

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 11, 2022**

At 6:42pm 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 followed by a moment of silence.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** Councilman Utts

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

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilman Dewees with a second of Councilwoman Bucci, all members present, with the exception of Councilman Dewees who abstained, were in favor of approving the minutes of September 20, 2022, without formal reading.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau reported he received an email from Mr. Kreischer regarding proposed shared service opportunities, Clerk Canesi had expressed interest in the digitizing of records for storage, and Mayor Chau would like to pursue the sound ordinance issues. With Council's permission, Mayor Chau would write a letter to the County to join possible shared service.

Council President Polistina asked was it a noise meter?

Councilman Notaro replied, yes.

Mayor Chau, spoke regarding Mr. Siganos' appearance before the Planning Board regarding restructuring of a boundary line, there was a strip of property that belonged to the City that Mr. Siganos had expressed interest in purchasing.

Council President Polistina asked where was the property?

Mayor Chau replied, near the golf course.

Clerk Canesi believed we may have vacated that piece of property.

Solicitor Facenda recalled something in that area; we would look at that.

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Mayor Chau thanked Deputy Clerk Campbell and Chief Newman and the Police for the outstanding job at trunk or treat. Chief Newman advised that 2 of the 3 applicants have taken the tests, tomorrow will be the oral.

Chief Newman clarified that all three were at the first test, and all three will be there tomorrow.

Mayor Chau advised that he, Business Administrator Canesi and Council President Polistina would be on a police committee to conduct the final interviews; he hoped to have a recommendation for Council by the end of the month, and have the new Chief shadow Chief Newman.

Mayor Chau announced we do have an Executive Session. He thanked Council President Polistina for considering Resolution 188-2022. He asked that Chief Newman be in attendance.

Council President Polistina replied, yes, absolutely, he would provide good input.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. He reported the paving was complete in the Shepherd - Herbert area. Hemsley also looked great. Regarding the Local Road Program, all driveways had been completed, with a few punch list items remaining. He referred to the Resolution to approve the second phase of the slip lining project, and reviewed year-to-date sanitary sewer flow numbers as evidence that that the first phase of the slip lining project had being very successful. We were looking to slip line the main under Bay Drive, under the marsh, to the Rosedale Pump Station, and some deep sewer lines. He anticipated spending approximately \$190,000.00. The Engineer's expenses at this point only involve updating the proposed locations. Regarding the project for Oak Avenue, Engineer Nassar was working with the State to get concurrence to go out to bid, he hoped to be out to bid soon.

**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.

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**RESOLUTIONS**

- 189-2022** Authorizing Execution of CGI Agreement and Addendum
- 191-2022** A Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Irwin Seating Company for the Purchase of Council Chamber Seating
- 192-2022** Resolution Increasing the Bid Threshold Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3A
- 193-2022** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Engineering Services for the Project Known as Slip Lining Phase II Deep Sanitary Sewer Pipes
- 194-2022** Resolution Authorizing an Award of Contract for Natural Gas Supply Services
- 196-2022** 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. 10:4-12b(8), Regarding Personnel Matters

On motion of Councilman Leeds, seconded by Councilman Notaro, all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 189-2022, 191-2022 through 194-2022 and 196-2022 by Consent Agenda.

Mayor Chau had a question on 191-2022; he asked would there be an accommodation for wheelchairs and the handicapped?

Clerk Canesi replied that the seating would be ADA compliant.

Mayor Chau asked what we would do with the current seating?

Clerk Canesi replied; if the Council decided we no longer needed them, they would adopt a Resolution to certify that and they can be sold.

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Notaro seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

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

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 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.

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The Executive Sessions 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.”

**PAYMENT OF BILLS      \$ 1,118,631.96**

Councilman Notaro motioned, Councilwoman Bucci seconded, for payment of bills.

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

Councilwoman Bucci read the meeting notices.

**196-2022**      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. 10:4-12b(8), Regarding Personnel Matters

Clerk Canesi announced, for 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. Those in attendance in-person would need to exit Council Chambers during the Executive Session. Council would resume the public session, including reactivating the audio and video for Zoom participants, and welcoming the in-person public, as soon as the Executive Session concluded. A public statement would be made for the record at that time.

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 matters to be discussed are personnel matters, specifically the potential promotion of Brandon Garofalo to the position of Police Officer. Mr. Garofalo has been issued a Rice notice. It was unknown if action would be taken by Council at the end of the Executive Session. 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. Council may wish to move on Resolution 188-2022 after the Executive Session.

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*At 7:00pm Council entered Executive Session, and remained in Council Chambers.*

*At 7:16pm 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 personnel matters, specifically the potential promotion of Brandon Garofalo, to the position of police officer. 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 would now consider Resolution 188-2022.

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

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Resolution 188-2022.

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

At approximately 7:19pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk