

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2019**

At 6:58pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 5, 2019, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Council Pro-Tempore O'Neill.

ROLL CALL

Present: Dewees, Madden, O'Neill, Perri, Smith, Lischin
Absent: Korngut

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

Mayor Chau was absent.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Dewees all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of September 24, 2019 without formal reading.

2019 BEST PRACTICES INVENTORY

Councilman Smith said 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. The state uses this tool to obtain vital information about the status of municipal government practices in New Jersey, as well as statutory and regulatory compliance obligations, and other areas critical to sound municipal finance and operations. The Inventory was previously distributed to Council.

Council President Lischin asked if there were any questions; seeing none he moved to committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri - Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Sewer Operations, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri reported the Senior Social would be held this Thursday at Noon at the Library; there were several upcoming Planning Board applications. The Sewer Departments was busy with Mill Road issues. Public Works had the new dump truck out at Trunk or Treat; he thanked Public Works for bringing it out there. It was a great turnout and a great event.

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Councilman O’Neill - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Court/Violations, FAN

Councilman O’Neill reported that tenants were occupying the building at the new apartment complex.

Councilman O’Neill asked about shared court. Councilman Smith replied that an Agreement had been drafted and would be shared with Council so we can move forward at the next meeting.

Councilman O’Neill thanked Councilman Smith. He reported that football season was in full swing. He thanked all City workers, Kathi Smith and City Council for making sure everything was in place for the season. The recent FAN event raised about \$4,500 at the Atlantic City Country Club, there was great attendance. Mayor Chau gave out an award, as did County Executive Levinson, to the volunteer of the year Jason Barretta.

Councilwoman Korngut – Library, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Technology/MRHS Channel

Councilwoman Korngut was absent.

Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Parks, Playgrounds

Councilman Dewees thanked Kathi Smith for getting the dais resurfaced, it looked great. He also thanked Mainland Regional High School Senior Blaine Guebtner for his work on two Little Lending Libraries. He encouraged all to utilize and he would like to invite Blaine to an upcoming meeting to be recognized. He reported that Trunk or Treat was last weekend, and he thanked Kathi Smith, Shannon Campbell, the Police Department, Public Works and Mary Canesi for their help.

Councilman Perri thanked Councilman Dewees for driving the tractor.

Councilman Smith– Finance/Collections, Little League/Babe Ruth, Shared Services

Councilman Smith echoed appreciation for the Trunk or Treat; he was there with his wife and daughter, it was quite an event, with unexpected attendance levels. It was a terrific job by the alliance and all those who volunteered. He thanked the Clerk’s Office for the work on the Best Practices Inventory and said he understood it was a long, tedious task. He announced the Northfield Little League recognition got pushed back but would be at the next meeting

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Councilman Dewees also thanked Don Edwards for driving the tractor as well; he was always there to help.

Councilwoman Madden – Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden suggested that Trunk or Treat replace the City-wide Trick or Treat. The next Insurance and Safety meeting was coming up in November. The next Mainland School Board meeting was scheduled for the 21st. She gave kudos to Engineer Nassar; the Park Lane paving looked beautiful.

Council President Lischin - Fire Department/EMS, Cultural Committee

Council President Lischin reported he was not able to attend Trunk or Treat but heard great feedback.

Council President Lischin read the following report: Fire Department calls for September included: 0 total fire incidents, 7 false alarm calls, 3 good intent calls, 1 lockout, 5 hazardous condition calls, 2 service call incidents, 0 EMS 1st responder incidents and 0 mutual aid call; for a total of 18 dispatched incidents. TriCare had a total of 132 dispatches, 135 calls with patients, 79 transports, 4 mutual aid calls to Egg Harbor Township and did not administer any Narcan.

Next week the committee would be having another fire contract negotiation meeting, he would update Council at next meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau was absent.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. Shepherd Drive was on the agenda, we only received only 1 bid, it was within about \$3,000.00 of the Engineer's estimate. The City will fund the difference so we can do the entire project. If Council approved, he would schedule the preconstruction meeting soon and he hoped to have the project done this year but that would depend on the weather.

Councilman O'Neill complimented Detective Bach who was at the football game interacting with citizens, which is really what we want to see. He commended all officers, generally.

Councilman Lischin asked if an area of Second Street was final paving.

Engineer Nassar replied yes, but punch list items were being addressed.

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Councilman O'Neill asked when Shepherd Drive would start.

Engineer Nassar replied if Council approved tonight, he would send to the DOT, and have the preconstruction meeting soon. He reiterated that it was weather dependent.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Lischin opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any subject.

Bill Garry, 202 St. James Place, pointed out a typo in the Shepherd Drive resolution where it referred to Cresson Avenue. He felt other areas were much worse and questioned why it was chosen. He felt Wabash and Fuae were worse. Trunk or Treat was phenomenal; he gave out a lot of candy. The Police Department was great, officers were engaged and pleasant and this was a reflection on the Chief. He thanked Chief Newman. He asked if new trees were planted on the Bike Path and were they Crape Myrtles or Magnolias. If they were Magnolias, they need at least five gallons of water a week to survive. There was no irrigation. He suggested the Department of Public Works hand-water if this was accurate.

Councilman Dewees replied yes, trees were planted, he was not sure of the species.

Council President Lischin thanked Mr. Garry.

Christine Camp Taggart, 701 Burton Avenue, was also at Trunk or Treat and it was fabulous, but it should never replace Trick or Treat. She also felt Trunk or Treat should be limited to little kids. She suggested an age limit.

John Ordille, 116 Fairway Avenue, said unfortunately he missed Trunk or Treat. At the last meeting there was a vote held 'kind of' addressing Airbnb. It seems like City Council ends up in a lord and a serf situation, that they do not think in the long term. He referred to the ice cream truck not being able to be out after 9pm, but said we also have a noise ordinance. He advocated for Airbnb; they do not accept users with complaints, and there was a littering ordinance. He brought Council boxes of single use plastic bags. The new ordinances put a burden on the Police Department. He felt new laws can criminalize behaviors and make life difficult for residents.

Councilman Lischin thanked Mr. Ordille.

Heather Mellon, 2509 Herbert Drive, also missed Trunk or Treat but heard the park was alive again. She would still like to see hayrides coming back. She heard we made \$15,000.00 last year, even missing a few days due to rainy weather. The hayrides pay for themselves and bring money in to the park. Volunteers give out snacks and sell tickets and food, the Friends of Birch Grove. She heard we didn't

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want to pay for decorations or to fix a tractor. Did anyone approach the Friends? No, she does not think so. She urged that hayrides come back next year.

Councilman Dewees stated that they would revisit the hayrides next year.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak Council Lischin closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS

Solicitor Facenda amended Resolution 204-2019 to correct a typographical error that stated ‘Cresson Avenue’ in the 5th paragraph; this should change to ‘Shepherd Drive’. He recommended that we not move 202-2019 tonight without Councilwoman Korngut here; he also will get the revised language for this resolution from the Dementia Friendly representative.

On a motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Madden, all present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 198-2019, 199-2019, 201-2019, and 203-2019 through 206-2019 by consent agenda.

Councilman Dewees asked if Resolution 204 was “as amended”.

Solicitor Facenda confirmed.

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| 198-2019 | Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2019 Budget – Federal Body Armor |
| 199-2019 | Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2019 Budget – Firefighter Grant |
| 201-2019 | Resolution Authorizing an Award of Contract for Natural Gas Supply Services |
| 203-2019 | Resolution Authorizing Cancellation and Refund of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 & N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 on Property Known as Block 179.02 Lot 47 C4102 (4102 Dolphin Avenue) |
| 204-2019 | New Jersey Department of Transportation Division of Local Aid and Economic Development Recommendation of Award State Aid Project Reconstruction of Shepherd Drive and North Shepherd Drive |
| 205-2019 | A Resolution to Cancel Grant Balances |
| 206-2019 | Resolution to Urge Voters to Support the Referendum on the Election Ballot in November so that Veterans or Widowed Spouses of Veterans Who Reside in Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC) will be Eligible for Property Tax Deduction |

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded, to adopt Resolutions 198-2019, 199-2019, 201-2019, and 203-2019 through 206-2019 by consent agenda.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Ms. Korngut – absent; Mrs. Madden – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

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Councilman Perri motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded, to adopt Resolution 200-2019.

200-2019 Emergency Appropriation

Solicitor Facenda reminded Council that four affirmative votes were needed.

Council President Lischin added that the Fire Department’s breathing apparatus is nearing end of life, and the items we have were purchased via a grant. This grant will help substantially. He thanked the Fire Department for their diligence in seeing this through.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Ms. Korngut – absent; Mrs. Madden – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

ORDINANCE

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt Ordinance 13-2019, to be read by title only.

13-2019 An Ordinance Amending § 275-9 of the Code of the City of Northfield Prohibiting Short Term (30 Days or Less) Residential Rentals
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration
Published in the Press of AC 10/19/2019

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption, and if adopted, thereafter published. Since introduction the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the Municipal website, and copies have been available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requested same.

Council President Lischin opened the public hearing for Ordinance 13-2019. Seeing no one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Ms. Korngut – absent; Mrs. Madden – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – yes; Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 2,972,783.67

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, for payment of bills.

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Council President Lischin read the meeting notices.

At 8:36pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Perri, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk