

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 12, 2021**

At 7:03pm, 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 October 12, 2021 at 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 October 8, 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/86965468577> or by telephone using one tap mobile +13126266799,,86965468577# or direct dial +1 312 626 6799 using Meeting ID: 869 6546 8577. 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 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 October 12, 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. Due to the technical difficulties being experienced this evening, Zoom participants would be limited to speaking via the chat function, where comments or questions may be submitted. However, they 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."

Clerk Canesi noted the technical difficulties with zoom tonight.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Council Pro Tempore Dewees.

ROLL CALL

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

Present (via telephone): Councilman Utts

Absent: Mayor Chau

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion of Councilwoman Madden with a second of Councilman Notaro, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of September 28, 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 was absent.

CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer’s Report as previously distributed to the Council. The Slip Lining Project was underway and should be complete soon. Overnight work had been scheduled; Northfield Police Department would be assisting with traffic control. There were no major issues thus far. We opened the bids for the Merritt paving project, Engineer Nassar explained the defect with the Landberg bid, which was on the Council agenda this evening to be formally rejected. The lowest qualified bidder was Arawak and a resolution to make that award was also on the agenda this evening.

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 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.

On a motion of Councilman Smith, second of Councilman Dewees, all members present were in favor of voting by consent agenda for Resolutions 169-2021 through 174-2021.

- 169-2021** Appointing Municipal Alliance Coordinator
- 170-2021** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for General Repairs and Construction of the City of Northfield Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Facilities

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- 171-2021** To Authorize Rejection of the Bid Submitted by Landberg Construction for the Project Known as “Fy2021 Reconstruction of Merritt Drive and a Portion of Ridgewood Drive” in the City of Northfield
- 172-2021** New Jersey Department of Transportation Division of Local Aid and Economic Development Recommendation of Award Reconstruction of Merritt Drive and a Portion of Ridgewood Drive in the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic
- 173-2021** A Resolution Extending the Appointment of a Temporary Code Enforcement Officer and Code Inspection Officer and also Extending the Appointment of a Temporary Zoning Officer
- 174-2021** 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) Matters Covered Under the Attorney Client Privilege

Councilman Smith motioned, second of Councilman Dewees, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 169-2021 through 174-2021.

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.

ORDINANCE

Councilman Perri motioned, second of Councilman Dewees, to introduce Ordinance 11-2021.

- 11-2021** Amending Chapter 288 of the City of Northfield Legislative Code, Entitled “Sewers”

*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 10/16/2021
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 10/26/2021*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication and public hearing dates. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same.

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 \$115,039.30

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

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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.

Councilman Notaro read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

174-2021 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) 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 was specifically requests from various municipal departments for payment of premium pay for work performed during the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic using American Rescue Plan Act funds. 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 7:16pm Council entered Executive Session, and remained in Council Chambers.

At 7:40pm 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 specifically requests from various municipal departments for payment of premium pay for work performed during the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic using American Rescue Plan Act funds. No official action was taken by Council. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown.

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At 7:42pm, on motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Perri, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk