

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 23, 2018**

At 6:51pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 13, 2018, 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: Korngut, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline, Dewees
Absent: Lischin

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Perri, second of Councilwoman Korngut, all present were in favor of approving the minutes of the meetings of October 9, 2018, without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Perri reported that he had not heard if there would be a Planning Board meeting in November yet. The Sewer Interlocal had been endorsed for the billing between Northfield and Linwood; he thanked Clerk Canesi and Solicitor Facenda for their help. The Seniors had their hayride last week, Qwin Vitale and his men did a great job. The luncheon followed at the Park Center. The park looked great; they deserved a lot of credit for helping the Seniors out.

Council President Dewees said he would pass that along.

Councilman O'Neill - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Court/Violations, Chamber of Commerce, Little League/Babe Ruth, Traffic Safety, Green Team Advisory Board

Councilman O'Neill reported that new project, Cresson Hill, seemed to be moving faster and faster; one building was almost complete. He felt we must look at a potential increase in the Police Department and that we should be proactive instead of reactive.

Councilman Perri asked if the affordable units could be Section 8.

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Solicitor Facenda would look into it and get back to Councilman Perri.

Councilwoman Korngut – Library, Municipal Alliance, Economic Development, Shared Services

Councilwoman Korngut reported that Municipal Alliance sponsored Movie Night and it was a success, over 300 attended. She reminded everyone that the Library would be hosting speaker Faleeha Hassan on the 25th, she was the first woman in Iraq to publish a book of poetry, she came to the US and taught herself to speak English. All were encouraged all to attend.

Councilman Travagline – Insurance and Safety, Northfield School, FAN; Shared Services

Councilman Travagline had no report.

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

Councilman Murray had no report.

Council President Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans' Park, 1st Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering

Council President Dewees echoed Councilman Perri's sentiment that Public Works had done a great job at the park and with the hayrides. He also thanked volunteers, including Mike Wallace, Don Edwards and others.

Councilman Perri thanked Joan McCord and Eileen Pantalena, of the Friends of Birch Grove, who were working when he was there.

Mayor Chau recognized Councilman Lischin and Council President Dewees for volunteering help in driving the hayrides. He also asked for an update on the fire report; when would it be complete?

Council President Dewees advised he would be speaking with Councilman Lischin about that tomorrow.

Councilman Lischin – Fire Department/EMS, Technology/MRHS Channel 2, Cultural Committee, Green Team Advisory

Councilman Lischin was absent.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau reported that Northfield would be appointing the judge for the next 3 years, the job had been advertised and Mayor Chau would be conducting interviews. He hoped to appoint the position in December so we will have the judge in place for the 1st court date in January. He provided all of Council with a letter and brochures from a meeting he had with County personnel regarding rodents, West Nile, and rabies. He said Clerk Canesi had also shared information that there had been an issue in Longport. The County had stated that this is a resident issue to manage, and that they do educate the public, but the residents do need to deal with the rodent issue themselves. He asked Council if they wanted to include the rodent brochure in the January tax bills.

Council President Dewees believed the information was available, residents needed to address it on their own.

Mayor Chau added that residents needed to be more cognizant; need to eliminate sources of food and shelter.

Councilman Perri felt that public information through the media was a plus, people don't realize there is an issue.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the engineer's report as previously provided to Council. The Davis Avenue pump station rehab should start in 5-6 weeks. He had a preconstruction meeting regarding the Cresson Avenue paving project; the paving contractor anticipated the start date to be mid-November. He had been in contact with Max Gurwicz & Sons about the fact that they have not yet installed the curb, there have been numerous notices. If they did not have the curb installed before we paved, he advised Mr. Gurwicz that they would not be able to open the road. We delayed this project back in April, until September, and now we were going to be fighting the weather.

Councilman Perri asked if this was related to the Special Master.

Solicitor Facenda replied no; if they get stuck under the moratorium, they get stuck under the moratorium.

Engineer Nassar advised that he was on site and discovered a major flaw in the plan that had to be redesigned.

Solicitor Facenda asked Engineer Nassar to contact him tomorrow; he would like to memorialize the issues in writing for the Max Gurwicz & Sons' attorneys.

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Engineer Nassar noted that the Cresson Avenue drainage was working well, adding that there were a few punch list items.

Mayor Chau asked about Resolution 190-2018, and for clarification with regard to the paving on Ireland Avenue.

Engineer Nassar explained that it was an existing problem and we were resolving the issue.

Mayor Chau advised that he received a letter from a resident on Park Lane about the cat issue; he asked that it be provided to the Clerk for her records.

Council President Dewees added that on Banning Avenue, between New Road and the church parking lot entrance it looked like a utility opening has settled.

Engineer Nassar advised that he would take a look.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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

Seeing no one wishing to speak Council President Dewees closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Dewees 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.

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 Murray, second of Councilman Travagline, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 190-2018 through 195-2018.

190-2018 Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Surveying, Engineering, and Preparation of Bid Documents for the Project Known as the 2018 Road Paving Project

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- 191-2018** Amending Resolution No. 141-2017, Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed With Certain Projects – Reconstruction Of Cresson Avenue, FY2017 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program
- 192-2018** Authorization to Hire Part Time Technical Assistant
- 193-2018** Authorize Waiver of Interest
- 194-2018** Authorization to Hire Substitute Adult School Crossing Guard
- 195-2018** 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 Threatened Litigation

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded, to adopt Resolutions 190-2018 through 195-2018.

Councilman Perri asked about the candidate for resolution 192-2018.

Clerk Canesi replied that the candidate works for a large corporation, and as a result has had extensive formalized training in customer service and other disciplines. She is not a Northfield resident but is a mature responsible adult; Clerk Canesi and Matt Doran believe she will do a great job in the department.

Roll call: Ms. Korngut – yes; Mr. Lischin –absent; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded for the introduction of Ordinance 11-2018, to be read by title only.

- 11-2018** Authorizing the Sale of City Owned Land
1st Reading / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 10/27/2018
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 11/13/2018

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 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same.

Roll call: Ms. Korngut – yes; Mr. Lischin –absent; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 1,303,847.32

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Councilman Travagline motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll call: Ms. Korngut – yes; Mr. Lischin –absent; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Dewees read the meeting notices.

Council President Dewees announced the Executive Session for Resolution 195-2018.

195-2018 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 Threatened Litigation

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title, and 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. Clerk Canesi then deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed was a collection efforts and potential future litigation and monies claimed to be owed by the City of Northfield to its insurance company in a matter that was settled a few years ago. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law.

At 7:19pm Council moved to the Mayor’s Office for the Executive Session.

At 7:33pm 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 matter discussed was potential litigation between the City and its insurance provider regarding the allegation that the City owes money to its insurance company money in a matter that was previously settled. The minutes were kept but will not be released until the matter had concluded and they would be released when permitted by law.

At 7:34pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk