

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

At 6:31pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi, who greeted the audience. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231, on January 8, 2022.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau; he asked all to sit. He offered a well-deserved recognition to Council members by sharing a story about Mother Teresa, emphasizing the impact each person makes as a contribution to the whole. He thanked Council for all they do.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

Absent: Councilman Dewees

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Leeds with a second of Councilman Utts, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of September 9, 2022, without formal reading.

RESOLUTION

Councilman Notaro motioned, Councilman Leeds seconded, to adopt Resolution 190-2022.

190-2022 Employment Status Change for Firefighter Christopher Trench

Councilman Smith requested discussion; he was not sure why this was on the agenda, he remembered preliminary discussions only. Apparently, there were discussions at a meeting he missed in June, and he hadn't heard anything since. It came up during budget time, and there were general discussions. He felt there wasn't enough information and this should be tabled. During the last contract negotiations, all parties agreed that we would go forward with part time firefighters. He was unsure of the need and it had not been proven, he wanted to know why we haven't looked for part time. That was what the agreement was three years ago in contract negotiations.

Solicitor Facenda explained, that procedurally, the motion has been made and seconded. A motion would need to be made to table; that motion would have to be seconded, and a majority would need to approve. That can happen with or without further discussion.

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Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Utts seconded, to table Resolution 190-2022.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – no; Mr. Dewees- absent; Mr. Leeds – no; Mr. Notaro – no; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; The vote was tie.

Solicitor Facenda asked Clerk Canesi to request that Mayor Chau vote to break the tie vote.

Mayor Chau said he had heard that there were still concerns. He voted yes, to affirm the motion to table.

Clerk Canesi announced the result, the motion to table the resolution was upheld. Resolution 190-2022 would be on the table.

At 6:43pm Council President called for a brief recess.

On a motion of Councilwoman Bucci with a second of Councilman Utts, all members present were in favor of a formal recess.

Council resumed the meeting at 6:51pm.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau reported he had received three applicants for the Chief's position. Procedurally, by ordinance, and Mayor Chau had consulted with labor counsel, the points will be tallied up and will be submitted to Mayor Chau. A committee consisting of the Clerk, the Mayor and the Council President would conduct personal interviews and a final recommendation would be made. Mayor Chau would like to get this done as soon as possible. Chief Newman and Mayor Chau would like this individual to have the opportunity to work alongside Chief Newman before Chief Newman's retirement. This would create staffing deficiencies.

Mayor Chau attended some new grand openings this week, and this Saturday would be the grand opening of Jersey Cow. Mayor Chau would like to see everyone there.

He then referred to Resolution 189-2022 the execution of an agreement with CGI. He apologized for confusion he may have caused at the last meeting. CGI had two programs, the first one is referred to in 189-2022, and involves videos of our community highlights, a link to which is on our website. The Solicitor had reviewed the agreement and made changes. The second program was a banner program, where CGI would solicit our businesses to purchase the banner, to be displayed on Tilton Road and New Road. He would bring this up for further discussion at a later date.

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Solicitor Facenda, to Mayor Chau, asked do you mind if we postpone CGI until the next meeting? Solicitor Facenda received some changes from CGI that he'd like to look at.

Mayor Chau replied, no problem.

Mayor Chau continued, and reported that he had been speaking with residents while walking the bike path, seeking feedback. They noted concerns about electric vehicles. He mentioned the McDonald's helmet ice cream program giveaway. He reminded all the NJ State law required helmets. He shared the story of a crossing guard who was alerted to a child who had fallen off of a scooter, while carrying a football, with a kid on the back. He urged all to be more mindful.

Mayor Chau advised, with assistance of City Clerk Canesi and Solicitor Facenda, a letter was drafted about affordable housing and cooperative sober living homes. The City has very little information about these homes, hopefully the letter will get a response.

Mayor Chau announced that all were aware that when Chief Newman retires there would be vacancies. A vacancy also recently occurred due to the passing of Officer Scull. There were at one time, two Class II officers, and this year the Council decided to have one position and that does include Code Enforcement. If we approve resolution 188-2022, there will be no Code Enforcement. He noted that Chief Newman had recommended this promotion, and Mayor Chau supported it, but we will have to advertise the position.

Chief Newman spoke, noting this was something we could not predict. Here we were with a vacancy. Mayor Chau had indicated to Chief Newman that he wanted the vacancy filled by the end of the year. Chief Newman's recommendation for the position was on the agenda this evening. He felt it was ambitious to replace the SLEO by the end of the year. He felt the individual was ready to step into the role, there was a class coming up and Chief Newman could enroll him tomorrow. We would have to talk about Code Enforcement. The Lieutenant was leaving November 1st, Chief Newman would be done January 1st.

Councilman Notaro asked was there a sense of urgency?

Chief Newman replied, we were short; it was a process. We are down one shift right now. You were going to need to bring in three officers, he was trying to get ahead of the curve before the Lieutenant and Chief were gone. It was Chief Newman's understanding that the position was funded.

Mayor Chau noted he tried to get Council to approve a second Lieutenant position in anticipation of this event.

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Mayor Chau asked Council if anyone had questions for him? There were no responses.

CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer’s report as previously distributed to Council. The 2021 paving project should be wrapped up by the end of the week, the punch list items on Merritt and Ridgewood would be addressed this week. There was a resolution for Pioneer Pipe on the agenda tonight, if approved they could begin work next Monday.

Mayor Chau asked what was the process for notifying residents in advance of paving?

Engineer Nassar replied, the day before paving begins a letter is delivered.

Councilman Notaro noted the contractors were on Catherine today, they did a great job and the contractors provided positive feedback about Engineer Nassar.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Polistina 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.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Council President Polistina closed the public comment portion of this meeting.

7PM PROCLAMATIONS

Members of the City of Northfield Volunteer Fire Company with More than 50 Years of Service:

- Hank Martinelli - August 1968 - Present
- Ed Hackett - December 1968 - Present
- Bob Leeds - January 1970 - Present

Mayor Chau asked about the 7pm Presentations.

Councilman Leeds replied; they have declined to come.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Polistina stated that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature, and having been reviewed by Council, will be

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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.

- 180-2022** Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for the Installation of Stairs for the Announcer Stand for the City of Northfield Recreation Facilities
- 181-2022** Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for Final Paving on Herbert Drive, Shepherd Circle and Shepherd Circle West
- 182-2022** Authorizing the Tax Collector to Conduct a Tax Lien Sale
- 183-2022** Declaring October 6, 2022 Knockout Opioid Abuse Day
- 184-2022** A Resolution to Cancel Grant Balances
- 185-2022** Memorialize Last Day of Employment for Tax Collector
- 186-2022** Authorizing Execution of Agreement for Shared Attenuators/Arrow Boards
- 187-2022** Resolution Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2022 Budget
- 189-2022** Authorizing Execution of CGI Agreement and Addendum

On motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci, all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 180-2022 through 187-2022 and 189-2022, by Consent Agenda.

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilwoman Bucci seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mr. Dewees- absent; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

- 188-2022** To Approve the Promotion of Brandon Garofalo to the Position of Police Officer

Council President Polistina asked if anyone wished to move Resolution 188-2022, there were no responses.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 967,441.26

Councilman Notaro motioned, Councilman Leeds seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mr. Dewees- absent; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Utts read the meeting notices.

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At approximately 7:18pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk