

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

At 7:51pm, this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 9, 2021, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

*Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), and N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 - 1.7, this meeting will be held in-person and as a remote public meeting (live-streamed) using Zoom conferencing service. Due to social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public. Visit the event calendar page for September 28, 2021 at [www.cityofnorthfield.org](http://www.cityofnorthfield.org) to determine current seating availability. Face coverings and social distancing will be required for in-person attendance. To reserve an available seat, contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 609-641-2832, ext 125, no later than 4:00pm on September 28, 2021. Once all available seats have been reserved, virtual attendance will be required using a web-browser to Join the Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88047302522> or by telephone using one tap mobile +13126266799,,88047302522# or direct dial +1 312 626 6799 using Meeting ID: 880 4730 2522. For those wishing to comment during the dedicated public comment portion of the meeting, but who may be unable to attend (in person or via Zoom), public comments may also be submitted in advance via email to [mcanesi@cityofnorthfield.org](mailto:mcanesi@cityofnorthfield.org) or by written letter to the Office of the Municipal Clerk, 1600 Shore Road, Northfield NJ 08225, or by hand delivery to the drop box in the parking lot at the south corner of the municipal building, addressed to the attention of the Municipal Clerk. Comments shall contain the name and address of the author, will be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting, and must be received by 2:00pm on September 24, 2021.*

Municipal Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“As you may know, in late May, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 242, related to Covid-19 and which eased restrictions on face coverings in indoor public spaces, under certain conditions. The order permits employers to impose stricter requirements regarding face coverings in indoor settings, which, in the best interests of our employees and visitors, the City of Northfield opted to do in May, and continues to do. Based on CDC guidelines, the City of Northfield continues to require face coverings and social distancing in our indoor public spaces, and visitors are made aware of this decision with signs at the entrances to the building.

Due to the continued social distancing requirements, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public this evening. This meeting is also being presented simultaneously as a remote public meeting, live-streamed, using Zoom conferencing service, and in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Orders, the Open Public Meetings Act.

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 could reserve one of the limited seats, as well as how they can access Zoom have been made available on the municipal

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website and were published in the Press of Atlantic City. The full text of the public meeting notice has been posted at the entrance to the municipal building and includes Zoom instructions, information on where to find the meeting agenda and relevant documents, as well as instructions on how members of the public could submit comments in advance of tonight's meeting.

For those participating via Zoom, 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.

Zoom participants 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.

Any written comments submitted in advance will be read aloud and addressed during the public comment portion of the meeting."

**FLAG SALUTE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

**Present (in person):** Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Perri; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau.

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

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion of Councilman Notaro with a second of Councilwoman Madden, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of September 14, 2021 without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

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**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau reported that for the past week he had sent emails regarding complaints he had received; one was regarding the dog bite which we've already addressed. Another complaint was regarding a desire to reduce the speed limit on Route 9, and that there should be manpower sufficient to address speeding on Route 9 and on Tilton Road. Mayor Chau said he'd endeavored to explain to the complainant that there were other police duties aside from speed traps. There was not an officer on every corner and they do respond to the activities in our jurisdiction. He also received a complaint about the handling of funerals for long term employees. Mayor Chau stated he was not aware of the funeral. The family was also upset that there was no bunting on display at the fire station. He thanked the Police Department and Deputy Clerk Campbell for their work on the police rodeo. He reiterated the ice cream cone program details and said the police are using it to reward children who demonstrate safe biking behaviors. He attended the Volunteer Fire Company officer installation and the Ladies' Auxiliary. It was a nice affair; he offered congratulations to all. There would also be a Trunk or Treat this Fall, interested parties may contact Clerk's Office or visit the City website for details. As Councilwoman Madden noted earlier, the Atlantic County League of Municipalities (ACLM) had a very informative presentation regarding the County court and shared services. The next ACLM meeting would be at the Atlantic City Country Club; members of the County Election Board would be in attendance to explain new voting procedures. He encouraged all to attend.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report as previously distributed to the Council. They were working on the slip lining project; they should be wrapped up with the video portion by tomorrow and would place the order for slip lining materials next week.

Councilman Dewees asked who was providing traffic control.

Engineer Nassar replied the contractor was.

Mayor Chau commented that on Roosevelt Avenue, it's starting to sink. Are they coming back?

Engineer Nassar replied it was complete, adding that it would settle a bit.

Councilman Perri asked did the issue at First Street and Infield get resolved?

Engineer Nassar replied, yes.

Mayor Chau asked were all items on punch list complete?

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Engineer Nassar relied, not yet.

Councilman Perri noted that the stop bars at Wabash and Zion weren't complete.

Engineer Nassar responded that this was part of the punch list.

**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.

Chief Newman spoke and said regarding the dog issue, he wished to clarify. The incident was reported to the Police Department, either later that evening or the next day. It was not witnessed by the Police Department. A statement was requested and returned. The options were explained to the complainant. There was a statement made earlier this evening that the police did nothing, but that was not accurate.

Clerk Canesi stated there was no-one in Zoom wishing to speak.

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

Council President Polistina read the following statement: "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.

Council President Polistina asked if anyone wished to have anything voted on separately?

Councilwoman Madden asked what a vactor truck was?

Councilman Perri replied it was a piece of equipment used for cleaning the storm drains and sanitary sewer.

Councilman Utts asked Council President Polistina if now was a good time to discuss the cannabis committee recommendations?

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Council President Polistina advised Councilman Utts to proceed.

Councilman Utts reviewed some of the things the Council could do, including regulating hours of operation and license fees. He felt \$10,000.00 for large establishments and \$1,000.00 for smaller would be appropriate because that would be sufficient to offset the City's costs of managing the aspects of the process. He felt cultivating facilities should be added, and he thought three but not more than five licenses would be sufficient. Since there was a cost to drafting a new ordinance, resubmitting it to zoning, etc., he asked if there was interest from Council in proceeding?

Council President Polistina asked was anyone from Council is opposed to working on a new ordinance?

Councilman Dewees and Councilman Smith were opposed, all others were in favor.

The Resolutions portion of the meeting resumed.

On a motion of Councilman Utts, second of Councilman Smith, all members present were in favor of voting by consent agenda for Resolutions 164-2021 through 168-2021.

- 164-2021** A Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Granturk Equipment Co., Inc. for the Purchase of a “Vactor Truck”
- 165-2021** Authorizing Refunds of Overpayments of Taxes
- 166-2021** Cancel Grant balances
- 167-2021** Resolution Amending Members of the Northfield Volunteer Company Ladies’ Auxiliary
- 168-2021** 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 and Matters Covered under the Attorney Client Privilege

Councilman Utts motioned, second of Councilman Smith, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 164-2021 through 168-2021.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS \$1,048,756.66**

Councilman Dewees motioned for the payment of bills, seconded by Councilman Perri.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - abstain, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

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Councilman Smith read the meeting notices.

Councilwoman Madden spoke regarding Ms. Camp, in the audience: Ms. Camp mentioned not following rules, but she was violating rules by not observing social distancing and talking during the Mayor's report. Councilwoman Madden addressed audience member Mr. Leeds: you attempted to cover up a vulgar word at the last meeting, with a cough, and it was in the paper because a reporter heard it.

*At 7:17pm Council President Polistina called for a 5-minute recess.*

*At 7:21pm Council President Polistina resumed the meeting.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

168-2021      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 and Matters Covered Under the Attorney Client Privilege

Clerk Canesi announced to the members of the public who were participating via Zoom that when the Executive Session commenced, she would be muting the audio, and the video would be temporarily paused. Council would resume the public session, including reactivating the audio and video, as soon as the Executive Session concluded and a public statement would be made for the record.

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title. Clerk Canesi further stated that we are required to set forth as much information as possible as to the subject matter to be discussed as well as provide for the public the amount of time they can expect to elapse before the non-public portion of the minutes can be disclosed. She deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed are contractual negotiations pertaining to a potential joint court agreement with either the town of Hammonton or the Central Municipal Court of Atlantic County. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown. Council will remain in Council Chambers and return to the general public when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement.

*At 7:22pm Council entered Executive Session, and remained in Council Chambers.*

*At 8:12pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.*

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. The matters discussed were contractual negotiations pertaining to a potential agreement with the

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town of Hammonton and separately with the County. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown.

At 8:14pm, on motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Smith, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk