

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 31, 2021**

At 7:30pm, this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 9, 2021, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), and N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 - 1.7, this meeting will be held in-person and as a remote public meeting (live-streamed) using Zoom conferencing service. Due to social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public. Visit the event calendar page for August 31, 2021 at www.cityofnorthfield.org to determine current seating availability. Face coverings and social distancing will be required for in-person attendance. To reserve an available seat, contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 609-641-2832, ext 125, no later than 4:00pm on August 31, 2021. Once all available seats have been reserved, virtual attendance will be required using a web-browser to Join the Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85843732460> or by telephone using one tap mobile +13126266799,,85843732460# or direct dial +1 312 626 6799 using Meeting ID: 858 4373 2460. For those wishing to comment during the dedicated public comment portion of the meeting, but who may be unable to attend (in person or via Zoom), public comments may also be submitted in advance via email to mcanesi@cityofnorthfield.org or by written letter to the Office of the Municipal Clerk, 1600 Shore Road, Northfield NJ 08225, or by hand delivery to the drop box in the parking lot at the south corner of the municipal building, addressed to the attention of the Municipal Clerk. Comments shall contain the name and address of the author, will be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting, and must be received by 2:00pm on August 31, 2021.

Municipal Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“As you may know, in late May, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 242, related to Covid-19 and which eased restrictions on face coverings in indoor public spaces, under certain conditions. The order permits employers to impose stricter requirements regarding face coverings in indoor settings, which, in the best interests of our employees and visitors, the City of Northfield opted to do in May, and continues to do. Based on CDC guidelines, the City of Northfield continues to require face coverings and social distancing in our indoor public spaces, and visitors are made aware of this decision with signs at the entrances to the building.

Due to the continued social distancing requirements, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public this evening. This meeting is also being presented simultaneously as a remote public meeting, live-streamed, using Zoom conferencing service, and in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Orders, the Open Public Meetings Act.

Zoom meeting 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 could reserve one of the limited seats, as well as how they can access Zoom have been made available on the municipal

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 31, 2021**

website and were published in the Press of Atlantic City. The full text of the public meeting notice has been posted at the entrance to the municipal building and includes Zoom instructions, information on where to find the meeting agenda and relevant documents, as well as instructions on how members of the public could submit comments in advance of tonight's meeting.

For those participating via Zoom, 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. Zoom participants wishing to exercise their right to participate during the public comment portion of the meeting should wait until the specific announcement is made to open the public comment period. At this time, one by one, any telephone users will be asked to identify themselves and will be unmuted to permit commentary. For web-browser participants, comments or questions may be submitted via the chat function and will not be acknowledged outside of the designated public-comment portion of the meeting; chat-users must also provide his/her name and address for the record in order to be heard.

Any written comments submitted in advance will be read aloud and addressed during the public comment portion of the meeting."

FLAG SALUTE

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

ROLL CALL

Present (in person): Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Perri; Councilman Utts; Mayor Chau.

Absent: Councilman Smith; Council President Polistina.

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Perri with a second of Councilwoman Madden, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of August 10th, 2021 without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau announced the County Court Administration had met and some committees had been formed. Mayor Chau was awaiting further direction. He would like to recognize McDonald's for donating ice cream coupons to be distributed by the

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 31, 2021**

Northfield Police Department in recognition of children observing good bicycle safety. He thanked McDonald's owner Mr. Durante, Chief Newman and the Police Department. Mayor Chau invited all to attend a ceremony on Patriot Day, 9/11 as we observe the 20th anniversary of the 3,000 lives lost, we will be dedicating the piece of the World Trade Center outside of City Hall at 9:30am. The ribbon cutting for the bike trails at Birch Grove would be held at the bike rodeo on September 25th, the bike rodeo begins at 10am and the ribbon cutting at 11am. The trail map will be on the website, along with the registration form. Contact Shannon Campbell for more information. Trunk or Treat will be held on October 22nd at 5pm, at Birch Grove Park; he complimented Councilman Utts on his past elaborate set-up. He thanked all past participants. He announced the winner of the recycling contest: Charles Rabey of Sutton Avenue, he congratulated the winner.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report as previously distributed to the Council. The final payment for Arawak was on the agenda. Regarding New Jersey American Water, he had a meeting with Mr. Dollard, there were issues with valves and lines, there was concern that some of the valves may have been paved over. NJAMW would like to review all the valves. Engineer Nassar was aware of an issue caused by our contractor on Infield that involved a valve box. The contractor would make it right. He noted the water line on Argo Lane, and fire hydrants. NJAMW was going to get back to Engineer Nassar with an updated price.

Solicitor Facenda reminded all that this was subject of a closed session discussion.

Engineer Nassar advised there was an extensive punch list for the Local Road Program, it should be done by the next meeting. He received concurrence to go out to bid for Merritt Drive and Ridgewood, we should go out to bid in October.

At the request of Council President Pro Tempore Dewees and on behalf of a Zoom participant, Engineer Nassar repeated the first part of the Engineer's report.

Councilman Perri asked Engineer Nassar to look at the water box installation at Oakcrest and the bike path that had settled.

Engineer Nassar replied that he had already given that to them.

Mayor Chau asked what was happening with changing bike path to LED lights?

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees advised when a light goes out it is replaced with LED. We have a bucket truck now and can do them as needed.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 31, 2021**

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees 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.

Clerk Canesi stated there was no-one in Zoom.

Seeing no one wishing to make a comment, Council President Pro Tempore Dewees closed the public comment portion of this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees read the following statement: “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 Councilman Notaro, second of Councilman Utts, all members present were in favor of voting by consent agenda for Resolutions 150-2021 through 156-2021.

- 150-2021** Resolution Authorizing Cancellation and Refund of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 and N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 on Property known as Block 1.03 Lot 37.03 (7 Dani Drive)
- 151-2021** Resolution Authorizing Cancellation and Refund of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 and N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 on Property known as Block 116 Lot 9.08 (216 Roosevelt Avenue)
- 152-2021** Resolution Authorizing Cancellation and Refund of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 and N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 on Property known as Block 15 Lot 4 (1 Henry Drive)
- 153-2021** Resolution Authorizing Cancellation of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 55:14k-34 and N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.3 on Property known as Block 17 Lot 3.02 (221 Tilton Road)
- 154-2021** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities
- 155-2021** Temporary Employment Status Change Regular Adult School Crossing Guard
- 156-2021** To Extend Commercial Driver’s License Deadline for Public Works Laborer

Councilman Notaro motioned, second of Councilman Utts, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 150-2021 through 156-2021.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 31, 2021**

Councilman Perri, referring to Resolution 153-2021, asked if the State reimburses us for tax-exempt properties?

Clerk Canesi replied, no.

Councilman Perri urged that Council contact our Legislators – it was becoming more frequent and impacts what we pay to the schools.

Mayor Chau agreed, he suggested a Resolution at the next meeting.

Councilman Perri was all for the business, but did not feel property should be exempt 100%.

Clerk Canesi asked if someone wanted to draft a Resolution?

Councilman Perri would contact the representatives himself; he would also defer to the Council President to see how he would handle it.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – absent, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – absent; Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

Council President Pro Tempore deferred to Solicitor Facenda

Solicitor Facenda announced he looked at the Open Public Meeting Act, he read an excerpt, including legislative findings. He referred to adequate public notice and how it was defined in the act. If there was a violation the remedy to a violation of OPMA was an injunction in Superior Court, and monetary fines to those who knowingly violate the Open Public Meetings Act. He was not sure there was a request to add Ordinance 7 to the agenda, if he was mistaken, he asked that Council correct him. It was Solicitor Facenda's recommendation that Ordinance 7 not be acted on based on these reasons, as not to violate the Open Public Meetings Act and to ensure transparent operations.

Councilman Utts made a motion to have Ordinance 7 on the agenda for September 14th.

Councilwoman Madden seconded Councilman Utts' motion.

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees called an all in favor vote with all responding in the affirmative; no one was opposed.

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees announced Ordinance 9-2021.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 31, 2021**

Councilwoman Madden motioned, second of Councilman Utts, to adopt Ordinance 9-2021.

9-2021 An Ordinance Providing for the Purchase of Real Property within the City of Northfield from Robert J. Schwenker and Susan E. Schwenker
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration
Published in the Press of AC 09/04/2021

The Municipal Clerk read the ordinance by title, stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter will 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 Pro Tempore Dewees opened the public hearing.

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

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - abstain, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - no, Mr. Smith – absent, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – absent.

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees announced Ordinance 10-2021.

Councilman Notaro motioned, second of Councilman Perri, to introduce Ordinance 10-2021.

10-2021 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 43 and Chapter A376 of the Code of the City of Northfield
Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 09/04/2021
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 09/14/2021

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, 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.

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees asked if council had any comments.

Mayor Chau asked if there would be a stipend for either job?

Clerk Canesi explained the Municipal Alliance Coordinator receives a stipend of \$1,248.00 and it is funded by the grant. She believed Council would be asked to contemplate a stipend for the Clean Communities Coordinator once the job has been created.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 31, 2021**

Councilman Perri asked if the Housing Officer was the same.

Clerk Canesi explained that the Housing Officer had already been hired and his job exists in the Code; since we carved it out from the former job, we created a job description with just those duties. The salary was already in the Ordinance.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – absent, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – absent; Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$101,434.20

Councilman Notaro motioned for the payment of bills, seconded by Councilman Utts.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – absent, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – absent; Motion carried.

Councilman Dewees read the meeting notices.

At 8:05pm, on motion of Councilman Utts, seconded by Councilman Dewees, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk