

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2014**

At 7:00pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2014, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor McGee. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chau, Devine, Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline  
Absent: Piergiovanni

Mayor Jerry McGee, Solicitor Kris Facenda, and Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski were also in attendance.

Councilman Travagline opened the floor to Councilman Dewees to present certificates to the 2014 Jr. League Softball girls team.

Councilman Dewees read the following statement:

The 2014 Northfield Little League Junior All-Star Softball team won the District 16 and Section 4 (South Jersey) championships before advancing to and winning the first New Jersey State Softball championship in Northfield Little League history. They represented NJ in the Eastern Region championship, played in West Haven Connecticut, where they finished third in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Our Jr. All-Stars started their tournament run by sweeping Middle Township in two games by a combined score of 30-2 to win the District 16 tournament.

They advanced to the Section 4 tournament and continued to display strong pitching, excellent team defense and a solid offense. They went undefeated in Section Play, outscoring their opponents 32-6 while beating teams from West Deptford and Penns Grove (twice).

This group of 13-14 year olds then continued their strong play in the Final Four of the NJ State Tournament. They won their first game against Tri-Borough Little League 8-3 and then beat Manchester 8-0 to advance to the State final. They faced Tri-Borough again in what ended up being an incredible championship game that ended in extra innings with a come from behind, walk-off victory in the 10<sup>th</sup> inning.

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The team moved on as the New Jersey representative at the Eastern Region championship in West Haven, Connecticut. They beat New York and lost close games to Maryland and the eventual World Series championship team from West Point, Pennsylvania.

This was the first Northfield Little League Softball team to win a state championship. They were praised for their behavior and sportsmanship at each tournament and we are proud of how they represented their families, our community and the Northfield Little League.

The 2014 New Jersey State Junior Softball championship team was made up from the following girls from Northfield, Linwood and Somers Point:

Shannon Bennett, Mackenzie Brennan, Madison Disidori, Olivia Goff, Jessica Higbee, Gillian McCarthy, Mary McLaughlin, Meredith Miller, Gabby Monzo, Lauren Toner and Lauren Vandenberg

Coaches: Mike Toner – Manager, Joe Brennan, Pat McCarthy, Annette Bonczek, Barry Goff, Todd Miller, Mike Monzo, and Herm Bennett

Mike Toner thanked Mayor McGee, Councilman Dewees, and Council, as well as the Northfield Police Department and the volunteer Fire Company for the two wonderful parades through Northfield. He stated these girls earned and deserved everything they achieved. The group made up of girls from Northfield, Linwood and Somers Point. They are great group to be around, did everything as a team, faced adversity collectively, and decisions were made as a group. Mr. Toner introduced girls one by one and Councilman Dewees presented certificates (Olivia Goff-not able to attend). Mr. Toner thanked the coaches and said we are lucky to have volunteers like these, and throughout the community, makes Northfield a great place to live.

Council President Travagline reiterated the appreciation that Council has for the volunteers, applauded Mike Toner for his volunteer efforts.

Councilman Dewees then announced that the Atlantic Shore Boys 13 year old all-stars, won the State Championship for Babe Ruth baseball this past summer. The team also placed third in the Midatlantic Regionals which was played at the Surf Stadium in Atlantic City. They lost to the eventual 13 year old world champions. Councilman Dewees then introduced Marty Cortellessa, president of the Babe Ruth Organization.

Marty Cortellessa stated that A-Shore is comprised of Linwood, Northfield, Somers Point, Absecon, Upper Township and Ocean City, all part of A-Shore and these boys were selected as all-stars. They started out in Gettysburg, won the state

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championship in Hightstown, and then moved to regionals at Surf Stadium. He mentioned Mike Gill as coach, who was unable to be here. He also complimented parents for all they have done, and congratulated them. For some of these players this is their second such experience some of them went to Rhode Island when they were 10. He introduced the boys and presented them certificates. Players included: Kyle Goodman, Joe Bonzcek, Devon Sharkey, Nick Atohi and Anthony Cappuccio.

