

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 30, 2016**

At 7:29pm, 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: Dewees, Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline

Absent: Piergiovanni

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Lischin, seconded by Councilman Murray to dispense with the reading of the minutes of July 26, 2016. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and were on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

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

• **APPLICATION FOR VACATION OF A PORTION OF HELEN DRIVE**

Council President Travagline introduced Engineer Jon Barnhart to discuss the street vacation application.

Brian Callaghan introduced himself as the attorney for the current owners; the application was for a partial vacation of Helen Drive. He explained the current ownership and that an encroaching pool had been in place since the 1980's. He deferred to Jon Barnhart, engineer for the applicant.

Mr. Barnhart was sworn in by Solicitor Facenda for the record; Facenda attested to Barnhart's credentials as a qualified professional engineer.

Mr. Barnhart reviewed a diagram of the area and the specifics of the vacation request; there was no impact on public improvements and they would still fall within the remaining 40 feet of right of way. The area was fully developed. The applicant saw this as a case of correcting something that happened years ago, and would keep a wonderful family in Northfield.

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Solicitor Facenda asked Council if they had any questions of Mr. Barnhart.

Councilman Dewees asked if the area had been reviewed by the Municipal Surveyor.

Solicitor Facenda stated it had not; suggested that any approval be conditioned upon that review. He asked Mr. Barnhart if he saw any need for a City easement for future improvements, and would there be any objection to same.

Mr. Barnhart didn't see any need, but couldn't speak to the objection.

Mr. Callaghan stated there would be no objection.

Solicitor Facenda advised Mr. Callaghan that the Ordinance is in tonight's agenda packet, and asked that he review it, in the event that council decided to go forward.

Council President Travagline opened the public hearing on the vacation of Helen Drive only.

Seeing no one wishing to speak on the subject he closed the public hearing.

Solicitor Facenda asked if Council had any objections to considering the Ordinance for introduction. Members of Council individually indicated that there were no objections to proceeding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Perri reported that a seniors luncheon was held last Thursday that included Charles Curley, the Atlantic County Alliance Coordinator. Perri also attended the ACUA mid-year conference and wastewater discussion. Revenue and expenses were reviewed; ACUA is looking at a \$25,000,000.00 capital project that they've been considering since Sandy. Out of 14 users, if they under budget, it gets calculated and everyone has to pay an additional share. They are willing to help us with our situation and a meeting has been scheduled with our guys.

Councilman Lischin asked for an update on the Catherine Place odor issue.

Councilman Perri replied that the original did not fit and the County is purchasing another one, hopefully that will fit.

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

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Councilman O'Neill read the report for the Court productivity for the year noting that activity has increased. He also reported that football was in full swing.

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

Councilman Piergiovanni was absent.

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*

Councilman Dewees thanked Public Works, the Sewer department employees specifically, for cleaning out the storm sewer line on Cresson Avenue; it was very challenging and they did a great job. The Public Works staff was going to place no parking signage along the bike path, based on complaints from residents. The former trailer bathrooms and garden club at Birch Grove Park have been demolished. Concrete pads along the bike path were being poured for the new benches. He congratulated the senior softball girls for going to the regional finals in Massachusetts. He also congratulated the 14 and 15 year old boys for going to the Babe Ruth World Series.

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

Councilman Murray commended the Police and Fire Departments for their efforts at fighting the recent fire on Bay Drive, the conditions were extreme and it was a long battle. They did a great job.

At 8:02pm Councilman O'Neill left the meeting and did not return.

Councilman Dewees also commended the Police and Fire departments for handling a motor vehicle accident that occurred on Zion Road at the same time.

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

Councilman Lischin also commended the Police, Fire and EMS for their performance at the recent fire. He read the press release regarding the incident, where sadly a 91 year old woman died. He read a list of cooperating agencies that came to support us that day, including fire personnel from many other towns. He read the Fire Department report for July and the Building Department report for July. He thanked AJ from Mainland and reminded all about the rebroadcast times for the meeting. The

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concert series and talent show were big hits again this year. The Historical Society program will be held here at City Hall on September 7th at 7pm.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau announced that there would be a Step 2 grievance hearing at City Hall for the Fire Department tomorrow. He referred to the many new photos in the hallway and thanked members of the media for allowing us to use their photos. Three City representatives will attend a Community Champions seminar next month, Shannon Campbell, Mary Canesi, and Mike Dattalo. Mayor Chau asked Engineer Kwapinski about the impact of freezing water on the new porous sidewalk, and would it cause cracking?

Engineer Kwapinski explained that there was stone under the porous surface for drainage; he didn't have personal experience with this material, but knew it was used successfully in asphalt applications.

Councilman Dewees stated that he'd asked that specific question and was told it was not an issue; he said he also asked about maintenance and was told there really wasn't any maintenance required.

Mayor Chau asked who was responsible if it cracks or breaks.

Councilman Dewees noted that was an interesting point, because we were responsible to maintain it.

Engineer Kwapinski said there must be some sort of warranty period; he would follow up.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Kwapinski reviewed the engineers report; the Bay Drive project was still on shut-down. He had concerns about the Rosedale Pump Station project, due to the proximity of Bay Drive they may not be able to pave.

Mayor Chau asked if the pile of dirt on Bay Drive will remain.

Engineer Kwapinski stated that it would be used for the other project.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public to speak on any subject.

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Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue - asked Councilman Dewees if there was an update on Veterans Park.

Councilman Dewees said paving would be next.

Mr. Webb explained that he had a new plaque that he wanted to put in by the shed; in honor of sailors and Coast Guard who never returned. Volunteerism seems to be going by the wayside.

Mark Bruno, 18 Ridgewood Court - spoke regarding the Sand Shark's use of fields application, saying that 4 of the 10 kids on the team and 2 of the 4 coaches are from Northfield. They want to use for the field for games and practice; they would take care of the fields.

Mayor Chau thanked Mr. Bruno for volunteerism. He reminded him of sanitation procedures for the snack bar and that all facilities must be secured.

Municipal Clerk Canesi reminded Mr. Bruno and Council that only prepackaged food could be sold in the snack bar; as per the Board of Health.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak he 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 has concluded. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Council President Travagline seconded for Resolutions 153-2016 to 162-2016, to be voted on by Consent Agenda.

153-2016 Resolution Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2016 Budget

154-2016 Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes

155-2016 Refund of Raffle License Fee to Congregation Beth Israel

156-2016 End of Seasonal Employment for Birch Grove Park Employee

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- 157-2016** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities –South Jersey Sand Sharks
- 158-2016** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – MRHS Baseball
- 159-2016** Award of Contract For Rosedale 1 Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Upgrade
- 160-2016** A Resolution Designating Custodian of Records in Accordance with the Open Public Records Act
- 161-2016** A Resolution to Authorize the Relocation of a New Jersey Transit Bus Stop within the City of Northfield
- 162-2016** 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 Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality

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 carried to vote the consent agenda.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Council President Travagline seconded for Resolutions 153-2016 through 162-2016, to be adopted on by Consent Agenda.

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 carried to adopt the consent agenda.

ORDINANCES

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Murray seconded to introduce Ordinance 10-2016.

- 10-2016** An Ordinance Of The Council Of The City Of Northfield, County Of Atlantic, State Of New Jersey, Providing For The Vacation Of A Portion Of Helen Drive In The City Of Northfield
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 08/30/16
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 9/13/16*

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The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that since this is the introduction, there will be no public input. The public hearing date, and requisite publication dates were announced. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies will be 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 requests same.

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 carried to introduce Ordinance 10-2016.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Murray seconded to introduce Ordinance 11-2016.

11-2016 Amending Chapter 61 Of The City Of Northfield Municipal Code, Regarding The Police Department’s Promotional Procedures
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 08/30/16
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 9/13/16*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance, and stated that this is the introduction, and there will be no public input. The public hearing date, and requisite publication dates were announced. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies will be 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 requests same.

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 carried to introduce Ordinance 11-2016.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 1,092,343.18

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 –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Travagline read the meeting notices and announced the executive session for Resolution 162-2016.

162-2016 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 Litigation and

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Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring
Confidentiality

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 regard to discussing continued litigation with Max Gurwicz and a Mt. Laurel development; Council will be discussing a possible settlement. Minutes would be kept and be made available when provided by law.

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 8:31pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.

At 8:41pm Council returned from Executive Session and the Regular Meeting of Council resumed.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. He noted that he updated Council; the subject discussed was authority to potentially settle. Minutes were kept and would be released when permitted and required by law.

At 8:41pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk