

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 2021**

At 6:50pm, 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 26, 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 26, 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/84970313083> or by telephone using one tap mobile +16465588656,,84970313083# or direct dial +1 646 558 8656 using Meeting ID: 849 7031 3083. 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 26, 2021.

Municipal Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“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."

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present (in person): Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Perri; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Mayor Chau.

Absent: Council President Polistina.

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Utts with a second of Councilwoman Madden, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of October 12, 2021 without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau echoed all prior comments about Trunk or Treat, he joked about being glad there was electricity because he needed a lot! He thanked all involved,

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especially Shannon Campbell, Deputy Clerk. Everyone Mayor Chau spoke to enjoyed it and was looking forward to next year. He shared a humorous story about Judge Broome; he remembered him fondly. Mayor Chau received an email from a Mr. Head requesting to construct a veteran's memorial or monument on the bike path; permission had been granted in Pleasantville. The funding would be solicited from local businesses by Mr. Head. He asked if Council would be interested. He noted Councilman Utts' earlier comment regarding the upcoming VA clinic coming before the Planning Board. This was a D variance so Councilman Utts and Mayor Chau would not vote. Mayor Chau hoped it would be successful. There was a step 3 grievance from the PBA; the Police committee would meet with labor counsel to discuss.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report as previously distributed to the Council. He received concurrence for 2021 Local Road Program from NJDOT; the preconstruction meeting was scheduled for November 9th, with paving to occur in the spring. The Slip Lining Project was complete, we ran in to quite a few issues. The police helped a lot with traffic control, which resulted in significant savings, versus having the contractor provide traffic control, which would have been built into the cost of the work. Engineer Nassar estimated savings at about \$50,000.00, he thanked the Police Department for their assistance.

Mayor Chau asked for an explanation of the slip lining process, how problems were diagnosed.

Engineer Nassar replied some were visible, others were detected with video. Slip Lining prolongs the life of the lines for at least 50 years. The City should also save money on flows because of reduced groundwater intrusion.

Councilman Perri also noted the value of the Asset Management Plan, the final result of which was still pending.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees 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.

Bill Garry, 202 Saint James Place, via Zoom Chat – “At what stage is the repairs to property that was damaged during the resurfacing of Pine Avenue? My driveway apron which was damaged in the process of the resurfacing is still not repaired. is there some time estimate when these repairs will be made? of”

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Engineer Nassar responded that was supposed to be done in October, but the contractor did not get to it. He would call the contractor tomorrow and make sure it gets done.

Mr. Garry, via zoom chat “can someone please repeat what was said because the engineer cannot be heard”

Engineer Nassar repeats.

Clerk Canesi asked Mr. Garry to confirm he heard; he did.

Seeing no one else wishing to make a comment, Council President Pro Tempore Dewees closed the public comment portion of this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees 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.

Councilman Perri asked that Resolution 178-2021 be voted on separately.

On a motion of Councilman Perri, second of Councilman Notaro, all members present were in favor of voting by consent agenda for Resolutions 175-2021 through 177-2021, 179-2021, 181-2021, 182-2021 and 184-2021.

- 175-2021** A Resolution Approving Participation with the State of New Jersey Federal Grant Program Administered by the Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General
- 176-2021** Authorization to Create Municipal Lien for Property Maintenance Costs
- 177-2021** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities
- 179-2021** Memorialize Resignation of Part Time Electrical Inspector
- 181-2021** Authorizing the Northfield Fire Department to Apply for a Grant from the South Jersey Gas First Responders Grant Program
- 182-2021** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Engineering Services for the Project Known as Reconstruction of Merritt Drive and a Portion of Ridgewood Drive FY2021 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program
- 184-2021** Resolution Updating the Personnel Policies and Procedures for the City of Northfield

Councilman Perri motioned, second of Councilman Notaro, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 175-2021 through 177-2021, 179-2021, 181-2021, 182-2021 and 184-2021.

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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 – absent; Motion carried.

Councilman Perri motioned, second of Councilman Notaro, to adopt Resolution 178-2021.

178-2021 A Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Winner Ford, an Approved State Contract Vendor for Contracting Units Pursuant to NJSA 40A:11-12a

Councilman Perri asked for confirmation of the vehicle cost; he didn't see it.

Clerk Canesi showed him the figure on the Resolution document.

Councilman Perri had an issue with the cost, for something that was not going to be used 24/7. He asked about the other vehicle currently in use?

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees replied; it was his understanding they would have two vehicles. The current one and this new one.

Councilwoman Madden asked would this vehicle be kept on site?

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees deferred to Mayor Chau.

Mayor Chau had not heard; he would set up guidelines once the purchase is approved.

Councilman Notaro stated if it is at their house, you get the benefit of the placement around town.

Councilwoman Madden felt the vehicle should be kept on site at City Hall.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - no, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – absent; Motion carried.

ORDINANCE

Councilman Smith motioned, second of Councilman Utts, to adopt Ordinance 11-2021.

11-2021 Amending Chapter 288 of the City of Northfield Legislative Code, Entitled “Sewers”
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 10/26/2021
Published in the Press of Atlantic City 10/30/2021

The Municipal Clerk read the ordinance by title, stated that there would be a public

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hearing, after which the matter will be considered for final adoption and thereafter published. Since introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies have been available at no cost by contacting the office of the Municipal Clerk to any member of the public who requested same.

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees asked Council if they had any questions, none were asked

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees opened the public hearing on Ordinance 11-2021.

Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – absent; Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$1,382,188.94

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

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. Notaro – yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Polistina – absent; Motion carried.

Councilman Notaro read the meeting notices.

Councilman Perri reminded all they can vote early up until Election Day.

At 7:20pm, on motion of Councilman Utts, seconded by Councilman Perri, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk