

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 29, 2019**

At 7:09pm, 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 Mayor Chau followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

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

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Korngut all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of October 15, 2019 without formal reading.

Council President Lischin deferred to Councilman Smith.

7PM PRESENTATION - Northfield Little League 12U Boys District 16 Champions

Councilman Smith announced that the 12U Boys District 16 Champions were repeat winners for the title. He was so proud of our young men here and the coaches and parents, for bringing the title back to Northfield; he introduced County Executive Dennis Levinson and Freeholder Board Chair Amy Gatto to present awards. Councilman Smith recalled his time as a youth player in Northfield and his first coaching job at the age of 16, coaching Little League All-Stars. He asked County Executive Levinson to come forward.

Executive Levinson thanked Council, and to the children he said he taught school here in Northfield for 30 years. He played a lot of ball. He shared the names of many professional players who were never champions, and told the boys they should be very proud of themselves. Winning a championship is the ultimate goal in sports and takes hard work and dedication, and of course great coaches and the sacrifices of the parents. He introduced Amy Gatto, first female of the Board of Freeholders in Atlantic County history.

Freeholder Gatto thanked Council. She was envious of all of the players; she was a manager, but not a player. She too, was proud of all of the boys for representing Atlantic County so well, and the parents and coaches.

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Executive Levinson presented a framed certificate to the coaches.

Council President Lischin introduced manager Jason Barretta, and Coaches Mike Camac and Geoff Haines.

Coach Barretta thanked the City Council and the County Executive for honoring the boys; there were only two wins at this level in the past 20 years. He thanked Mike Borini, and Joe Russo and Mike Pepper, who could not be here. He thanked the parents and kids.

Councilman Smith announced the players and coaches and each were presented a certificate.

Players included: Brady Arena, Luca Bruno, Finn Haines, Chase Camac, Drew Kwapinski, Andrew Gillman, Colt Russo, Kyle Naame, Chris Layton, Will Hickman, Jake Blum, Dante Zappala, and Mike Borini. Coaches were Jason Barretta, Mike Camac, and Geoff Haines.

At 7:21pm, on motion of Councilwoman Korngut, seconded by Councilman O'Neill all members were in favor of a five-minute recess

At 7:27pm Councilman Lischin resumed the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Perri reported that the Mill Road project was continuing, there was some going back and forth with the County and the contractor, the City employees moved 5 clean outs and that was complete. There was still an issue with the valve boxes and the manholes. The Planning Board had a fence variance in Sutton Woods and an application on Wabash approved. The senior group had guest speaker Robin Mayo from Intergenerational Services; she did a fine job, he thanked her for her presentation.

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

Councilman O'Neill reported that the Northfield Cardinals had homecoming this past weekend, it was a great turnout. He thanked City employees and Councilman Dewees, parents and coaches. The first unit in the housing complex was rented; he participated in a tour and was very impressed. He hoped it will be a nice addition.

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

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Councilwoman Korngut reported that the Library had a meeting October 10th; they were undergoing significant renovations in the interior. The next meeting was scheduled for November 14th. The Northfield Community School Board met last night and their next meeting was scheduled for November 25th.

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

Councilman Dewees had no report in addition to the trail map information that was presented during the work session.

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

Councilman Smith would like to recognize the senior softball girls on a November agenda; he would confirm. Regarding shared services we do have the shared court agreement on the agenda this evening.

Councilwoman Madden – Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden did not have a report for Insurance and Safety. She was unable to attend the Mainland Regional High School Board of Education meeting as she was out of town.

Council President Lischin - Fire Department/EMS, Cultural Committee

Council President Lischin reported we had an Executive Session on this evening's agenda for Fire Union negotiations. Also, the Fire Department received a grant for the SCBA gear. Shared service for Court will save the City moving forward, and he acknowledged the hard work of the committee.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau thanked Municipal Clerk Canesi, Deputy Clerk Campbell, Chief Newman and other City employees for their work on a very successful Trunk or Treat event. He gave out close to 1,000 treats, it was very well attended and he hoped Council would consider sponsoring this event. He read the Police Department report for September: 25 arrests, 2,063 incidents, 290 summonses and 21 motor vehicle accidents; 2 with injuries, 206 motor vehicle stops. He reported that he continuously gets compliments about our officers and how they treat the public. Overall, Narcan use is down, not statistical data, but hopefully a good indicator. November 11th from 8:15am to 10:15am there is a Veterans breakfast at Mainland Regional High School, he invited all of Council; RSVP is required, please see the Clerk's Office. Mayor Chau was participating in the 2020 Census Committee. Our goal was to educate and recruit, and to get as accurate as possible count; he was on the Media Group. There

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were only 10 questions to the Census. His last report was with regard to a visitation tour last week at the ACUA Wastewater Treatment Facility. From the furthest end of the county, the effluent takes approximately two hours to get to the facility, and 12-13 hours to treat the wastewater, which is then discharged 1.5 miles out into the sea. There was discussion of possible use of the brown water for irrigation purposes as a resource conservation measure. Members in attendance were asked to pass along a message from the ACUA to their municipalities: if they sell their assets, don't be sure you're going to get the best deal.

Councilman O'Neill stated that he had the opportunity recently where two new officers introduced themselves to him; he thanked Chief Newman for the awesome job he did in hiring them.

Mayor Chau added that the Class II officer would make our facilities safer; he was looking forward to moving forward.

Councilwoman Korngut, referred to the Veterans event on November 11th and said it is a great tribute, she hoped to see Council there. She gave a shout-out to the Mainland Marching Band on their recent victory.

Mayor Chau thanked Councilwoman Korngut for her attendance last year and for speaking at the Veterans event.

Councilman Perri asked Mayor Chau to elaborate on the Sutton Woods Halloween deal; there was a comment on Facebook that it was being shut down.

Chief Newman replied, yes that was the plan.

Councilman Perri added that residents were concerned they cannot get to their homes.

Chief Newman assured residents would be permitted to go home.

Councilman Dewees asked that start times for road closures.

Chief Newman replied from 5 to 9-ish, he will try to get there a little early. He had explained to residents if there was an issue at the north end of town, he was going to have to move people around.

Mayor Chau reiterated that they were not going to stop people from getting to their homes, but he was there last year and it was a mad house. We were not going to please everyone. The priority was the safety of everyone in that area. Regarding Mr. Brummett's concern about having an alternate date, Mayor Chau said he did a little research today. Hammonton, with the urging of the school and possibly another

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organization, did move their date. He also reached out to Linwood and Somers Point, and as of this time, there was no alternate date. It was rain or shine.

Chief Newman explained the challenge of changing the date at this point. It would be easier just to cancel it.

CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer’s report as previously distributed to Council. The NJDOT grants for Cresson Avenue and Walnut Avenue were about to be closed out. We can get final payment and close the project out by the end of the year. The 2018 Road Project would also be done before the end of the year. A preconstruction meeting for Shepherd Drive was scheduled for November 6th. He hoped to do some concrete work this year, with paving early next year. The ACIA wanted to look at the area regarding that grant. In regard to the unauthorized street openings for gas and Water Company, the gas company was issued a violation and has a court date in November.

Councilman Perri added that there were two resolutions pertaining to engineering on the agenda, one was for Stormwater. He thanked Engineer Nassar, Superintendent Vitale and Clerk Canesi for their work on that. The other was for the camera, from the Infrastructure Trust.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Lischin opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any subject. Seeing no one wishing to speak Council President Lischin closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS

On a motion of Councilman O’Neill, seconded by Councilwoman Korngut, all present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 207-2019 through 215-2019, and 217-2019 by consent agenda.

- 207-2019** 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
- 208-2019** A Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Jetvac Equipment for the Purchase of a Sewer Inspection Camera and Accessories
- 209-2019** 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 1 Lot 2.07 (3 Cedar Springs Drive)
- 210-2019** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 211-2019** A Resolution Directing the Distribution of the City of Northfield’s

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- Net Returned Surplus Funds Held in Trust by the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 212-2019** Acknowledging Retirement of Municipal Court Administrator
- 213-2019** Authorizing an Agreement for Shared Municipal Court for the Municipalities of the City of Northfield and the City of Linwood
- 214-2019** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for General Repairs and Construction of the City of Northfield Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Facilities
- 215-2019** Resolution Encouraging and Supporting Dementia Friendly New Jersey, Part of the Dementia Friendly America Network of Communities
- 217-2019** 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 Between the City of Northfield and the Northfield Professional Firefighters Association, Local No. 2364

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, to adopt Resolutions 207-2019 through 215-2019, and 217-2019 by consent agenda.

Council President Lischin, regarding 212-2019, acknowledged the retirement of the Municipal Court Administrator. She was a dedicated employee for many years and he thanked her for her service. He also thanked the Shared Service committee for their work on the shared court agreement.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 215,594.23

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

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

Council President Lischin read the meeting notices and announced the Executive Session for Resolution 217-2019.

- 217-2019** 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 Between the City of Northfield and the Northfield Professional Firefighters Association, Local No. 2364

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Municipal Clerk Canesi read Resolution 217-2019 by title and deferred to Solicitor Facenda for further comment.

Solicitor Facenda stated that Resolution 217-2019 was in regard to continued negotiations. Minutes will be kept, and approved and made promptly available for public inspection when required and permitted by law. The time frame for publication and approval was unknown. It was possible that formal action may be taken in the form of Resolution 218-2019. Council would return at minimum with public comment for the record and possibly for the vote on Resolution 218-2019.

At 8:00pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office.

At 8:31pm Council returned to Council Chambers, and resumed the Regular Meeting.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. Matters discussed were continued negotiations between the City and Local 2364, specifically a memorandum of understanding. Council was prepared to act upon Resolution 218-2019.

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt Resolution 218-2019.

Council President Lischin acknowledged it had been a lot of hard work; he appreciated the Fire committee, City representatives, and Labor Counsel Curio. He hoped we had a good deal and hoped things would work out very well.

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

At 8:34pm, on a motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Perri, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk