

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

At 7:25pm, 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 November 9, 2021 at [www.cityofnorthfield.org](http://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 November 9, 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/87247599860> or by telephone using One tap mobile +13126266799,,87247599860# or direct dial +1 312 626 6799 using Meeting ID: 872 4759 9860. 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](mailto: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 November 9, 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 followed by a moment of silence.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion of Councilman Notaro with a second of Councilwoman Madden, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of October 26, 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 congratulations to candidates and school board, it was not an easy job. If you want to get something done, don't complain, get involved. He thanked all members of Council. He would have something to say about Councilman

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Perri at the December meeting; he thanked Councilman Perri for his many years of service.

Mayor Chau announced he had been put back on the governance committee for the court; there was a meeting tomorrow.

Solicitor Facenda added that he received something recently to indicate they were going back out to bid for prosecutors and public defenders.

Mayor Chau asked if anyone from Council had further questions, please send to Mayor Chau. The meeting tomorrow is scheduled for 2pm.

Council President Polistina asked Mayor Chau about the kiosk that he referred to in a recent email.

Mayor Chau understood that it would have to be staffed; he did not believe we would want to have a kiosk here.

Over a year and a half ago, Mayor Chau submitted a proposal for a bus shelter at Oakcrest and Shore, there had been some red tape. He hoped it would come to fruition soon. Regarding the mask requirement. Councilman Utts brought it up earlier and some residents have pointed out that other municipal buildings don't require it. Senator Murphy has strongly recommended continued use of face coverings but stopped short of a mandate. Mayor Chau has recommended we require them, but he would leave it to Council.

Council President Polistina asked had everyone reviewed the executive order and were they familiar with it? He urged all to review it. We don't typically have a large crowd.

Mayor Chau felt the social distancing was a good idea, but perhaps without masks.

Council President Polistina would take a look at the order and we'll discuss it at the next meeting.

Mayor Chau added that we would be discussing code enforcement this evening. It seemed we couldn't find the properly licensed individuals or couldn't find employees. He read the following Proclamation regarding Veterans Day:

“WHEREAS, Americans across the country will be celebrating Veterans Day on Thursday, November 11, 2021. This annual federal holiday is set aside as a time for honoring all veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Day is observed on November 11th in commemoration of the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. Hostilities officially ended in 1918 at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month; and

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WHEREAS, we are humbled by the sacrifices rendered by our service members and their families out of the deepest love of our country; and

WHEREAS, on Veterans Day, we honor all Americans who have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, both in times of war and peace; and.

WHEREAS, with respect and recognition for the contributions our servicemen and women who have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world. I ask that all our citizens of the City of Northfield, New Jersey, County of Atlantic pay tribute to all our Veterans both living and deceased.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that I, Erland Chau, Mayor of the City of Northfield, New Jersey, County of Atlantic, do hereby encourage all citizens to recognize the valor and sacrifices of our veterans as we celebrate this Veterans Day on November 11, 2021.”

Councilman Dewees asked if right-of-way was needed for the bus shelter at Oakcrest?

Mayor Chau believed all proper documentation had been coordinated with the County.

Councilwoman Madden asked would there be a ceremony for Veterans Day?

Mayor Chau replied no, he was waiting to hear from Mainland and from the Community School regarding their events, so as not to conflict with their programs.

Councilman Perri would like to piggy back on the Mayor's proclamation, and recognized Mark Doherty, Commander of the American Legion, for all of his hard work. He referred to the Wall of Honor at the legion as very remarkable.

Mayor Chau asked Clerk Canesi if we needed county permission for the Purple Heart Way signs.

Clerk Canesi deferred to Councilman Dewees.

Councilman Dewees replied, no, it was our street. Perhaps just a letter to let them know.

Councilman Notaro replied that we did that; Deputy Clerk Campbell had a great idea to create Purple Heart Path. We needed to get that going.

Mayor Chau thanked all for the Trunk or Treat event, very successful.

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Councilman Perri would be at the Veterans Park at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on November 11<sup>th</sup> to raise and lower the flag.

Council President Polistina advised he would be there as well.

Clerk Canesi asked if Councilman Perri would like this promoted via social media and website?

Councilman Perri replied, yes.

**CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer’s Report as previously distributed to the Council. He announced we received \$285,000.00 from NJDOT for Municipal Aid, for Oak Avenue from Mill to Linwood. He had a preconstruction meeting today for Merritt and a portion of Ridgewood, some drainage work had to be done. The Department of Public Works brought up that some underground pipe may be corrugated and may collapse; they would investigate. This may be the time to replace with concrete pipe. It was suggested that the area near the school be paved during spring break; the project would require closure of a section of the bike path.

Councilman Perri added that he received communication from Clerk Canesi about Haddon Avenue, and the driveway. Councilman Perri felt it needed to be addressed and asked that Engineer Nassar take another look.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Polistina 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.

Seeing no one wishing to make a comment, Council President Polistina closed the public comment portion of this meeting.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Council President Polistina 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.

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

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session has concluded. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.”

On a motion of Councilwoman Madden, second of Councilman Perri, all members present were in favor of voting by consent agenda for Resolutions 187-2021 through 192-2021.

- 187-2021** Transfer of Funds
- 188-2021** Resolution Of The City Of Northfield, County Of Atlantic, State Of New Jersey, Requesting Permission For The Dedication By Rider For A Donation For Community Events Trust Fund Required By N.J.S.A 40A:5-29
- 189-2021** Authorization To Hire Part Time Electrical Inspector
- 190-2021** Authorizing The Award Of Contract Without Public Advertisement For Bids To Patricia’s Cleaning Service To The Provisions Of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5
- 191-2021** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 192-2021** 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(8), Regarding Personnel Matters

Councilwoman Madden motioned, second of Councilman Perri, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 187-2021 through 192-2021

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

**PAYMENT OF BILLS** \$2,748,826.60

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

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

Councilman Smith read the meeting notices.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 192-2021** 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(8), Regarding Personnel Matters

Clerk Canesi announced to the members of the public who were participating via Zoom that when the Executive Session commenced, she would be muting the audio,

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and the video would be temporarily paused. Council would resume the public session, including reactivating the audio and video, as soon as the Executive Session concluded and a public statement would be made for the record.

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

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed was specifically the status change of Johnathan Scull from part-time Special Law Enforcement Officer in accordance with the recommendation of Chief Newman. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown. Council will remain in Council Chambers and return to the general public when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement.

*At 7:55pm Council entered Executive Session, and remained in Council Chambers.*

*At 8:09pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.*

Mayor Chau called Officer Scull into the room.

Officer Scull thanked Council; he grew up in Northfield. He was looking forward to growing with Northfield.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. The matters discussed were specifically the status change in employment from part-time to full-time Special Law Enforcement Officer Class II with certain code enforcement duties. Official action was taken by Council. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown.

**RESOLUTIONS**

On a motion of Councilman Dewees, second of Councilman Utts, all members present were in favor of voting by consent agenda for Resolutions 193-2021 and 194-2021.

**193-2021**      Amend Salary Resolution

**194-2021**      Employment Status Change For Special Law Enforcement Officer,  
Class II

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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 – yes; Motion carried.

At 8:11pm, on motion of Councilman Utts, seconded by Councilman Perri, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk

DRAFT