

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

At 7:55pm, this meeting was called to order by Deputy Municipal Clerk, Shannon Campbell. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2020 and August 29, 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. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86324037688>; Meeting ID: 863 2403 7688; One tap mobile +16465588656,,86324037688# US (New York) +13017158592,,86324037688# US (Germantown) Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) Meeting ID: 863 2403 7688

FLAG SALUTE

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

Deputy Clerk Campbell 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.

Due to social distancing requirements, members of the public are still restricted from attending in person.

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 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.

Those 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.”

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ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilwoman Korngut

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

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Utts, second of Councilwoman Madden, all present were in favor of approving the minutes, as amended, of the meeting of August 11, 2020 without formal reading.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman O’Neill had no report.

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

Councilman Utts reported that the First Street Playground was open and he, Councilman Dewees and Engineer Nassar were working on a grant to widen the Bike Path.

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

Councilwoman Korngut was absent.

Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds; Birch Grove Park

Councilman Dewees reported that the playground at Birch Grove would open tomorrow, new mulch was put down and Public Works spruced up the area; it would be open by 3pm.

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

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Councilman Smith reported that Northfield Little League would be running Fall Ball, it was canceled in the spring and the summer. He wished them the best.

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

Councilwoman Madden reported that she attended a demonstration by the Office of Emergency Management for a cap that would go on the top of the truck. It was an exceptional piece of equipment and would be budgeted for the future, next year possibly. OEM was also looking into portable lighting.

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

Council President Perri reported that the flow statistics from the ACUA came in. Our flows are down overall, we may need to make up a big deficit, he explained that rate users have to make up the difference.

Councilman O’Neill asked if down was bad?

Council President Perri replied yes.

Council President Perri thanked Clerk Canesi for the information on the bird sanctuary. He felt we needed to open the entry points. It would be a great project for the scouts. He asked if there was still an entrance on Glencove?

Councilman Utts replied yes. He felt it made sense to move the plaque to Cove Avenue.

Council President Perri noted there were portions that you have to walk over other properties to get it.

Clerk Canesi gave credit to Deputy Clerk Shannon Campbell and Tax Collector Michele Kirtsos who helped with the research; it was very fascinating.

Councilman Dewees questioned the pole line that runs on Cove that is in an easement. He asked Councilman Utts if he had any idea what Atlantic Electric was doing with it?

Councilman Utts replied that ACE comes in periodically, several homes in that area loose power, they cut back trees every couple of years. ACE should put the wires underground.

Councilman Dewees agreed since they have the easement.

Council President Perri had nothing to report on the seniors’ group.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau reported that tomorrow he would be attending a meeting with county government regarding a county wide court system, he would provide an update at the next meeting. He received complaints about minor vandalism on the bike path, he urged the public if you see something to please contact the Police Department. He had also received some questions regarding affordable housing. He spoke with Mr. Gurwicz, phases II and III will have affordable units, there were over 1,000 applicants, eligible applicants would be randomly selected by a third party company.

Mayor Chau asked Councilman Dewees to draw the winner for the September Recycle Cart Contest: winners Bill and Susan Evans, 603 Pine Avenue.

Council President Perri wanted to make it clear to the public that the Governing Body, the head Executive and the Police Chief were moving forward with the opening of our guards, we will do the best we can.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report as previously distributed to Council. In regard to Shepard Drive, the contactor finished the concrete, he is finalizing some repairs, there was a delay due to problems with equipment, they will start the day after Labor Day. Regarding Fuae Avenue reconstruction, the concurrence was received from the DOT yesterday, the preconstruction meeting will be in two weeks.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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

Via Zoom Chat – “May I speak again please Kerrie Marrone 114 W Rosedale Ave.”

Mrs. Marrone asked to be unmuted so she could speak.

Deputy Clerk Campbell unmuted Mrs. Marrone so she could speak.

Mrs. Marrone asked if had the City applied for FEMA funds? Or funding through CARES if that didn't qualify.

Council President Perri replied that our OEM Coordinator stated that he would look into FEMA funds, he not familiar with CARES.

Mayor Chau added that our OEM Coordinator stated it was not applicable in this situation.

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Mrs. Marrone heard they do it for hardships, there was an opportunity to make application, to use CARES or TANS funding for municipalities, it could be used to offset costs.

Mayor Chau noted he would speak with Coordinator Joo again.

Mrs. Marrone thanked Council, she wanted to find a solution.

Council President Perri thanked Mrs. Marrone. In reply to Mrs. Marrone's comment regarding the tax issue, our collection is up to average, we have not seen a reduction, our numbers are very good, we were not in a distress situation per Clerk Canesi.

Via Zoom Chat – “Bill Garry 202 St James Place. For the engineer, is the flooding issue at Pine Street and St James going to be addressed with the Faue Avenue project.”

Engineer Nassar replied that it would it would be addressed with the road program.

Councilman Dewees asked where does it flood?

Engineer Nassar replied on St. James. He thought we had funds with municipal aid, but, we did not.

Via Zoom Chat – “Eileen Toland 4304 Dolphin Ave. why is the schedule half day? would going full time eliminate the crossing guArd problem?”

Council President Perri replied that the superintendent and the school board chose the plan, if they chose a plan similar to Linwood there would not be an issue.

Via Zoom Chat – “Dennis Bickel 2213 grove rd does northfield plan to have in person voting or will we be having 100% main-in voting?”

Clerk Canesi explained that in-person voting is not our decision, the decision will be made by the governor, at this point it would the same as the primary. Northfield has been fortunate enough to be chosen to have a voter ballot drop box, it would be under 24-hour surveillance. The drop box can be used instead of mailing the ballot.

Mayor Chau asked was the ballot box open to any voter?

Clerk Canesi assumed it was for the City, but she would find out. The County would approve the location and have keys to it. She was not sure we can control who puts what in it.

Council President Perri asked Clerk Canesi to elaborate on the polling places.

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Clerk Canesi replied that our polling place was Northfield Community School. A resident must be handicapped to vote by the machine, others showing up in person would have to use a provisional ballot.

Via Zoom Chat – “Stephen Funk, 3 Dani Drive, Will the school be opening next Tuesday notwithstanding the open question regarding the crossing guards?”

Council President Perri replied that the school is opening we will do our best to man the guards.

Via Zoom Chat – “Dennis Bickel that will be disenfranchising thousands of voters yes but who says the ballot be counted or manipulated? will northfield become another Patterson!”

Clerk Canesi replied that voters can check with the county to see if your vote was validated, the process takes longer.

Via Zoom Chat – “Anthony campeggio 537 ridge wood drive, the governor said yesterday that there will be 3 ways to vote. Mail in, ballot box, or in person to give your ballot or to fill out a paper ballot.”

Clerk Canesi confirmed.

Via Zoom Chat – “you can check prior to Election Day so you can cure your ballot if a problem. eileen toland 4304 Dolphin”

Clerk Canesi replied that it would not be the municipality, it would be the County Board of Elections.

Via Zoom Chat – “Alicia Garry 202 Saint James Place when will box be placed at city hall?”

Clerk Canesi replied that we will announce when we know; it will be posted on Facebook and the website.

Via Zoom Chat – Eileen Toland asked if she could be unmuted so she could speak.

Deputy Clerk Campbell unmuted Mrs. Toland.

Eileen Toland, 4304 Dolphin Avenue - met with the Board of Elections, The Cure Act is to fix your ballot; she explained the Act. There is a phone number or website on the ballot that you can contact. They will tell you how to fix the ballot if it is curable. You have to get your ballot in as soon as you can.

Clerk Campbell asked again if any Zoom participants had questions or comments.

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Seeing no one else 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 Councilman Dewees, second of Councilman O'Neill, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 132-2020 through 143-2020.

- 132-2020** Appointment of Eric Leeds to the Position of Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
- 133-2020** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for the Year 2020-2021 – *Atlantic City Country Club*
- 134-2020** A Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Execute a Contract with an Approved State Contract Vendor Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a
- 135-2020** Amending Resolution No. 227-2019 Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2020 – June 2025
- 136-2020** Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Northfield, County Of Atlantic, New Jersey Authorizing The Mayor To Execute A License Agreement (13 Locust)
- 137-2020** Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Northfield, County Of Atlantic, New Jersey Authorizing The Mayor To Execute A License Agreement (301Clark)
- 138-2020** Amending Resolution No. 22-2020 Authorizing The Appointment Of A COAH Attorney As Special Counsel In Accordance With N.J.S.A. 40a:11-5 (1) As A Professional Service
- 139-2020** Authorizing Interlocal Contract For Cooperative Purchasing
- 140-2020** Authorization To Hire Substitute Adult School Crossing Guard
- 141-2020** Appoint Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II
- 142-2020** Appoint Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II
- 143-2020** To Hire A Laborer In The Public Works Department

Councilman Dewees motioned, second of Councilman O'Neill, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 132-2020 through 143-2020.

Councilman O'Neill asked for background on the new hires for the Police Department.

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Chief Newman responded that one was trained and worked in other community. The other was a Northfield resident, he was not trained. They did not have many candidates.

Council President Perri asked Chief Newman about health insurance for the one new hire.

Chief Newman asked Clerk Canesi to elaborate.

Clerk Canesi explained that Executive Order 162 provided day-one health benefits to anyone who would otherwise qualify. Normally, a Class II Special would not qualify because of the hours they work. Since this individual needs to go to the academy he will exceed the 29 hours per week that the Affordable Care Act would require. State Law would require the City pay him an opt out payment equivalent to 25% of the employer's portion of the premium should he opt out. That payment comes to about \$220.00 per month.

Council President Perri clarified that it was state mandate and we have to pay?

Clerk Canesi replied yes. We all have unanticipated expenses due to Covid.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 2,316,262.56

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

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – absent, 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 8:32pm, on motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Smith, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Campbell, Deputy Municipal Clerk