Council President Travagline thanked people who volunteer for the kids, like Mike Gill, and the moments and memories that are created, they are much appreciated.

Mayor McGee congratulated the girls and boys for their achievements. It is heartwarming to watch. He thanked volunteers, their hearts and souls are in it, and it shows.

Councilman Perri offered congratulations for everyone for bringing home the victories to Northfield, they stand forever, and wished all much success in the future.

Council President Travagline introduced Chief Colin Hickey to present a retirement clock to Captain of Police Arthur J. Faden.

Chief Hickey read the inscription on the clock and presented the clock to Retired Captain Faden.

Arthur Faden spoke to the kids in the audience: law enforcement is a wonderful career, but think twice because it's a tough job, but it is a wonderful job. Service to the community is extremely important and it's honorable. The clock is timely, because law enforcement stole a lot of time from his family, but it was very rewarding to him. He thanked his wife, mom, and two boys for their sacrifices. He thanked his co-workers, and thanked Council. The 25 years went by quickly, he still comes to visit his friends, at the police department and the City workers, and he noted that the workers need Council to listen to them, to find out what they can do to make things better for them. He has worked for a lot of places and feels the level of support the employees get from the City has diminished. He remembered that the people that suffer are the families of the employees, particularly the cops, because they are here protecting the employees. He urged Council to give them the tools to do their jobs. It was an honor to get the clock from his best friend in the world. He thanked everyone. Council President Travagline announces two minute recess

At 7:33pm Council President Travagline resumes meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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Councilman Perri commended the committee for the recent Veterans Park ceremony, and thanked Bob Webb for funding and installing a sign in memory of Bill Vain in front of the flag pole. He thanked Bill Vain, Steve Vain and all members of the committee for installing the new bricks. He stated the Rosedale Avenue #1 pump station is proceeding, he hopes to have a senior committee luncheon at the library next month. He is working on a few insurance items.

Councilman Dewees stated he had nothing to report.

Councilman Devine stated he had nothing to report.

Councilman Chau stated he spoke to Chief Hickey regarding painting lines for no parking zones at bike path; he will present any necessary follow-up to City Council. He encouraged anyone who is interested in Northfield history to volunteer for the Northfield Cultural Committee, volunteers may contact him. At the next City Council meeting on October 14, 2014 the planner and COAH attorney will be here to answer questions regarding the Gurwicz project and Fair Housing, he urged interested parties or those with questions to come to the meeting.

Council President Travagline reiterated that the steering committee is moving forward to pursue grants. He met with EHT police and went to the station to tour the 911 dispatch facility. He stated it was very impressive and they talked at length regarding costs.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor McGee congratulated the sports organizations, the volunteers and coaches. He spoke regarding police promotions, stated there is a tentative agreement for testing for the early part of January, he is waiting for an exact date. The City will test for lieutenants and sergeants. After that testing is complete there will be a captain's position. This Friday there is a mayor's meeting, and representatives from the state will be in attendance with regard to the local job situation.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Kwapinski noted the rebid for the paving job is on agenda this evening. There are no further updates to the engineer's report.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Travagline opened the public session.

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Council President Travagline, seeing no one wishing to speak closed the public session.

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

Council President Travagline 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 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. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Agenda on Resolutions 163-2014 through 170-2014. Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to vote by Consent.

- 163-2014** Refund Overpayment of 2014 Property Taxes Due to Qualified Veterans Property Tax Deduction
- 164-2014** Refund of Overpayment of 2014 Property Taxes
- 165-2014** To Authorize an Agreement between the City of Northfield and the Trustees of the Free Public Library of Northfield, t/a the Otto Bruyns Public Library
- 166-2014** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Certain Projects – Rosedale Avenue Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Upgrade
- 167-2014** Award of Contract 2014 Paving Project
- 168-2014** 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, Regarding Pending Litigation in the Matter of Jack Trocki Development Co., LLC, v City of Northfield
- 169-2014** 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, Regarding Possible

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Anticipated Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality

**170-2014** 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, regarding an Employment Agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O’Neill – absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Devine motioned, Councilman Chau seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ \$ 1,236,368.02

Councilman Perri asked if the school will reimburse us for the cost of the advertisement of the mail in ballots.

Municipal Clerk Canesi stated yes, the school approved the payment at their meeting last night and we should have the check by the end of the week.

Councilman Perri expressed concerns about Police and Fire overtime.

Mayor McGee said Chief Hickey advised that overtime spikes in the summer, he also noted National Night Out. He stated Chief Hickey said it should back in line with what it was last year.

Councilman Perri asked Mayor McGee if it is possible to get year to date on overtime for all departments for the next meeting.

Mayor McGee said it is possible.

Councilman Chau stated given current staffing levels in the Fire Department, the overtime is unavoidable.

Councilman Perri then questioned \$4,000.00 in lighting costs at ball fields.

Councilman Dewees stated it is not lighting costs, it is upgrades to the electrical service.

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Council President Travagline said the service needed to be brought up to code, work hasn't been done on these buildings in years.

Councilman Perri noted that there is settling on Burton Avenue and Burton Estates from the recent sewer installation.

Councilman Dewees said he will check on it.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O'Neill – absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries for payment of bills.

Councilman Chau read meeting notices.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS OF COUNCIL**

Council President Travagline announced that Council will be adjourning to the Clerk's office for an Executive Session and the resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

**168-2014** 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, Regarding Pending Litigation in the Matter of Jack Trocki Development Co., LLC, v City of Northfield

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

Solicitor Facenda stated Council will enter into an Executive Session not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Regarding Pending Litigation in the Matter of Jack Trocki Development Co., LLC, v City of Northfield. Solicitor Facenda stated pending litigation, Council intends to discuss the current status and recent motions that were decided by the court and continued settlement options and alternatives. The minutes will be disclosed when required and permitted to do so, time frame is unknown due to ongoing litigation. He added that minutes will be kept and made available for public inspection when required and permitted by law.

*At 7:53pm Councilman Perri recused himself from this executive session.*

*At 7:53pm Council adjourned to the Clerk's office.*

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*At 8:07pm The Executive session ended and Council returned to Chambers*

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session had concluded and Council is back in Public Session. During the Executive Session Council topics were in status of litigation, recent motion practice and potential for settlement. Minutes will be released when permitted by law but it is unknown when that will occur.

**169-2014** 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, Regarding Possible Anticipated Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

Solicitor Facenda stated Council will enter into Executive Council to discuss anticipated litigation concerning Mt Laurel development and how it relates to the Gurwicz property on Tilton Road, continuing negotiations regarding sewer infrastructure issues. The minutes will be kept but not available until approved as permitted by law. This session will take place in the Clerk's office.

*At 8:09pm Council adjourned to the Clerk's office.*

*At 8:23pm The Executive session ended and Council returned to Chambers*

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session had concluded and Council is back in Public Session. During the Executive Session Council topics discussed were sewer issues and timing of certain agreements and ordinances. The minutes will remain unavailable, but will be made available when required and permitted by law, it is unknown at this time when that will be as negotiations continue.

**170-2014** 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, regarding an Employment Agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of



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time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

Solicitor Facenda stated will enter into an Executive Session to discuss the employment agreement between Assistant Chief Crooks and the City of Northfield, Council will keep minutes and they will be made available when required and permitted by law. At this time it is unknown when that will occur as negotiations continue. Council will move to the Clerk's office.

*At 8:25pm Council adjourned to the Clerk's office*

*At 9:15pm The Executive session ended and Council returned to Chambers*

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session had concluded and Council is back in Public Session. During the Executive Session Council topics were terms and conditions of employment, this matter is still in negotiations. Minutes will be released when permitted by law but it is unknown when that will occur.

At 9:16pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk