

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 18, 2016**

At 6:44PM, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Dewees, Lischin, Murray, Perri, Travagline

Absent: O'Neill, Piergiovanni

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Facenda and Engineer Kwapinski were also present.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Murray, seconded by Councilman Lischin to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 27, 2016. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O'Neill –absent; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline –yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Murray announced the Best Practices checklist and provided a summary of Northfield's performance on the 2016 Best Practices Inventory; he read the following statement and asked Council if they had any questions:

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. 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 2016, the City of Northfield scored a 93%. We will receive our full allotment of state aid. By having it on the agenda, Council formally acknowledges having reviewed it. The CFO distributed Northfield's completed Inventory to all of Council last week.

No questions or comments were made by Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri - Sewer Inter Local, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

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Councilman Perri reported that a sewer interlocal meeting had been set for next Wednesday, here at 4:30pm; it is open to the public. Discussions would involve capital and possible future terms and conditions. The seniors will have a hayride and luncheon on the 27th at noon, Perri thanked the committee for their support. He said there were favorable sewer flows this month. There had not been any applications as of yet for the November Planning Board meeting. Copies of the minutes from the meeting where the planning board decided on the bicycle and pedestrian plan were forwarded to the Council President.

Councilman O’Neill - *Court/Violations, FAN, Library, Shared Services*

Councilman O’Neill was absent.

Councilman Piergiovanni – *Insurance and Safety, Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School*

Councilman Piergiovanni was absent.

Councilman Dewees - *Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans’ Park, 1st Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Little League/Babe Ruth, Sign Sub Committee*

Councilman Dewees reported the Veterans Park paving started today and should be completed in the next few days.

Councilman Murray - *Finance/Collections, Mainland Regional, Economic Development, Traffic Safety*

Councilman Murray had no report.

Councilman Lischin – *Fire Department/EMS, Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Technology/MRHS Channel 2, Cultural Committee, Green Team, Sign Sub Committee*

Councilman Lischin read the Fire Department report and the Building and Zoning Department reports for September. He noted that one of our long time employees was out on leave and wished him well. He would provide the report for that department when Jim returned. He announced replay times of Tuesdays and Thursdays for out meeting and thanked the staff from Mainland.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Chau reported that the Police Department had a special event at Dunkin’ Donuts, Coffee with a Cop, which was an opportunity for the public to meet with the

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Police Department. Chief Newman and several officers were there; it was a great event and we would like to do it again. Residents had expressed concern to him regarding bike safety; has asked Chief Newman and the Police Department to reinforce with minors the importance of wearing a helmet. Many children do not. We would be taking a more vigilant approach towards bike safety. On Friday, October 28th at 6pm, in conjunction with the Northfield Municipal Alliance, there will be a movie in the park with the Police Department. There would be hayrides that evening as well and the concession stand would be open.

Mayor Chau had not had a reply from Egg Harbor Township about the status of our 911 service. He knew that the administrator was on vacation; hopefully we will have a response soon.

He referred to a request to have a bus shelter at Mill Road and Rt. 9 on the school side, but the school board of education had concerns with regard to having the shelter on or near their property. They had requested that we find another location for the shelter; the City Clerk would work on this.

Next week, Councilman Perri and Mayor Chau would be meeting with the sewer interlocal committee regarding the purchase of a new sewer truck.

Mayor Chau requested that Councilman Piergiovanni participate in the NCS strategic planning session; Councilman Piergiovanni would present a report at the next meeting. He also received a letter today from Josiah Bunting with a \$2,500.00 donation for the drainage at the Veterans Park, or any other Veterans Park project that needed funding. He asked for permission from Council to write a thank you letter to Mr. Bunting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Kwapinski reviewed the engineers report. The funding for the Bay Drive project had been reinstated and the suspension had been lifted. He had been in contact with the contractor to determine when work will resume. It was anticipated to be approximately 2 weeks from now; he would keep Council updated. New Jersey American Water is installing a new water main on Shore Road, it started on Sunday night and they are working at night. The side connections would be done during the day, with stop and go traffic. Night work involved detours.

Councilman Murray asked if there would be paving when they were done referred to a section in Pleasantville that was poorly done.

Engineer Kwapinski noted that patching would be temporary; they will need to allow for settling and then it would be paved half-width, but that may not happen until next spring because of weather conditions.

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Mayor Chau spoke regarding bike safety. Officer Heller made a fantastic video presentation on the City of Northfield's Police Department Facebook page. It was a wonderful presentation. He announced that Saturday, November 12th at 11am we would have the official dedication of our Veterans Park. He encouraged all to come out and show their support.

Councilman Perri asked if the Bay Drive project would be coordinated with the pump station.

Engineer Kwapinski noted they are trying to get the construction completed before the pump station. The pump station is scheduled to start December 15th.

Council President Travagline asked Engineer Kwapinski to ensure that the Bay Drive residents were notified that work would resume.

Engineer Kwapinski would ensure that additional flyers were distributed.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public to speak on any subject.

Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, asked if the dog census was done anymore.

Clerk Canesi explained that it was no longer required by the State.

Gary Gadekian, 810 Maple Avenue, asked the Absecon Honor Guard to come down and do a salute at the event in November, but they ran into a snag. They did these events everywhere, but they were being asked for insurance and all this paperwork from the City of Northfield. They were not used to being asked to do all of this paperwork, asked the City to waive it.

Clerk Canesi explained that they were only being asked to sign a single document, which is was hold harmless agreement.

Mr. Gadekian offered to have his group insure the honor guard but didn't know what came of that.

Clerk Canesi believed that we inquired as to whether his insurance company would document the extension of coverage to the honor guard, and name the City as certificate holder, it was not known if we received a response to that.

Mr. Gadekian noted he would follow up.

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Clerk Canesi replied that if he needed help coordinating with the insurance company we could help with that.

Mayor Chau thanked Mr. Gadekian for his efforts and for that of the honor guard, but the insurance requirement is something we have to do to protect the residents. As to Mr. Webb's comment about dog licenses, Mayor Chau stressed the importance of it, and asked that all residents license their dogs.

Tim Carew, 1512 Shore Road, commented to Clerk Canesi that the Council Chambers looked very nice.

Clerk Canesi thanked him, and gave credit to Shannon Campbell as well.

Mr. Carew told the story of Flora Dickinson from many years ago, asking about his intentions with Birch Grove Park. He said his intentions now are the same as they were then, and that was to make sure the park stayed as nice as it is now. Many improvements had been made over the years. At the last meeting, there was an RFP for the leasing of the campground and the concession stand. He asked whose idea it was, to generate the RFP.

Council President Travagline stated that it was the Council's idea. It had been talked about on several occasions. He deferred to the park liaison.

Councilman Dewees said the intention was to create more traffic and more interest.

Mayor Chau noted that at budget meetings, the business administrator brought to the attention of Council that it was not a money maker.

Council President Travagline noted that she also worked in another town, and that she brought the idea from one of her other towns.

Mr. Carew stated that for \$16.00 per household, we have a park. The money was generated for operating expenses from the money generated at the park.

Councilman Dewees noted that it costs \$160,000.00 per year to staff the park.

Mr. Carew felt that the discussions about the RFP were brief.

Councilman Dewees disagreed; the only thing that did not happen was that a copy of the RFP was not provided to the board.

Mr. Carew acknowledged that it was within the rights of the City to do what it was doing. It was hard enough to find good volunteers in the town, and he felt that communication with the board was lacking.

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Councilman Dewees replied that he had met with Vicky Rutter, Park Supervisor, numerous times, in the day time.

Mr. Carew asked how the day to day operations were funded, unless the money goes back to the trust.

Council President Travagline noted we were trying to avoid losing more money; the campgrounds lose a lot of money.

Mr. Carew disagreed.

Council President Travagline replied that he was looking to sustain the campgrounds.

Councilman Dewees read the revenue and expenses from 2010 to present, showing that the City did not make a lot of money, and in some years lost money.

Mr. Carew asserted that the park makes money; he reiterated that it costs the City only \$16.00 per resident per year.

Council President Travagline disagreed that the City did not pay anything; we just demolished two buildings that the City paid for. Any money from a lease agreement would go into the park; it's in the Ordinance.

Mr. Carew replied no, it was not.

Clerk Canesi clarified that it was; revenues generated by the park go into the trust.

Mr. Perri clarified that the agreed upon fee would, not money made by the vendor.

Mr. Carew noted that the concession stand had to stay a community building, it was in the grant. He reasserted that the City did not pay for the park; the money made at the park was not the City's money. The park did not lose money.

Councilman Lischin reiterated that Council's intention was to generate money.

Councilman Perri clarified that he wanted to look at the numbers, although he fully respected the opinion of the Advisory Board members, people of Northfield want the City amenities. He expressed his disappointment that the board did not know.

Mr. Carew reiterated that the park was self-sustaining; he thanked Council for their time.

Mark Doherty, 405 Chestnut Avenue, distributed a packet to Council about putting a coin drop Ordinance back in Northfield. He distributed a sample packet that Egg

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Harbor Township required. He also included a copy of the Egg Harbor Township Ordinance, which required insurance, etc. noting that it was very difficult for non-profits to raise money; the American Legion had a pig roast on Saturday, and for a lot of effort they made about \$100. At the Egg Harbor Township coin drop they made \$4,800.00 in two days. For anyone looking for a venue to make money for their organization once or twice a year, it was a very good opportunity. He asked that Council take a look at it, and consider discussing it as something they would allow here. He noted the various restrictions that the City of Northfield could put in the Ordinance.

Councilman Lischin asked for the history of why the coin drop ordinance was repealed.

Councilman Perri thought the county ordinance superseded Northfield's.

Clerk Canesi explained that Title 39 prohibits a coin drop unless local ordinance allowed it.

Mr. Doherty explained that there were also signage requirements, and in Egg Harbor Township, you have to be an EHT organization to do a coin drop.

Clerk Canesi noted that we have no process for any approval at the intersection of US Route 9.

Council President Travagline would put on the work session agenda for the next meeting.

Solicitor Facenda noted that he would do some research before the next meeting.

Clem Scharff, 105 Circle Drive, acknowledged that he was in attendance as member of the Advisory Board. He agreed with Mr. Carew on most points. He asked about the sign ordinance.

Solicitor Facenda noted that he was working on it; he may have a few questions and would reach out to Mr. Scharff.

Mr. Scharff said there was a deed restriction that you can't have a private venture at the park. Shouldn't it make more sense to just advertise the park more?

Councilman Lischin replied that the issue did come up in reference to that, had to do with the NJ Campground Association. It was discussed, and it was determined that the campground may not be ready for that.

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Mr. Scharff said this was not world class camping, our park is more rustic. There was no pool but we did have the ocean; it had a lot of potential. Mr. Scharff asked had anyone looked at it.

Clerk Canesi replied that two packets were requested, one was Pomona RV Park, and another a firm whose name she did not recognize.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak Council President Travagline 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.

- 180-2016** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities MRHS Girls' Softball
- 181-2016** Authorizing the Hiring of a Substitute School Crossing Guard
- 182-2016** A Resolution to Cancel Grant Balances
- 183-2016** A Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Execute a Contract with an Approved State Contract Vendor Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a
- 184-2016** A Resolution Authorizing the Northfield Police Department to Apply for and Obtain a Grant from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety 2016 Body Worn Camera (BWC) Assistance Program
- 185-2016** A Resolution in Opposition of an Amendment to the New Jersey State Constitution to Permit Casino Gambling Outside of Atlantic City
- 186-2016** To Authorize an Agreement between the City of Northfield and the Trustees of the Free Public Library of Northfield, t/a the Otto Bruyns Public Library
- 187-2016** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2016 Budget – Federal Body Armor Grant

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188-2016 Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2016 Budget – Body Armor Grant

At 7:57pm Councilman Perri left the dais but returned prior to the vote.

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded for Resolutions 180-2016 to 188-2016, to be voted on by Consent Agenda.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill - absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes; Motion carried to vote the consent agenda.

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 180-2016 through 188-2016.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill - absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes; Motion carried to adopt the consent agenda.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 1,700,431.25

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded, for payment of bills.

Councilman Perri noted the high legal bills, felt we needed to go back to basics and that we shouldn’t be engaging in activities that incurred legal costs.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill - absent; Mr. Perri – no, Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Travagline read the meeting notices.

At 8:01pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk