

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

At 7:05pm, 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 October 6, 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/7638302147>; Meeting ID: 763 830 2147; One tap mobile +13126266799, 7638302147# US (Chicago) +16465588656,7638302147# US (New York) Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) Meeting ID: 763 830 2147*

**FLAG SALUTE**

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

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

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

the meeting; chat-users must also provide his/her name and address for the record in order to be heard.

Based on information provided by the NJ Division of Local Government Services we are pleased to announce that as of October 20th, in addition to the Zoom, we will also be able to offer limited, in-person attendance at meetings of the Governing Body. We will be able to offer a combination in-person/virtual meeting. Members of the public will have the opportunity to reserve one of the limited seats to attend in-person in Council Chambers. Reservations can be made by calling the Clerk's office, any time from the date of the posting of the meeting notice (usually the Friday before the meeting) until 2pm on the day of the meeting. Meeting information will be published in the Press of AC, and on the website and FB pages, each meeting notice (as published) will be posted on the front and rear doors, and only those with reservations can be admitted.

I also have some great news beginning with our October 20th meeting.

Based on information provided by the NJ Division of Local Government Services we are pleased to announce that as of October 20th, in addition to the Zoom, we will also be able to offer limited, in-person attendance at meetings of the Governing Body. We will be able to offer a combination in-person/virtual meeting. Members of the public will have the opportunity to reserve one of the limited seats to attend in-person in Council Chambers. Reservations can be made by calling the Clerk's office, any time from the date of the posting of the meeting notice (usually the Friday before the meeting) until 2pm on the day of the meeting. Meeting information will be published in the Press of AC, and on the website and FB pages, each meeting notice (as published) will be posted on the front and rear doors, and only those with reservations can be admitted.”

**ROLL CALL**

**Present (in person):** Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Korngut; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman O'Neill; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Perri

Mayor Chau and Solicitor Stein were also in attendance.

Chief Newman was present via telephone.

Council President Perri welcomed everyone including those livestreaming on Zoom.

Council President Perri called for a motion to approve the minutes.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilwoman Korngut, second of Councilwoman Madden, all present were in favor of approving the minutes, for the meeting of September 15, 2020 without formal reading.

**7:00PM PUBLIC HEARING**

**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  
*Public Hearing 10/10/2020, Final Consideration 10/20/2020  
Published in the Press of AC 10/24/2020*

Council President Perri announced the public hearing.

Deputy Clerk Campbell read the ordinance by title and announced this was the Public Hearing. The matter will be taken up for Final Consideration on 10/20/2020 and will be Published in the Press of AC 10/24/2020. Since introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies have been available at no cost by contacting the office of the Municipal Clerk to any member of the public who requested same. She deferred to Solicitor Stein for further explanation.

Solicitor Stein announced that he called and spoke with both residents affected by the ordinance. He explained to them that they can swap the land when they get it, should they wish to do so they would have to contact a lawyer to do a quit claim deed. One of the residents needed more land, they will do deeds after they acquire the land.

Council President Perri opened the public hearing

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 Ordinance 13-2020.

Councilman Dewees questioned a tree that needed to be cut down.

Solicitor Stein replied the property needed to be clear, it was a tree that fell.

President Perri replied the official vote would be on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

**2019 BEST PRACTICES INVENTORY**

Councilman Smith reported that each year we are required to complete a Best Practices Inventory by the State. We must submit our findings to the Division of Local Government Services. It assesses each municipality's compliance with various laws, and address statutory and regulatory compliances for the City. Northfield's score this year is 23.5, with no loss in state aid for any score of 16 or greater. All have access to the inventory; we are in good shape.

Council President Perri thanked Council and employees.

*At 7:15pm Solicitor Stein left the room, he returned at 7:17pm*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman O'Neill reported he saw a video of the Cardinals game, it went well, the kids were enjoying themselves.

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

Councilman Utts reported that all the poles on the bike path have GFI's. He would like Council to approve \$1,500 for installing holiday decorations. He did not recall if it was budgeted.

Council President Perri yielded to Councilman Dewees, if money was available through buildings and grounds that would have to be verified by the CFO.

Councilman Dewees commented that he would take care of it.

Mayor Chau asked if the decorations would be on the entire bike path or a section.

Councilman Dewees replied it would be the entire bike path.

Councilman Utts thanked Public Works for removing tress at the Cove Avenue that were covering the path.

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

Councilwoman Korngut reported that the next library meeting on would be this Thursday. She would report at the next meeting.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

Mayor Chau asked if it would be in person or Zoom?

Councilwoman Korngut replied, in-person, they meet in the community room, there was plenty of room for social distance.

Council President Perri, to Mayor Chau, asked if they were still looking for members.

Mayor Chau replied yes, those interested can send their resume to the Mayor.

**Councilman Dewees** - Buildings/Grounds; Birch Grove Park

Councilman Dewees reported that Public Works removed the boarder around the playground at Birch Grove Park, it was problematic. They realigned the mulch around the playsets. He reported that some benches were removed from Veterans Park, kids must have moved them behind the trees. They are heavy and made of concrete, they were moved about 100 feet, Public Works put them back.

Council President Perri added that the park looks great, he's been out there several times recently.

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

Councilman Smith reported that the Cultural Committee was still looking for volunteers. We need people to step up and help plan events.

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

Councilwoman Madden reported that she met with Captain Nixon tonight to touch base about the new schedule. The men were happy with the schedule. The schedule was completed through December 31st, all vacations were covered by part-timers, there was no overtime anticipated. The Fire Department responded to 26 calls and 3 non-emergency calls.

Councilman Smith, to Councilwoman Madden, asked for the status of EMS service, our contract was up at the end of the year.

Council President Perri replied that he had correspondence with Clerk Canesi. Linwood was the lead agent, they were putting it out for RFP, he had not heard anything yet. He would put it on the work session for the next meeting.

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

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

Council President Perri recognized the passing of Ruth Grund, she was the first female Rescue Squad volunteer, she was an asset to the community, she did a lot for the seniors committee, she would be missed. He was trying to get something together with the seniors. Engineer Nassar sent a picture of overgrowth on Fuae and Dolphin his opinion was that we should remove whatever was in the right of way.

Councilman Dewees felt we should contact the resident first to give them the opportunity to remove it. Regarding the issue on Shepherd; he didn't feel the City should have been drug into it.

Council President Perri would have the Engineer contact the property owner.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau heeded with Councilman Smith's comment that we need volunteers and people to get involved with the community. Many times, we see comments and questions that are posed and many don't want to pursue it by going to City Council. Councilwoman Korngut wants to establish a dog park; we need volunteers, we need young people to take over these important things. There are always openings, City officials can't do everything. Mayor Chau announced that meetings of the governing body would be open to the public by reservation. We would be utilizing a Class II officer to monitor attendance. There were three meetings regarding shared court with the County, there were several communities interested, one of the concerns was the cost per municipality. The County has made available two court rooms in Mays Landing. He would get a cost analysis at the next meeting. With regard to the crossing guards schedule, he would be meeting this week with school officials; the costs were not anticipated. We were not sure where the money was coming from, he did not feel this was something we could sustain ourselves.

Mayor Chau reported that was approached by a solar company today who would like to make a proposal to City Council regarding a carport in the rear of City Hall with solar panels. They would pay for the construction of the carport and would get the benefits of the panels. He asked if Council President Perri, if he wanted to pursue it, he would sit with the committee and would have the gentleman come to a meeting.

Council President Perri was open to it, he suggested Engineer Nassar and Clerk Canesi be on the committee.

Councilman Dewees offered to help out, he added that he thought there was an issue selling electricity back.

Council President Perri suggested this was something that would be addressed with the committee.

Councilwoman Korngut recalled the library exhausted this issue, and did not pursue it, she believed for that reason, but was not 100% sure.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

Mayor Chau replied that was over a year or two ago. If the committee was formed, they could see if it was feasible.

Council President Perri appointed himself, Councilman Dewees, and Councilman Utts to the committee.

Mayor Chau also received from CGI a free banner proposal. It would be similar to those who advertise on our website. He asked Council President Perri if he could get the information, there would be no cost to the City.

Council President Perri replied, absolutely.

Mayor Chau read the following statement:

“Based on the recommendations and the recommendations from our Northfield Police Chief Newman, with regard to the prevention of community spread of Covid-19, I must announce with sadness that Northfield’s official Trick-or-Treat celebration is being canceled this year. As such, the City of Northfield will not sponsor or direct any Trick-or-Treating activities, and we are joining the City of Pleasantville and other communities who have made similar decisions.

In-person gatherings pose varying levels of risk, and we cannot safely control an event such as Trick-or-Treat, one that is unpredictable in size and scope, and we have no means of ensuring social distancing on every street in Northfield.

Trick-or-Treat also potentially involves visitors traveling from other neighborhoods or communities, and we have already heard from concerned residents about controlling the amount of people on certain streets.

While we understand that many local families may choose to engage in traditional Trick-or-Treat activities, the City will not endorse or participate in such activities. We encourage any family who does choose to engage in activities on October 31, or any day, to follow appropriate CDC guidelines and utilize social distancing protocols.

We know our children are playing football, baseball, and cheering, and if you have a child engaging in these activities, you are very familiar with the strict rules and procedures that must be followed to minimize possible exposure to Covid-19. But Trick or Treat is different – it is the entirety of Northfield – not a group of a few dozen kids being closely managed by coaches and volunteers.

We also know there will be people who think this is the wrong decision, and that our children deserve to be able to Trick-or-Treat because we need to give them something normal. But this year has been anything but normal, and when faced with a choice, it only makes sense to err on the side of caution, and to listen the experts

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

and our Police Chief Newman who is charged with public safety and order and who have told us they consider Trick-or-Treat to be a higher-risk activity.

We are concerned about our residents, and our children's safety, but this year, we can't support a large event that could put any one of them, or you, at levels of risk we can't safely manage.

Turning off your porch lights on Halloween from 6-8pm can assist us in conveying the message."

Councilwoman Madden, regarding the opening of Council Chambers, asked would masks be required?

Council President Perri replied that everyone would have to wear a mask, Council and members of the public.

Mayor Chau added that masks are worn when public is in the building.

Councilman Dewees, regarding the court, asked was the program an all-in or will they continue if only a few towns were interested.

Mayor Chau responded that they were still in the early states, the logistics have not been decided, not all towns were interested. When 911 was looked at it was an all-in; it does not look like it will go that way.

Council President Perri expressed his concern with the cost of overtime with our officers traveling to Mays Landing and back.

Mayor Chau expressed his concern with that as well.

Councilwoman Korngut commended Mayor Chau and Chief Newman for making a difficult decision, no one wants kids to have more fun than we do, it's not our goal to make this difficult. She understood it's a parent's decision. In regard to what Councilman Smith said and Mayor Chau's comment regarding volunteers, she suggested an aggressive campaign to get volunteers. Perhaps we could we go to Mainland or NCS to work with giving kids credit to do something in the community? The Mayor or a member of Council could talk to kids to give them possibilities, she felt our volunteer organizations could use them.

Mayor Chau was a strong advocate of recognizing those who do good in our municipality. This Saturday, at 10am he invited all to come to Tilton Market for their 50th anniversary, there were not many quality family businesses in town. He agreed with Councilwoman Korngut and Councilman Smith that it was a struggle to get volunteers.



**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

Councilwoman Korngut added that kids already doing the veterans breakfast, we need to get the next crop of volunteers. She asked Councilwoman Madden if she could bring it up at the next board of education meeting, it could be a win win.

Councilwoman Madden replied that she would reach out to the school.

Council President Perri felt many volunteers were in FAN and our sports facilities; they could have a voice in mentoring children, they have the biggest mass of kids, we should reach out to them as well.

Mayor Chau mentioned there are four Mainland graduates here who are leaders of our community, he commended everyone on Council.

Councilman Smith believed Mainland had community service credits available to seniors, he felt it was worth looking into.

Councilman Smith asked to add to the record there will be one extremely dissapointed person with the Mayor's decision, his daughter Quinlyn. He appreciated the difficulty. He felt we had to treat the families and adults of Northfield with letting them make the decision.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar was absent.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

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

Via Zoom Chat – "I sked for the city engineer to contact me and need a survey  
Stephen Goldstein 501 Maple ave.  
request a survey  
The city street is not 33 feet wide but only 28 feet. 600 ft less."

Solicitor Stein replied we have 2 weeks before the ordinance is voted on. He took numbers and drawing from Engineer Nassar. He asked Deputy Clerk Campbell to have Engineer Nassar reach out to him when he returns.

Councilman Dewees felt Mr. Goldstein may be confusing cartway with roadway

Solicitor Stein felt Mr. Goldstein could show the Engineer that it's not correct then Engineer Nassar would let Solicitor Stein know and we would redo the drawing.

Council President Perri replied to Mr. Goldstein that the engineer and attorney would get back to Mr. Goldstein when Engineer Nassar returned.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

Via Zoom Chat – Mr. Goldstein – “Iso my neighbor wants to switch the properties she need s the lot to make a conforming lot on lake on lake”

Solicitor Stein advised he spoke with Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Petrino on a conference call, they should contact an attorney to do a quit claim deed and to make the conforming lots.

President Perri confirmed that we were splitting it 50/50.

Solicitor Stein replied, yes, we are required to vacate it to the adjacent properties.

Via Zoom Chat – Mr. Goldstein – “yes thank you”

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.

On a motion of Councilman Utts, second of Councilman O’Neill, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 157-2020 through 159-2020.

- 157-2020** Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement between the County of Atlantic and the City of Northfield for Participation in the ‘Atlantic County Radio Network’
- 158-2020** Amending Resolution No. 91-2020, Recognizing Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company
- 159-2020** Authorizing Refunds of Overpayment of Taxes

Councilman Dewees questioned Resolution 157-2020.

Council President Perri explained that as per Clerk Canesi and OEM Coordinator Tim Joo, we were trying to make everything uniform.

Councilman Dewees asked if we needed new radios.

Council President Perri was advised that we did not need new radios and there was no monetary requirement.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

Councilman Utts motioned, second of Councilman O'Neill, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 157-2020 through 159-2020.

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.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 1,055,905.98**

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.

Mayor Chau announced that we do have an official voting ballot box at the front of City Hall. It was on 24-hour surveillance.

Council President Perri noted that he did see the information on the website.

Deputy Clerk Campbell explained that the ballots in the box are picked up every day, as she understood, by a democrat and a republican. We would know within a day or two if anyone put something other than their ballot in the box. The information is on the website as Council President Perri stated and an ad was placed in The Current Newspaper.

At 8:00pm, on motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Utts, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Campbell, Deputy Municipal Clerk