

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2020**

At 7:08pm, this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2020 and November 7, 2020, 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, the previously advertised November 10, 2020, meeting of Northfield City Council, to be held in Council Chambers, 1600 Shore Road, Northfield, New Jersey, 08225, 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 November 10, 2020 date on the events calendar page of www.cityofnorthfield.org determine current availability for this meeting. 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 2:00pm on November 10th, 2020. 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/89112041847>; or by telephone using one tap mobile +13017158592,,89112041847# or +1 301 715 8592 using meeting ID: 891 1204 1847. 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 scampbell@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 at the rear 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 10, 2020.

FLAG SALUTE

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

Municipal Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“Due to social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public this evening. For this reason, 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 and 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 website and FB pages, and were published in the Press of Atlantic City. The full text of the public meeting notice has been posted at the entrances to the municipal building and includes Zoom instructions, information on where to find the meeting

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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. At this time, one by one, any telephone users will be asked to identify themselves and will be unmuted to permit commentary. For web-browser participants, comments or questions may be submitted via the chat function and 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."

ROLL CALL

Present (in person): Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman O'Neill; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Perri; Mayor Chau

Absent: Councilwoman Korngut

Solicitor Stein and Engineer Nassar were also in attendance.

Chief Newman was present via zoom.

Council President Perri called for a motion to approve the minutes.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion of Councilwoman Madden with a second of Councilman Dewees, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of October 20, 2020 without formal reading.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman O'Neill noted that there were no members of the public in attendance. He suggested that next year we forgo the work session and start the Regular meeting at 6pm.

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Councilwoman Madden asked for clarification.

Councilman O'Neill stated that Council just started the work session when he came on council, he felt it has served its purpose. The public doesn't stay for the Regular meeting. He felt the public would participate more.

Council President Perri advised he would take it under consideration.

Councilman Utts – Bike Path, 1st Street Playground, Veterans Park; Planning Board; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilman Utts reported for the Planning Board; behind Bank of America there was a large lot on Northfield Avenue, they are putting two homes on one lot, and several trees have been removed. The Planning Board was considering amending and extending the outdoor dining ordinance post-covid. This would not include Ventura's, obviously, because that is in a residential zone, but there may be restaurants that may benefit from the opportunity to continue to offer outdoor dining. He asked Council to keep that in mind as they visit other towns, keeping in mind public safety and our ability to help our businesses. There would be a ceremony tomorrow at Veterans Park and a ribbon cutting for JRoss Fitness on Sunday, in the old Rissy Roos' location. It was no small matter to welcome a new business in these times.

Councilwoman Madden, regarding the house on Northfield avenue, noted there were several trees that were removed, and the noise is late at night. Councilwoman Madden lives near the area. It has been detrimental to the neighbors and the neighborhood. She felt there was no regard for the neighbors or the community. It was very noisy with street noise.

Councilman Utts advised that it was not zoned residential, it was zoned office professional. He told Councilwoman Madden when the next Planning Board meeting was, the first Thursday in December, and urged that she and other residents come to present their concerns.

Council President Perri asked if it was a minor subdivision?

Councilman Utts replied that it was a "D" variance, change of use.

Mayor Chau added that the Planning Board was cognizant and sympathetic to businesses trying to survive during Covid; there was extensive discussion with regard to where outdoor dining would be permitted. One of Mayor Chau's many concerns was safety; many of the restaurants that currently have outdoor seating have it on sidewalks and other areas. Recently, in one of the island communities, a car did jump a curb and go through a window. Sidewalks do not offer protection.

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Councilwoman Korngut – Technology/MRHS Channel; Library; Municipal Alliance; Shared Services

Councilwoman Korngut was absent.

Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds; Birch Grove Park

Councilman Dewees had no report.

Councilman Smith – Finance/Collections; Little League/Babe Ruth; Cultural Committee; Northfield Community School

Councilman Smith reported that the regular school board meeting was scheduled for November 23rd; he would not be able to attend the ceremony tomorrow but will be teaching and will be discussing veterans in his classroom. He thanked the candidates who ran for office, he felt the local election was without drama, and he appreciated the lack of local drama and that candidates represented themselves well and with class. He applauded the victors.

Councilwoman Madden – Fire Department / EMS; Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden had an update on the Fire Department schedule, all were in good health, the schedule was going well. There had been no overtime and there won't be unless there is an injury. This schedule provided better accountability for maintenance issues. There is an interest in extending this rotation and she would be meeting with Chief Cummings and Captain Nixon, but Councilwoman Madden's recommendation is to extend it without a gap, with a 6-month extension in January. The schedule has other advantages besides keeping our firemen healthy.

Council President Perri noted there was some overtime.

Councilwoman Madden believed it was for training.

Council President Perri– Public Works: Roads, Engineering, Sewer Operations; Senior Citizens

Council President Perri reported that everything was going well with sewer operations, no meeting schedule for the seniors' group, and it was quiet in the road department. He thanked all who participated in the election, winners and losers. Council President Perri spoke with Mark Doherty about the American Legion's participation at our event, but they were joining with Mainland Regional High School at their event. Council President Perri had asked Mayor Chau and event coordinator Shannon Campbell to put this together, and thanked them for it. Council President Perri was very happy to give his support in any way. The American Legion was struggling, membership was down, Mr. Doherty had done a wonderful job. He

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hoped this event this year would become an annual event. He hoped we could take the torch and move on from here.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau cordially invited all to the JRoss Grand Opening, he would love to have all attend. He was at another grand opening, ATEC, Air Traffic Engineering Corporation, he was really excited and fascinated that such a business would come to Northfield. They were founded in 2006 to provide all facets of support in aerospace sciences.

Mayor Chau read the following Police Department report for the month of October: 467 calls for service, 35 motor vehicle stops, 242 property checks, and 48 citations. The Police Department had extra patrols on Halloween, and there were no issues. He thanked Chief Newman and the Police Department.

Regarding County court, Mayor Chau reported that there were 14 communities that had expressed interest in this program, there was a potential savings to Northfield of \$60,000.00 per year. He looked forward to further exploration; Senator Brown has said he would sponsor the necessary legislation, Mayor Chau would continue to keep Council informed. He understood that Council President Perri and Councilman Dewees met with the representative regarding solar panels. He hoped the City would move forward to have solar panels here at City Hall. He had seen the solar canopies installed at many local schools and businesses. He thanked Clerk Canesi and her office for helping to coordinate the Veterans Day Ceremony, we all appreciate the service of our Veterans and Armed Forces personnel. He noted that our Police Chaplain, Reverend Strugala would be in attendance, we would read the names of Veterans who have passed away in the past year, and there would be a flag ceremony. Anyone wishing to speak, please see Deputy Clerk Campbell or Clerk Canesi. Mayor Chau announced the 5th Annual Holiday Light Decorating Contest, which would include businesses this year with one winner in each category, residential and business. Winners to be announced at our Council meeting on December 15th. To enter contact the City Clerk's Office. Mayor Chau also advised that the Governor had issued a new executive order dealing with outdoor dining, he did not feel this will affect our businesses.

Councilman O'Neill asked did the City get the bike path decorations?

Councilman Dewees replied, yes, every pole will be lit.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's Report as previously distributed to the Council. He had a preconstruction meeting with the contractor for the City Hall ADA and Parking Lot, the anticipated completion was the end of January, with paving in March. There would be limited access during construction, The Clerk's Office will

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coordinate curbside service for handicapped people during the period of inaccessibility. He hoped to advertise the road program bid tomorrow, if approved tonight, with award in December. The Fuae Avenue concrete work should be done this week, or next if it rained. He hoped to wrap up the job before Thanksgiving.

Mayor Chau complimented Engineer Nassar and the contractor regarding the curbing on Fuae Avenue; he believed it would help with erosion in the area.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Perri opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to comment on any subject.

Clerk Canesi typed in the Zoom chat that the public comment portion of the meeting was open.

Seeing no one wishing to make a comment Council President Perri closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS

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.

Clerk Canesi read the following resolution into the record:

**“CITY OF NORTHFIELD, NJ
RESOLUTION NO. 178-2020**

INSERTING AN ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4 87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation of equal amount,

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield has been awarded a \$113,963.00 Grant from the State of NJ Department of Community Affairs, Local Government Emergency Fund (LGEF) and wishes to amend its 2020 Budget to include this amount as revenue.

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SECTION 1:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Northfield County of Atlantic hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of the following item of revenue in the budget of the year 2020:

Miscellaneous Revenue

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

NJ Department of Community Affairs, Local Government Emergency Fund (LGEF)

SECTION 2:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a like sum of \$113,963.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations

(a) Operations Excluded from 5% Caps Public and Private Program Off Set by Revenues:

NJ Department of Community Affairs, Local Government Emergency Fund (LGEF)

I, MARY CANESI, Municipal Clerk of the City of Northfield, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, held this 10th day of November, 2020.”

On a motion of Councilman Utts, second of Councilman O’Neill, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 170-2020 through 175-2020 and Resolutions 177-2020 through 178-2020.

- 170-2020** Memorialize Resignation of Part-Time Electrical Subcode Inspector
- 171-2020** Support Submission of Application for New Jersey Department of Transportation, Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program
- 172-2020** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for the Project Known as the 2020 Local Road Paving Project
- 173-2020** Authorizing the Sheltering of City Residents During Time of Emergency with the City of Linwood, the City of Somers Point and the Linwood Community Church
- 174-2020** Resolution Directing the Distribution of City of Northfield Net Returned Surplus Funds Held in Trust by the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 175-2020** Authorize Change in Employment Status of Electrical Sub-Code
- 177-2020** Transfer of Funds

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178-2020 Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2020 Municipal Budget

Councilman Utts motioned, second of Councilman O'Neill, to adopt the consent agenda for 170-2020 through 175-2020 and Resolutions 177-2020 through 178-2020.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 320,635.51

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

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

Council President Perri read the meeting notices including the announcement of the Ceremony at Veterans Park tomorrow. He wished all a wonderful Veterans Day and hoped the weather would hold out.

At 7:53pm, on motion of Councilman Utts, seconded by Councilman Dewees, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk