

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2014**

At 8:45pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on, January 11, 2014 in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor McGee. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chau, Devine, Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline
Absent: Piergiovanni

Mayor Jerry McGee, Solicitor Kris Facenda, and Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski were also in attendance.

Council President Travagline noted the passing of resident Karin Deveney, valued member of the community whom devoted many hours of volunteer service.

Council President Travagline went over the Best Practices checklist. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this document, it 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 2014, the City of Northfield scored a 90%. We will receive our full allotment of state aid.

By having it on the agenda, Council formally acknowledges having reviewed it. The CFO distributed it last week, and has indicated that no one contacted her with any questions. President Travagline asked if anyone have questions about the best practices checklist.

City Solicitor Kris Facenda noted that there was a street opening hardship waiver public hearing. He reviewed the application and submission requirements, the applicant missed one name on the utility certified list and we will table the request. Seeing no one from the public here regarding the application it will be tabled until

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October 28th at 7:30. He asked that council not require the applicant to notify all original recipients, but instead only notify the one that was missed.

Council President Travagline affirmed that there were no obligations to send to the entire list.

Solicitor Facenda noted the application will be heard without further notice except the one name that was missed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri stated that there will be a seniors meeting Thursday, October 16, 2014 at noon at the library, by RSVP only. It should be well-attended. Councilman Perri had nothing to report for insurance. The Engineer is working on a design for the Rosedale station.

Councilman Dewees stated that Public Works started painting the football field parking lot and thanked the Engineer for loosely designing some parking stalls. The handicap stalls should be done this week. In regards to 2014 paving, the gas company notified the Engineer that they want to put new high pressure mains on some of the streets that are slated to be paved. Councilman Dewees yielded to City Engineer Dan Kwapinski for further explanation.

Engineer Kwapinski said he spoke with the gas company representative and they want to put new service on two-thirds of the streets that are slated to be paved. They initially wanted to get right in front of our paving project, but they don't have the funding now. They could start in the beginning of 2015. They want the City to wait until spring 2015 to do our paving. This project will affect Surrey, Rosedale and Yorkshire Avenues as well as a part of Bay Drive. The existing gas service is old, with very low pressure. If we wait for the gas company our paving would have to be done in two phases and the contractor would not hold the pricing.

Solicitor Facenda will look at the contract with the engineer to see if it can be done. Council President Travagline suggested discussion with the Engineer and put before council for next meeting.

Councilman Chau asked Chief Hickey about striping on bike path.

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Chief Hickey responded that he checked with Sergeant Dettinger, and the City does not need State or DOT approval. The Council will need to decide on color, and how far to go from the corner. City Council may need to do resolution later on. There is also an issue of curbing, we may want to paint the curb. Sergeant Dettinger will forward the information he gathered to Councilman Chau.

Councilman Chau read the Fire Department report for September. The department has applied for New Jersey American Water's grant to obtain new radios. The World Trade Center beam was borrowed and displayed for the students at the Northfield Community School. There will be some overtime issues because Assistant Chief Crooks is on vacation for two weeks, which has been planned for some time. There is also a Firefighter out due to injury. The injured Firefighter should be back next week. Councilman Chau also read a letter commending Firefighter Chris Sacco who resuscitated an individual using CPR and the AED who was found roadside with no pulse. The ambulance arrived shortly and transported the individual to the hospital, their status is unknown, but Councilman Chau commended Firefighter Sacco and noted that the first responder system does work.

Councilman O'Neill stated the City went through an information technology overhaul over past two weeks. A new server and a number of new work stations were replaced in the Police Department, Public Works and City Hall. He thanked Municipal Clerk Canesi, Kathi Smith and CFO Dawn Stollenwerk for their work on the project. Councilman O'Neill also thanked Chief Hickey and the Police Department for their work on a recent drug bust.

Councilman Perri noted that he received a call from a resident that said when you press the extension the call disconnects; he asked Councilman O'Neill if he has had complaints. Councilman Perri said the same thing happened to him when he tried to call.

Councilman O'Neill said he will look into it.

Councilman Perri then referred back to best practice checklist. He noted that number 40 regarding fair labor act (overtime) was answered at no. Quarterly reports have not been available to elected officials.

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Councilman Travagline stated he felt that council was addressing number 40, and agreed that quarterly reports should be made available. He will address this with the CFO.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McGee noted excessive overtime expenses for the Police Department. He stated the department went over the 2013 expenses. He believed the amount of overtime during the 1st half and second half of the year are too high and that there is a scheduling problem. Mayor McGee said he could not comment any further because he is waiting for legal counsel's review. He will address this issue at the next meeting. He would like to have been notified before the overtime hours were incurred, he does not see the overtime until it's already been worked. Mayor McGee requested the City get an audit of the overtime for the department. He feels there are scheduling issues.

Councilman Dewees asked Mayor McGee if the overtime is staffing related.

Mayor McGee stated no.

Discussion ensued between Mayor McGee and Councilman Dewees with regard to police overtime. Mayor McGee spoke with Chief Hickey and was informed that overtime can go up especially during the summer months due to vacations and compensatory time.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Kwapinski reviewed the engineers report. He noted a recent meeting with Veterans Park personnel regarding ongoing projects.

Council President Travagline stated that resident Matt Marshall from M&M Landscaping told him that he (Marshall) would donate services for anything that is needed.

Councilman Perri attended the Veterans Park meeting and they need another trash can. He also said the trash can at Rosedale has not been replaced. He also asked if signs could be placed on Mill Road identifying the location of the park.

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Councilman Dewees said we need to request that of the County.

Engineer Kwapinski noted Resolution 174-2014, and said the preconstruction cost for the project is about \$218,000.00.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak he 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.

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilman Chau seconds to vote by Consent Agenda on Resolutions 171-2014 through 176-2014.

171-2014 To Authorize Release of Escrow Monies from the Planning Board

172-2014 Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2014 Budget

173-2014 Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2014 Budget

174-2014 Authorization to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the 2015 Municipal Aid – Reconstruction of Bay Drive Project

175-2014 To Hire a Full Time Deputy Municipal Clerk

176-2014 A Resolution Providing For An Executive Session Not Open To The Public In Accordance With The Provisions Of The New Jersey Open Meetings Public Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12B(4), Regarding Contract Negotiations For The Northfield Fire Department

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Councilman O'Neill noted that new Deputy Clerk is a Northfield resident, the individual works in the Police Department and will do a great job.

Councilman Perri asked if any of the applicants had an RMA.

Municipal Clerk Canesi stated no.

Councilman Perri feels the City does not need a Deputy, we need an Administrator.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilman Chau seconded, to adopt by Consent Agenda for Resolutions 171-2014 through 176-2014.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Devine seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 376,533.81.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

Councilman Dewees read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS OF COUNCIL

Council President Travagline announced that Council will be adjourning to the Clerk's office for an Executive Session and the resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

176-2014 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(4) Regarding Contract Negotiations For The Northfield Fire Department.

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The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

Solicitor Facenda stated Council will enter into an Executive Session not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, to discuss contract negotiations regarding The Northfield Fire Department. He added that minutes will be kept and made available for public inspection when required and permitted by law.

At 9:47pm Council adjourned to the Clerk's office.

At 10:02pm the Executive Session ended and Council returned to chambers.

At 10:02pm Mayor McGee was not present.

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session had concluded and Council is back in Public Session. During the Executive Session Council topics were settlements and negotiations and will continue until the matter is resolved. Minutes will be released when permitted by law but it is unknown when that will occur.

At 10:02pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk