

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

At 7:28pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 5, 2019, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

*\*Due to an oversight, the recording equipment was not activated until 7:31pm.*

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau. Mayor Chau requested a moment of silence in honor of retired 29-year Crossing Guard Ruth Roesberg, who passed away recently.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Dewees, Korngut, Madden, O'Neill, Perri, Smith, Lischin

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

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Madden all members present, with the exception of Councilman Dewees who abstained, were in favor of approving the minutes of August 13th without formal reading.

Council President Lischin announced the Oaths of Office for the new Police Officers.

**7PM OATHS OF OFFICE, NEW POLICE OFFICERS**

- Patrolman Matthew Locotos

Mayor Chau called forward Matthew Locotos. He announced that the three men being sworn tonight were tough guys and were swearing their allegiance to Northfield. Mayor Chau stated that he takes great pride in this task.

Mayor Chau read the following biography about Patrolman Locotos: Matthew grew up in Upper Township and attended Ocean City High School and Widener University, he played sports at both, he has a degree in Criminal Justice. He came to us most recently from Pine Hill Police Department.

Patrolman Locotos brought his dad forward to hold the Bible.

Mayor Chau administered the Oath of Office and congratulated Patrolman Locotos.

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Patrolman Locotos thanked everyone and introduced his parents and friends in the audience. He thanked Chief Newman and other members of the department, and said he currently lives on the border of Linwood, so Northfield was basically his hometown. He thanked Mayor Chau and Council.

- Patrolman Juan Pemberti-Jaramillo

Mayor Chau called forward Juan Pemberti-Jaramillo.

Mayor Chau read the following biography about Patrolman Pemberti: Juan became a member of the Egg Harbor Township Explorers and knew in his heart wanted to be a Police Officer. He graduated from Atlantic Cape Community College with a degree in Criminal Justice, and is a combat medic in New Jersey Army National Guard. He had worked as Class II in Atlantic City and Galloway. Juan speaks Spanish and had already helped us in the courts. Juan is originally from Colombia.

Patrolman Pemberti brought his wife forward to hold the Bible.

Mayor Chau administered the Oath of Office and congratulated Patrolman Pemberti.

Patrolman Pemberti introduced his family members in attendance.

Patrolman Pemberti added that he was happy to be here, he was very thankful for the opportunity that the Mayor, Council and Chief Newman had given to him. He came here with big dreams and they had been accomplished today. He was looking forward to working for the community.

- Patrolman Kevin Sundstrom

Mayor Chau called forward Kevin Sundstrom.

Mayor Chau read the following biography about Patrolman Sundstrom: Kevin was a lifelong Northfield resident, he attended Northfield Community School, and he played sports, attended Mainland Regional High School and has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Atlantic Cape Community College. Kevin had worked for Stone Harbor and Egg Harbor Township Police Department's as a Special and was hired by Northfield in 2018 as a Class II. Kevin had done an outstanding job for the past year, and Mayor Chau was very proud of him, he knows Kevin will do a great job.

Patrolman Sundstrom called forward his mom to hold the Bible.

Mayor Chau administered the Oath of Office and congratulated Patrolman Sundstrom.

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Patrolman Sundstrom spoke; like Mayor Chau said, he grew up here. He had a pretty good childhood, the last year had been rewarding and he looked forward to the next 30. He introduced his parents and friends in the audience. He thanked Mayor Chau, Council and Chief Newman.

Mayor Chau added that he knew Patrolman Sundstrom and the others would have a fruitful career here in Northfield, and gesturing to the other officers in attendance, said they are his family. He congratulated all.

*At 7:45pm on motion Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilwoman Korngut, all were in favor of a five-minute recess.*

*At 7:56pm Council President Lischin called the meeting back to order.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Councilman Perri** - Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Sewer Operations, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri reported that the Seniors' group would have their next social on September 19th at noon at the Library; Mayor Chau and Councilman Perri would be giving Marie McGlynn a proclamation, she's been on the Committee since its inception. She's moving on, we wish her the best. He was still waiting to hear back from the ACUA. The Planning Board met last week.

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

Councilman O'Neill had no report this evening.

**Councilwoman Korngut** – Library, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Technology/MRHS Channel

Councilwoman Korngut had nothing to report for the Library as there had been no meeting of the Board since council met last. She would report at the next meeting. She attended the Northfield Community School Board of Education meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup> there was discussion about legal issues that the Board had been having; Councilwoman Korngut asked if there were repeat issues and was told there were not, it was a variety of issues. They have changed their dress code to take the subjectivity out of it and to be more consistent. It was not lost on Councilwoman Korngut as the Mayor swore in three new police officers that it was 18 years ago that everyone went to sleep and woke up the next day with some people never coming home.

**Councilman Dewees** - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Parks, Playgrounds

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Councilman Dewees reported that the war memorial monument was being moved to Veterans Park, and would look exactly like it did when it was at City Hall. There were plans to move the 9-11 artifact out to where the memorial was. Engineer Nassar and Deputy Clerk Campbell had been working very hard; he thanked them. He hoped to have both wrapped up in the next few weeks. He would have discussions with the Advisory Board about how to honor Mr. Webb and Claire Moyer; he would report back.

**Councilman Smith**– Finance/Collections, Little League/Babe Ruth, Shared Services

Councilman Smith reported that he attended the Little League meeting last month and that Council would be honoring the 12U Northfield Little League team at the October 15th meeting.

Councilman Dewees suggested another team as well, since they won districts.

Councilman Smith noted that he would check with Northfield Little League President, Mr. Hackett. He had also invited Mr. Hackett to come to speak to the Council about all they had done.

Councilman Dewees advised that there had been a bit of an issue with the Babe Ruth field. As Council is aware, a donor paid for the infield to be redone, but it does not look good. He was going to meet to discuss. He asked Engineer Nassar if he knew anyone who can test the soil; possibly it is diseased.

Engineer Nassar replied that he would find someone.

**Councilwoman Madden** – Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden reported she was not able to attend the safety meeting; the employee wellness fair will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup>. She was also unable to attend the Mainland School Board meeting, but would report next month.

**Council President Lischin** - Fire Department/EMS, Cultural Committee

Council President Lischin read the Fire Department and EMS reports for August. Fire Department calls for August included: 2 total fire incidents, 7 false alarm calls, 3 good intent calls, 5 hazardous condition calls, 2 service call incidents, 5 EMS 1st responder incidents and 1 mutual aid call; for a total of 24 dispatched incidents.

TriCare had a total of 169 dispatches, 148 calls with patients, 109 transports, 5 mutual aid calls to EHT and did not administer any Narcan.

The Cultural Committee finished their concert series; they had some pretty good bands. He referenced the new police officers, he was walking his dog down the bike path a few weeks ago and a small child was riding his bike with his helmet on, with

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his parent, and he witnessed an officer giving the child an ice cream coupon for having his helmet on. The child and the officer really enjoyed it. He thanked Chief Newman and Mayor Chau, and McDonalds for organizing it.

Councilman Dewees referenced a hole in the sidewalk that Council President Lischin had previously reported; it would be taken care of. He also reported that the work on the dais would be done soon; the gentleman doing the work is now able to do so.

Councilman O'Neill complimented Public Works on the job they had been doing; he noticed some of the employees from that department in attendance this evening.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau thanked Council for supporting him in hiring the new officers. He had received letters and compliments often about our officers, and shared a story about a Mayor from another town who was pulled over by a Northfield Police Department officer. The Mayor in question shared how professional our officer was during the interaction. Mayor Chau reported that in August, two non-fatal doses of Narcan were administered. He commended officers involved in a recent marijuana seizure, and congratulated Officer Heller and his wife Jamie on the birth of their son. The emergency flashers in front of City Hall should be installed soon. The second PBA negotiation session is coming up; the negotiations committees had already exchanged proposals, and Mayor Chau and labor counsel had been working diligently. Mayor Chau reported that he had received complaints about noise coming from Pleasantville. Mayor Chau spoke with Pleasantville Mayor Jesse Tweedle, who had pledged to ask the group to reduce the noise next year. The event was an annual one. Mayor Chau noted that we cannot go to Pleasantville to ask them to reduce the noise.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. He reported that the maintenance bond for the Davis Avenue pump had been received; Engineer Nassar would forward it to Solicitor Facenda for review. The Local Road Program concrete work had started on Second Street, Evergreen and Burton. The paving would start soon. He was waiting for bids to come back in on Shepherd Drive. He received plans for the municipal parking lot from the architect on Sunday; he would bring to next meeting for Council's approval and then go out to bid.

Mayor Chau asked for the status of Mr. Wolf's repair work.

Engineer Nassar replied that was the contractor; he had asked to have this done first.

Mayor Chau then asked about New Road.

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Engineer Nassar replied that the State has authorized the paving and they will include this.

Councilman Dewees asked for an update on the status of Mill Road.

Engineer Nassar did not have an update.

Councilman Perri asked about the water pipe on East Glencove.

Engineer Nassar replied he did not authorize it because the street was under moratorium. They are working on New Road.

Mayor Chau, with Council President's permission, he would like to have ACUA make a presentation to the Council about the purchase of recycling totes by the City for residents.

Council President Lischin agreed.

*At 8:13pm Councilman O'Neill briefly left the dais and returned.*

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Lischin opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any subject.

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

Council President Lischin 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 of funds are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds.

The Executive Session of Council will be held at the end of the meeting, and for any portion of the meeting that may be held in Closed Session, we will come back in public session to make a comment for the record after the Closed Session has concluded. There will be no formal vote this evening on matters being discussed. Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, and all were in favor of voting on Resolutions 180-2019 through 187-2019 by consent agenda.

**180-2019** Resolution Authorizing Cancellation and Refund of Taxes Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 & N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 on Property Known as

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Block 174 Lot 1.01 (2 Golf View Drive)

- 181-2019** Amending Resolution No. 153-2019, Recognizing Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company
- 182-2019** Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2020 – June 2021
- 183-2019** 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
- 184-2019** Application for Use of Facilities – 9U Ospreys
- 185-2019** Authorization to Create Municipal Lien
- 186-2019** Proclaiming October 6, 2019 as “Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day” in the City of Northfield
- 187-2019** 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(B)(7) – Contract Negotiations

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, to adopt Resolutions 180-2019 through 187-2019 by consent agenda.

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

**ORDINANCE**

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Ordinance 12-2019, to be read by title only.

- 12-2019** Establishing Fees for Copies of Vital Records  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration*  
*Published in the Press of AC 9/14/2019*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption, and if adopted, thereafter published. Since introduction the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the Municipal website, and copies have been 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 requested same.

Council President Lischin opened the public hearing for Ordinance 12-2019. 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 -

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yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS** \$ 1,461,761.35

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded, for payment of bills.

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

Council President Lischin read the meeting notices and announced the Executive Session.

**187-2019** 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(B)(7) – Contract Negotiations

Municipal Clerk Canesi read Resolution 187-2019 by title and deferred to Labor Counsel Nicole Curio for further comment.

Labor Counsel Curio read the following statement: tonight’s closed session will focus on the negotiations between the City of Northfield and the City of Linwood with respect to the Shared Services Agreement for Municipal Court. Council will also discuss the possibility of entering into a Shared Services Agreement for Municipal Court with Egg Harbor Township. During those discussions, the impact that each decision will have on current personnel may be discussed. To the extent those employees and their positions will be discussed, the impacted employees have opted to have that discussion held in public. To the extent the discussion will be focused on contract negotiation, deliberative process, strategy and attorney client privilege, that portion of the discussion will be held in closed session, not in the public. No action will be taken tonight, only deliberations on the matter.

Solicitor Facenda added, with respect to the minutes, Council will keep minutes of the Executive Session as required by law and they would be made promptly available for public inspection when required and permitted by law. The time frame for publication and approval was unknown. He then turned the matter over to Councilman Smith.

Councilman Smith stated that if we were to entertain the shared service agreement with Linwood, there was a possibility that the court personnel could remain unchanged, or there was a possibility that the hours could be reduced; that had to be discussed. As far as an agreement with Egg Harbor Township, if a decision is made there was a possibility that the Court Administrator and Deputy could be laid off.

Solicitor Facenda asked if there were any other comments on the employment issue alone. There were none. He announced that Council would retire to the mayor's



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office for the balance of the Executive Session. There would be a statement made for the record upon return.

Mayor Chau asked for Chief Newman to be present; Councilman O'Neill also requested his presence.

Solicitor Facenda had no objections, if the Chief was available. Chief Newman responded, and indicated that he was available.

*At 8:28pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office.*

*At 9:35pm Council returned to Council Chambers, and resumed the Regular Meeting.*

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. Council met with Labor Counsel, and matters discussed were negotiations with the City of Linwood with respect to a shared services agreement, also discussed was a potential agreement with Egg Harbor Township. Council discussed contractual negotiations that were attorney client privilege. No official action was taken. Negotiations would continue. Minutes were in fact kept; when law permits minutes would be released.

At 9:36pm, on a motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Korngut, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk