

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

At 6:55pm, 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 September 12, 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. Due to social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, members of the public are not permitted to attend in-person and may provide questions and comments using the following: To join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83933704794>; Meeting ID: 839 3370 4794; One tap mobile +13017158592,,83933704794# US (Germantown) +13126266799, 83933704794# 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)

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Council President Perri.

Deputy Municipal 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 Facebook 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 Korngut; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman O'Neill; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Perri

Absent: Mayor Chau

Solicitor Stein and Engineer Nassar 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, with the exception of Councilwoman Korngut who abstained, for the meeting of September 1, 2020 without formal reading.

7:00PM PUBLIC HEARING

- Street Opening Moratorium Hardship Exception Request, Block 158, Lot 3.03, Glen Cove Avenue

Council President Perri announced the public hearing.

Deputy Municipal Clerk Campbell called Ms. Rodio on the phone and advised her that all of Council was present and she was on the speaker phone.

Solicitor Stein announced that Ms. Rodio requested a hardship moratorium opening. He explained the hardship and that the applicant requested permission to open the road. He advised that the proper procedure had been followed and Council would be taking formal action tonight. The applicant would be required to restore the road subject to review of the engineer.

Council President Perri advised Ms. Rodio that Solicitor Stein would swear her in.

Solicitor Stein swore-in Ms. Rodio.

Council President Perri announced that the public hearing was now open.

Andrew Miller, counsel for Ms. Rodio, announced he was helping Ms. Rodio.

Solicitor Stein asked for testimony as to why Council should grant the request.

Ms. Rodio advised Council that she wanted to move back to Northfield, she wanted to be closer to her family. She did not want to wait the five years to open the road.

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Councilwoman Korngut asked Ms. Rodio why she needed it, what happened if Council didn't allow her to open the street.

Ms. Rodio stated that she couldn't build her house.

Solicitor Stein confirmed with Ms. Rodio that she was approaching to buy land adjacent to a street that had been paved within 5 years. He also confirmed that she needed the road opened to be able to provide services to the property.

Mr. Miller confirmed that was correct.

Solicitor Stein then confirmed if Council denied her request she could not build.

Ms. Rodio replied yes.

Councilwoman Madden asked when the street was paved?

Engineer Nassar replied 2017; the moratorium was up December 31, 2022.

Councilman Dewees asked would the road be restored to our specifications?

Engineer Nassar replied the applicant was required to do a full-width restoration, gas, sewer and water needed to be installed. He came up with the cost of the bond to be sure it was done to our standards. A \$5,750.00 cash bond had to be placed, the money would be released when the restoration was complete.

Councilwoman Madden asked for the cost for restoration and who will pay?

Engineer Nassar replied the homeowner, at a cost of \$5,750.00. He explained the process, and that there was no cost to the City.

Council President Perri asked if anyone from the public wished to speak?

Deputy Municipal Clerk Campbell opened the public hearing on Zoom.

Seeing no one wishing to speak Council President Perri closed the public session for the street opening request.

Council President Perri asked Mr. Miller and Ms. Rodio if they had any closing comments.

Mr. Miller felt the home would be a very proper asset to the community, Ms. Rodio was friends with the next-door neighbor, the road would be restored as required, she had a history in Northfield and would make a contribution as a resident.

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Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt Resolution 155-2020.

155-2020 A Resolution Ruling on a Request for a Hardship Exception from Road Opening Moratorium for Block 158, Lot 3.03, Located on Glen Cove Avenue

Deputy Municipal Clerk Campbell read the Resolution and clarified for council that an affirmative vote means they are in favor of allowing the resident to open the road, a “no” vote means they are not in favor of allowing the resident to open the road.

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.

Deputy Municipal Clerk Campbell advised Ms. Rodio that the Engineer had provided our office with the performance guarantee requirements, and we’d send it to her tomorrow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman O’Neill reported that FAN was starting football, they have port-o-pots, the grounds look good, he thanked City workers.

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

Councilman Utts had no report.

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

Councilwoman Korngut reported that the Library held its first in-person meeting on September 10th. She stated the attendance for August was 226 people, items in circulation were 807 and \$14.15 was collected in fines.

Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds; Birch Grove Park

Councilman Dewees had no report.

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

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Councilman Smith reported that the community school had a successful opening, there was a bit of dialogue last meeting. There would be another meeting with the school; he would reach out to Mayor Chau to see when scheduled it was scheduled.

Councilwoman Korngut asked when did school start?

Councilman Smith replied last Tuesday.

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

Councilwoman Madden reported the Fire Department had 50 emergency response calls and 5 non-emergency responses for the month of August. Twenty-seven of those calls happened in a four-hour window on August 5th when a storm came through Northfield. All 27 calls were handled by Northfield Fire without mutual aid assistance.

AtlantiCare dispatched 145 calls, had 118 calls with patients, 84 transports, 13 mutual aid calls to EHT and administered 2 doses of Narcan.

Council President Perri heard there were also two fires.

Councilwoman Madden, replied, yes, in the past week.

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

Council President Perri reported that debris from the storm was off the road. He thanked Public Works and Councilman Dewees. He reported that there was an issue with a tree on Mt. Vernon Avenue, we had a problem with the utilities. Council President Perri felt we needed language with the cable company or a contract with Asplundh. There was no excuse, the trees were hung up in a wire. He thanked Chief Newman, Municipal Clerk Canesi and Zoning Officer Dattalo for their help. He would bring back more information in the future.

Councilwoman Madden asked who finally removed it?

Council President Perri replied he had a friend at the electric company who made a call to the line crew at Comcast; Comcast removed it yesterday. We utilized so many avenues to get it done, he felt we needed something put in place where we can charge the utility company if they aren't going to do it.

Councilman Dewees asked when the tree would be removed?

Council President Perri stated the tree was removed by the homeowner on his side, the part that went into the wires was removed yesterday. Council President Perri

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yielded to Solicitor Stein for an ordinance change with Comcast. We needed to do something with Verizon.

Councilwoman Korngut asked was the problem a certain utility company?

Council President Perri explained there was damage to wires, the major utility was Comcast. The electric company was there initially, the utility problem was under the electric company line. We are still in hurricane season.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau was absent.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report as previously distributed to Council. In regard to Shepherd Drive, the contractor was out yesterday, we needed to wait for rain to see if there were any more issues. There was a preconstruction meeting for Fuae Avenue yesterday, the contractor was looking to start October 13th, the work would take about four weeks. We should be done by Thanksgiving dependent on the weather. Bids for the ADA ramp and parking lot are due October 1st; ten packets were already picked up for the ADA grant.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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

Municipal Clerk Canesi was asked by Mayor Chau, who was not in attendance this evening, to read the following: "Mayor Chau sent a letter to Mr. Bretones to discuss a meeting, he had not received a reply. The second meeting was scheduled for a county-wide court. To date the crossing guards were running smoothly, two applications for subs were received".

Council President Perri thanked Mayor Chau and hoped he was well.

Via Zoom Chat – "bill Garry 202 Saint James place, I notice there is a resolution concerning field use tonight are background checks requires required for any coaches? of the coaches prior to granting approval"

Municipal Clerk Canesi replied stating we do not do background checks on outside groups; it was the responsibility of the 3rd party team to background check their coaches. Our coaches are background checked.

Deputy Municipal 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.

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.

On a motion of Councilwoman Korngut, second of Councilman Dewees, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 144-2020 through 154-2020** and 156-2020.

- 144-2020** Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract without Public Advertisement for Bids for the Purchase of a High-Pressure Breathing Air System
- 145-2020** Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement Accepting the Cash Performance Bond from Feriozzi Trust, and Releasing Same with Respect to Cedar Springs Drive Public Improvements
- 146-2020** Authorization to Create a Municipal Lien for Property Maintenance Costs
- 147-2020** Authorization to Hire Substitute Adult School Crossing Guard
- 148-2020** Authorizing the Waiver of Road Opening Permit for the Opening of Street for Storm Water Drainage System / Water Line Conflict in the Vicinity of 105 Northfield Avenue, City of Northfield
- 149-2020** Proclaiming October 6, 2020 as Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day in the City of Northfield
- 150-2020** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – South Jersey Ospreys
- 151-2020** Resolution Recognizing Family Association of Northfield Volunteers for 2020 Season
- 152-2020** Amending Resolution No. 80-2020, a Resolution Establishing Salaries for Non-Union Employees of the City of Northfield for Calendar Year 2020, Solely with Respect to the Position of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
- 153-2020** 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. 10:4-12b(4), Regarding Contract Negotiations between the City of Northfield and the Northfield Professional Firefighter’s Association, Local No. 2364

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- 154-2020**** A Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Northfield and the Northfield Professional Firefighter’s Association, Local No. 2364
- 156-2020** A Resolution of the City of Northfield, New Jersey Condemning Racism and Ensuring a Commitment to the Equal and Just Treatment of all Citizens

Solicitor Stein read Resolution 156-2020 in full as follows:

“CITY OF NORTHFIELD, NJ
RESOLUTION NO. 156-2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD, NEW JERSEY
CONDEMNING RACISM AND ENSURING A COMMITMENT TO THE EQUAL
AND JUST TREATMENT OF ALL CITIZENS

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield, its Mayor, City Council, Chief of Police, entire Police Department, and employees city-wide, are deeply saddened by the tragic events that have recently occurred across the country; and

WHEREAS, racism, prejudice, and hate have no place in our City, we will continue to encourage an inclusive community built on trust and dedication to stand-up against all forms of racism. We will continue to ensure the Constitutional rights of every person who lives, works, and visits our great City; and

WHEREAS, the most basic form of injustice and inequity occurs when a group of people feels its safety and security is placed in jeopardy by the very people entrusted with its safety and security; and

WHEREAS, police brutality and racism has been persistent against people of color throughout history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield embraces cultural diversity, encourages civil dialogue and open communication with all individuals and groups; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of the City of Northfield Police Department, and all its departments, appreciate the overwhelming support from our great community and extend its commitment to function as a team to achieve its mission to protect and serve, and to fulfill expectations of honesty, transparency, and the fair treatment of all citizens and visitors.

THEREFORE, BE IT IS RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Council, and all employees of the City of Northfield, New Jersey do hereby stand steadfast with all citizens of Northfield against racism, discrimination, racial injustice, or police brutality; and

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The City of Northfield will oppose any attempts to undermine the safety, security, and rights of members of our community and will work proactively to ensure the rights and privileges of everyone in the City – regardless of race; and

The City of Northfield will promote safety, a sense of security, and equal protection of the constitutional rights of all people, leading by example through equitable treatment of all by City officials and departments; and

The City of Northfield will continue to focus on the best hiring and training practices in all departments to ensure the best possible outcomes for all citizens; and

The City of Northfield urges and encourages the County of Atlantic to establish a task force to examine public safety in our county, bring law enforcement, our court system and community stakeholders together with the expressed purpose of providing public safety in a race blind manner that truly espouses ‘equal protection under the law’; and

The City of Northfield encourages the community to stand together through peaceful exchange and discourse to enact change and move forward with our commitment to stand-up for equity, inclusion, racial justice, and to support civil rights for all in Northfield, New Jersey, and our country.

I, Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk of the City of Northfield, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, held this 15th day of September, 2020.

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk”

Councilman Dewees thanked Councilman Smith, Councilman Utts and Councilwoman Korngut for working together.

** Municipal Clerk Canesi explained that Resolution 154-2020 will not be included in the consent agenda; it may or may not be voted on this evening, it may be considered by the Council after the closed session.

On motion of Councilwoman Korngut, second of Councilman Dewees, all members present were in favor of amending the motion to vote by consent agenda to exclude Resolution 154-2020, and to vote by consent agenda on Resolutions 144-2020 through 153-2020 and 156-2020.

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, second of Councilman Dewees, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 144-2020 through 153-2020 and 156-2020.

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.

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ORDINANCE

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded to introduce Ordinance 13-2020, to be read by title only.

13-2020 An Ordinance of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Releasing, Extinguishing and Vacating the Rights of the Public to a Portion of a Paper Street known as Spruce Avenue in the City of Northfield

*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 09/19/2020
Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 10/06/2020*

Deputy Municipal Clerk Campbell 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.

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 \$ 613,591.51

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 and announced the executive session and that Council would return to make a statement for the record.

153-2020 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. 10:4-12b (4), Regarding Contract Negotiations between the City of Northfield and the Northfield Professional Firefighter’s Association, Local No. 2364

Deputy Municipal Clerk Campbell read the resolution by title, and said we are required to set forth as much information as possible about the subject matter to be discussed as well as provide for the public the amount of time that can be expected to elapse before the non-public minutes can be disclosed. Deputy Municipal Clerk Campbell deferred to Solicitor Stein for comment.

Solicitor Stein stated this involved a professional contract with the Fire Department, depending on the closed session outcome, minutes may be released at the appropriate time, after review, the time cannot be estimated at this point.

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Deputy Municipal Clerk Campbell announced to the participants on Zoom that Council would be entering into an executive session, the Zoom recording and video would be turned off. Council would return to make a comment for the record.

At 7:46pm Council entered into executive session.

At 8:37pm Council President Perri resumed the public session.

Solicitor Stein announced that Council discussed an amendment with the fire fighters, the Memorandum of Agreement would be made available when executed. The minutes of the closed session would be released when appropriately reviewed, adopted and voted on; it would not an unreasonable amount of time.

154-2020 A Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Northfield and the Northfield Professional Firefighter's Association, Local No. 2364

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, second of Councilman Dewees, to adopt Resolution 154-2020.

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.

At 8:40pm, on motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilwoman Korngut, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Campbell, Deputy Municipal Clerk