms and police cars every morning and masks and hand sanitizers were available. To have a private company fog the offices it would cost \$1,000 per visit. He recognized the difficult task the governor was faced with; he wrote a letter to the governor a while back about the Tilton Theater and got no reply. He had met with the theater owner, and all precautions were in place. He did not understand why the theater cannot be open, he was going on record that he was disappointed. He would meet again with theater owner, and if necessary, would write another letter.

Councilman O'Neill said he wanted to congratulate and thank three groups. At the last meeting there was a pro-law enforcement rally. After the meeting it looked like nothing happened. He thanked the Northfield Police Department for being very professional, they did a great job. He also thanked the residents.

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Councilwoman Korngut responded to Councilman O’Neill, and said she saw the opposite from many of his remarks, when we say it was a pro-law enforcement rally the implication is that anyone who was on the other side is anti-law enforcement. She wanted to make that clear. Words matter.

Mayor Chau added that all had an opportunity to voice their opinion. This is America, and that is what it's all about.

**CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report as previously distributed to Council. Cedar Bridge Road was mostly complete. The 2018 Road Project punch list items were complete and final payment was pending. The maintenance bond had been received. In regard to Shepherd Drive, the contractor had to return to correct errors: 20' of gutter and 400' of paving. It was a mistake on the contractor's end. Regarding ADA improvements, the package was ready and he would discuss a bid date with the Clerk's Office. The low bidder for the Fuae Avenue Project was Hackney Concrete; the second and third lowest were very close. He was making the recommendation to award to Hackney; he would need NJDOT concurrence.

Mayor Chau asked where are we with the punch list for Shepherd?

Engineer Nassar replied they should be complete sometime next week.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Perri opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to comment on any subject.

Seeing no one wishing to make a comment Council President Perri closed the public session.

**RESOLUTIONS**

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.

On a motion of Councilwoman Madden, second of Councilwoman Korngut, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 123-2020 through 131-2020.

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|-----------------|--|
| <b>123-2020</b> | Memorialize Resignation of Public Works Laborer  |
| <b>124-2020</b> | Authorize Liquor License Renewal for Year 2020-2021 – Northfield Liquors LLC ( <i>Bootlegger's</i> ) |

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- 125-2020** Authorize Liquor License Renewal for Year 2020-2021 – LGM Enterprises (*Ventura 's*)
- 126-2020** Amending Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Appointments
- 127-2020** Resolution Authorizing Cancellation of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.6 on Property known as Block 41 Lot 3 (1203 Tilton Road)
- 128-2020** Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract for the Provision of Electric Generation Supply Service for the South Jersey Power Cooperative
- 129-2020** Authorizing Refunds of Overpayment of Taxes
- 130-2020** Recognizing Members of the Board of Trustees for Family Association of Northfield
- 131-2020** Award of Contract for Reconstruction of Fuae Avenue, FY2020 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program

Councilwoman Madden motioned, second of Councilwoman Korngut, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 123-2020 through 131-2020.

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

**ORDINANCES**

Councilwoman Korngut read Ordinance 11-2020 by title and motioned for its adoption, by title only; Councilwoman Madden seconded.

- 11-2020** An Ordinance Amending Article XIV, Section 111-27, Schedule I, of the City of Northfield Municipal Code, Titled ‘No Parking’  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/ Public Hearing / Final Consideration*  
*Published in the Press of AC 08/15/2020*

The Municipal Clerk 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 City website, and copies have been available at no cost by contacting the office of the Municipal Clerk to any member of the public who requested same.

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

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

Councilman O’Neill read Ordinance 12-2020 by title and motioned for its adoption, to be read by title only; Councilman Dewees seconded.

- 12-2020** Bond Ordinance Appropriating One Million Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$1,070,000) And Authorizing the Issuance of One Million Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,016,500) in Bonds or

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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  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/ Public Hearing / Final Consideration*  
*Published in the Press of AC 08/15/2020*

The Municipal Clerk 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 City website, and copies have been available at no cost by contacting the office of the Municipal Clerk to any member of the public who requested same.

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

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

**PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 2,740,597.05**

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, for payment of bills.

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

Council President Perri read the meeting notices.

At 8:49pm, on motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Utts, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk