

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 29, 2015**

At 7:20pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on February 14, 2015 in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Absent: Dewees

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Kris Facenda and Engineer Dan Kwapinski were also in attendance.

Mayor Chau announced that one of the nicest jobs he has as Mayor is to recognize individuals who have made dedication to a particular sport or activity. He called forward Keegan Rothman, and his parents Shannon and Dan. He asked Keegan to explain his inspiration.

Keegan stated that if he got straight A's he would get an opportunity to go to Canada to go fishing, where he caught a 600 pound, ten foot white sturgeon.

Mayor Chau read the following statement:

Keegan Rothman is a 9 year old, a resident of Northfield and 4th Grader at the Northfield Community School. After a nearly two-hour struggle, Keegan Rothman, 9, reeled in a great white sturgeon estimated at 600 pounds with the help of his father and a fishing guide on June 29 in Chilliwack, British Columbia. According to Keegan it was the most excitement he's ever had with a fish. He thought the fish was going to pull him into the water. On his first day out on the water on vacation, Keegan's rod dipped into the water and he didn't back down from the ensuing fight.

He, his father and Great River Fishing Adventures guide Ben Trainer spent the next hour and 45 minutes reeling in their catch in a "nearly impossible feat". Trainer who had been a professional fishing guide on the Fraser [River] for 11 years said this is one of the largest fish I have helped a client catch. "With the size of this fish, I'd bet it's over 75 years old," he added. Keegan, only 4-feet tall got the 10-foot long fish near shore, where Trainer examined it and estimated its weight to be 600 pounds. The sturgeon was then released back into the river.

Mayor Chau then presented Keegan a certificate and congratulated him on his achievement.

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Next, Mayor Chau called forward the AShore Babe Ruth All-Star team and coaches to honor them.

Dennis Foreman introduced himself, and Bill Ruzzino, President of Atlantic Shore Babe Ruth Baseball. Mr. Ruzzino is a Somers Point resident who has dedicated his life to volunteerism. He is very appreciative of what Northfield has done to support youth sports. Success happens from behind, the financial resources, the work that Public Works has done on the fields, etc. He thanked all of Council. He stated that when the team arrived back from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, the Volunteer Fire Company and Police created an atmosphere that was magical. Everything was coordinated by Northfield. He thanked Council and Northfield for all that they do.

Mayor Chau read the following statement:

The Atlantic Shore Babe Ruth 14 year old all-star baseball team went undefeated in tournament play this summer to capture the program's first Babe Ruth World Series title. The team went an incredible 21-0 in district, state, regional and World Series play; including 7-0 at the World Series played in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Their summer was essentially devoted to baseball as the team started practice in early May and did not return home from their memorable journey until August 23rd. During their magical run, they recorded signature wins against teams from the Bronx, Western Pennsylvania, Washington State and California. The team was most noted for its aggressive style of play, depth at pitching, stellar defense and clutch performance. An interesting stat from the World Series: In the seven games played Atlantic Shore at the World Series, six different players received Player of the Game honors.

Mayor Chau offered congratulations to the player and coaches.

Mr. Foreman introduced each player and presented certificates; not all players could be here tonight due to school commitments, or involvement in other sports.

Players included: Nick Abrams, Frank Curtin, Solomon Griffith, Brandon Lashley, Dom Monteleone, Hunter Rich, Sleighter Surieal, Cole Vanderslice, From Northfield: Nicholas Atohi, Joseph Bonczek, Anthony Cappuccio, Kyle Goodman, Jayson Hoopes and Devin Sharkey.

Manager: Dave Geiger, Coach: Lee Geiger and Coach Dennis Foreman- Northfield.

Mayor Chau then asked Girls Softball Coaches Mike Toner and Pat McCarthy to come forward.

Mike Toner introduced himself; he had pleasure of coaching girls' softball this year. He also thanked Northfield, members of City Council, and volunteers for all that they do. When the girls returned, they too had a parade, and the support throughout the

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season was incredible. The team had an opportunity to play in other parts of the Northeast and the facilities in other areas cannot compare to what we have here. This was special group of girls and parents and a phenomenal group of volunteers, led by Pat McCarthy. So many people have dedicated the time and effort to create a lifelong, memorable experience for these girls. This was the fourth time here, and the girls have come to appreciate what City Council has done for them, and the community appreciates how these girls represent our town, and what they have done for our town. They continued to exceed the prior year's accomplishments. These have been tremendous accomplishments for the boys and the girls and we should be very proud of them.

Mayor Chau read the following statement about the team's accomplishments:

The 2015 Northfield Little League Junior All-Star Softball team won the District 16 and Section 4 (South Jersey) championships before advancing to and repeating as the New Jersey State Softball champions. They represented NJ in the Eastern Region championship, played in West Haven Connecticut, where they won the first ever Mid-Atlantic region championship in Northfield Little League history and finished second overall in Little League Softball's Eastern Region.

Our Jr. All-Stars started their tournament run by defeating Monroe Twp. and then Woodbury twice by a combined score of 28-5 to win the Section 4 championship. This group of 13-14 year olds then continued to display strong pitching, excellent team defense and a solid offense in the Final Four of the NJ State Tournament. They beat West Windsor in their opening game, Ridgewood in the semi-final round and West Windsor again in the NJ State championship game all by identical scores of 10-0 to win their second straight NJ Junior Softball Championship.

The team moved on as the New Jersey representative at the Eastern Region championship in West Haven, Connecticut. They beat the State Champions from Delaware, Pennsylvania and New York (twice) by a combined score of 40-10 to win the Mid-Atlantic Championship. Their tournament run ended with a tough defeat to Connecticut 5-0 in the Eastern Region Championship game.

This was the first Northfield Little League softball team to win back-to-back state championships and the first ever Mid-Atlantic Region championship for any Northfield Little League team. 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 2015 New Jersey State and Mid-Atlantic Junior Softball championship team is made up of the following young ladies:

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Shannon Bennett, Mackenzie Brennan, Olivia Goff, Faith High, Gabi Hendry, Jessica Hebei, Gillian McCarthy, Mary McLaughlin, Megan McManus, Gabby Manzo, Lauren Toner and Ava Samaras.

Coaches: Mike Toner – Manager, Joe Brennan, Pat McCarthy, Barry Goff, Todd Miller, Mike Manzo and Herm Bennett.

Mayor Chau offered congratulations as Mike Toner presented the certificates to the girls that were present.

At 7:41 Councilman Piergiovanni excused himself from the meeting.

At 7:42 Council President Travagline announced a 5 minute recess.

At 7:48 Council President Travagline resumed the meeting; stated that he knows the coaches personally and they are all outstanding citizens.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman O’Neill, seconded by Councilman Murray to dispense with the reading of the minutes September 8, 2015. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office.

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

Councilman Murray announced the Best Practices checklist and provided a summary of Northfield’s performance on the 2015 Best Practices Inventory; he read the following statement and asked Council if they had any questions:

The Best Practices Inventory is essentially a self-assessment that we are required to complete each year and submit to the Division of Local Government Services. Questions are designed to assess areas such as internal controls, personnel practices, general management, and procurement. Scores of less than 80% will result in a reduction in a municipality’s state aid. For 2015, the City of Northfield scored a 92%. We will receive our full allotment of state aid. By having it on the agenda, Council formally acknowledges having reviewed it. The CFO distributed Northfield’s completed Inventory to all of Council last week.

No questions or comments were made by Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Councilman Perri – Fire Department/EMS, Insurance and Safety, Sewer Inter Local, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri announced that the Planning Board will be meeting on Thursday. There are 2 applications on the agenda. A hayride will be offered to seniors on October 15th at noon. EMS bids are being withdrawn as the Committee is negotiating with another entity. Shore EMS will continue until February. Councilman Perri read the Sewer Department report for the month of August. The Gurwicz study is done and will go out to the committee for approval. Estimates were received for the trap project for Wilson Drive; our contractor has given a price of \$2600 per household. One of the households will be less complicated than the rest. He recommended that the City do the less complicated one and the contractor do the other. He would also like to engage the Engineer, if funds are available, to meet with the County Engineer to come out and take a look at the problem for a more permanent resolution, Engineering-wise.

Council President Travagline asked Engineer Kwapinski if he can do that.

Engineer Kwapinski replied yes, he can.

Councilman Perri recognized the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company for their achievement at the Wildwood event, Best Appearing Company Overall for Atlantic County.

Councilman O’Neill - Court/Violations, FAN, Library, Economic Development, Shared Services

Councilman O’Neill reported that the Courts are becoming more active. He congratulated the owners of new Northfield business Pho 9; the Mayor did the ribbon cutting last week. Cardinals Football season is in full swing.

Councilman Piergiovanni - Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance

Councilman Piergiovanni was absent.

Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Birch Grove, Public Works, Little League/Babe Ruth, Northfield School

Councilman Dewees was absent.

Councilman Murray - Finance/Collections, Inspections/Engineering, Veterans Park, County/State

Councilman Murray read the following announcement regarding the BAN sale:

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The City of Northfield is accepting sealed, written, telecopied, or emailed proposals for the purchase of \$1,752,750 Bond Anticipation Notes. Proposals will be received by the Chief Financial Officer on Thursday, October 15, 2015 until 11:00 a.m. The telephone number to call with a question is (609) 641-2832, ext. 105 (ask for Dawn Stollenwerk, Chief Financial Officer). The telefax number is (609) 641-5901.

Councilman Lischin - Technology, Cultural Committee, Mainland Regional, Green Team

Councilman Lischin had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau referred to an article about "zombie blight" that he provided to all of Council. Municipal Clerk Canesi attended a presentation on Mayor Chau's behalf; he reviewed the program which has been designed to assist our Zoning Officials in locating the responsible party for blighted properties in need of maintenance or repair. He felt this was a great idea and the Zoning Official agreed. Mayor Chau reminded residents that there have been several positive samples for the West Nile Virus and that everyone should be vigilant in ensuring that there is no standing water on their property. The City has made several efforts to begin negotiations with our Government Workers Units and we have gotten no response from the Union. He asked Clerk Canesi if this was correct.

Clerk Canesi confirmed.

Council President Travagline felt the Union president knows what the City wants to negotiate and they are stonewalling us. This is costing the tax payers money. He asked how this is legal.

Solicitor Facenda offered to reach out to Larry Pepper.

Councilman Perri asked if we have fulfilled our contractual obligation. Mayor Chau confirmed that we have.

Councilman Perri suggested notifying the Shop Stewards.

Mayor Chau agreed and will do so.

Mayor Chau announced that flags are to be flown at half-staff in remembrance of the death of Yogi Berra. Mayor Chau said he had a question about the TV advertisements that mention the Northfield Police Department and the City; these are negative ads that relate to a certain legal suit. He asked Solicitor Facenda if these ads are legal.

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A/Chief Newman stated that what he objected to is the use of the Northfield Police Department triangle emblem; he suggested copyrighting the triangle, and even the City seal. No one approached him for permission to use the NPD logo.

Solicitor Facenda will look into it and will follow up.

Mayor Chau mentioned that the Clerk's Office and Mayor's Office have received several requests for additional memorial bike path benches. In years past, a survey was conducted by past Councils and it was determined that there were no more spaces available.

Councilman O'Neill suggested the field areas.

Clerk Canesi commented that most who request them are asking for very specific bike path locations.

Mayor Chau stated that he would like to investigate the possibility of adding more locations.

Mayor Chau also stated that he is concerned that there is no rule about adornment of these benches; vandalism has occurred and these can become shrines and it can get out of hand. He suggested a written policy.

Mayor Chau said he had a discussion with a PBA representative and they are still very frustrated with being understaffed in the department, overtime is a daily occurrence. There are several officers out due to medical reasons.

Council President Travagline noted that this was evaluated at budget time; in the last three years the physical facility has been updated. The PBA sent a letter with additional concerns, all of which have been addressed. They needed more vehicles, upgraded vehicles, it was put in the budget, but we did not buy them, he didn't know why. The City hired another officer. It seems like it's never enough. There are Workman's Comp issues and there are budgetary restraints.

Mayor Chau understood and heard their frustrations and concerns. Council has made great strides; he thanked them for addressing what they have and for the support they've given.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Kwapinski updated Council on the Engineer's report. The Broad Street Project will be delayed due to pending rain and will possibly start next week.

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Councilman Perri asked if Roosevelt be paved from the curb line down.

Engineer Kwapinski stated that it will be half width (center line to curb).

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject.

Heather Mellon, 2509 Herbert Drive, reported on behalf of the Friends of Birch Grove Park that the fishing tournament was a tremendous success. All who attended had a great time. She reminded Council that the hayrides start soon and encouraged all to attend. On behalf of the friends of the Northfield Library, there is a Little Lending Library at the Park; they have gotten a lot of great feedback from parents.

Councilman O'Neill asked if the Friends of Birch Grove could to bring up the possibility of adding more benches to the Park with Park Supervisor Vicky Rutter.

Council President Travagline noted that Mr. Christopher was here previously several times about fishing hours at Birch Grove Park. He spoke with the Chief of Fisheries and has asked her to provide a recommendation about hours of operation for fishing. If they are not satisfied with our hours of operation, they can stop stocking our lakes; especially since residents are complaining. They want later hours and earlier hours. He is awaiting a response from her.

Councilman Murray asks what hours the residents want.

Council President Travagline said he explained to the resident that we have budgetary constraints. However, the State representative was not happy about when we open; the State does not believe we have to have the park staffed. He felt we have to take their recommendation; if we don't they will stop stocking our lakes.

Seeing no one wishing to speak Council President Travagline 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.

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Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Murray seconded to for Resolutions 162-2015 through 175-2015 to be voted by consent agenda.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –absent; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries to vote by consent agenda.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Murray seconded for the adoption of Resolutions 162-2015 to 175-2015 by consent agenda.

Councilman Perri announced that he will be abstaining from Resolution 173-2015.

- 162-2015** Employment Status Change for School Crossing Guard – Joan Grist
- 163-2015** Employment Status Change for School Crossing Guard – Adriane Larson
- 164-2015** A Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of a Fund Balance Policy
- 165-2015** A Resolution Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 166-2015** Authorizing Cancellation and Refund of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 & N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 Block 33 Lot 53, also known as 2415 Cedarbridge Road
- 167-2015** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for General Repairs and Maintenance of Sanitary Sewer Facilities
- 168-2015** Approval of Use of Facilities Application
- 169-2015** Authorizing Participation in the Preparation of a Statewide Fair Share Analysis by Way of a Municipal Shared Services Defense Agreement
- 170-2015** Amending Municipal Shared Services Defense Agreement
- 171-2015** Amending Resolution 74-2015, Recognizing Northfield Volunteer Fire Company Members
- 172-2015** A Resolution Recognizing Family Association of Northfield Volunteer Football and Cheerleading Coaches for 2015
- 173-2015** A Resolution Authorizing the Public Auction of Abandoned/Unclaimed Vehicles
- 174-2015** Rejecting Proposals for Emergency Medical Services for the City of Northfield
- 175-2015** A Resolution Proclaiming October 10, 2015 as Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –absent; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes (abstained from Resolution 173-2015); Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries to adopt Resolutions 162-2015 to 175-2015.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: \$2,430,204.80

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Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded, for payment of bills.

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

At 8:31pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk