

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

At 8:04pm, 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.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the recording device was inoperable, no audio of the meeting would be available, but there would be amplification.

Council President Lischin announced the swearing in of Special Class II Officer Christian Gansert. He apologized for running a bit late.

7PM CEREMONIAL OATH OF OFFICE

Special Law Enforcement Officer Class II Christian Gansert

Mayor Chau announced that he had known Christian for years; he knew the town well. He thanked Council for their support and stated that we wanted to use the Class II Officers more in our community including using them more in our schools. He called forward Chief Newman.

Chief Newman read the following biography: Christian Gansert was born and raised in Linwood and had lived there his entire life. He graduated from Mainland Regional High school in 2014. He graduated number one in his class from the Cape May County Police Academy in April of 2019 and worked for the Sea Isle City Police Department this past summer. He was also employed at Nick's Pizza and had been since 2016. Mr. Gansert is also currently working on finishing his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice at A.C.C.C.

Mayor Chau called forward Officer Gansert's grandparents and administered the ceremonial Oath of Office; he congratulated Officer Gansert.

Officer Gansert thanked City Council, and said he hoped this would be part of his long-term plan.

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Councilman O'Neill thanked Officer Gansert; he had known him for many, many, years. He felt he truly deserved this position. He thanked Officer Gansert's family. He was an excellent choice. He also thanked the Northfield Police Department for the fine job they did.

Councilman Perrin welcomed all.

At 8:11pm, on motion of Councilwoman Korngut, seconded by Councilman Dewees all members were in favor of a five-minute recess.

At 8:23pm Council President Lischin resumed the meeting.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Madden all members present, with the exception of Councilwoman Korngut who abstained, were in favor of approving the minutes of October 29, 2019, and November 5, 2019 without formal reading.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Perri reported there was a presentation at the last Planning Board meeting from the JIF, the next Senior's social was scheduled for the 21st and the topic was vaping. Everything was well with Public Works and the interaction with the County. Next year for Veterans Day he would like the opportunity to raise and lower the flag on November 11th at our Veterans Park.

Mayor Chau replied we could talk about it in more detail.

Councilman Perri also reported to Clerk Canesi that we needed a few more flags at Veterans Park.

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

Councilman O'Neill reported that background checks were in progress for FAN; he asked Clerk Canesi for the status.

Clerk Canesi replied that we have travel coaches on the agenda tonight but not the recreational coaches.

Councilman O'Neill would follow up.

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

Councilwoman Korngut reported that the next Library meeting was scheduled for the 14th; the next Board of Education meeting for the Northfield Community School was scheduled for the 26th. To Mayor Chau, she said thank you for his beautiful words on Veterans Day. She gave a ‘shout out’ to Mainland's ‘Support Our Troops’ Club, they did a great job on Veterans Day and the room was full.

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

Councilman Dewees reported that the bathrooms at the park were closed for the season and there was a handicap accessible port-o-pot. He asked Councilman O’Neill if football was done for the season.

Councilman O’Neill replied that there may still be one more game; he would check.

Councilman Dewees replied that when football was done that facility would be winterized as well.

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

Councilman Smith reminded all that we have invited the Senior Softball team to the next meeting to be recognized for their achievement this past season.

Councilwoman Madden – Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden reported that the Mainland Board of Education meeting was scheduled for the 18th and the Insurance and Safety meeting was coming up.

Councilman Dewees, to Councilwoman Madden, advised that he had been in contact with school board member Kevin Milhous to get a unit price for resodding the football field as a joint purchase. We have not received that quote yet.

Councilwoman Madden would follow up.

Council President Lischin - Fire Department/EMS, Cultural Committee

Council President Lischin read the following reports for the month of October: Fire Department calls included: 0 total fire incidents, 4 false alarm calls, 6 good intent calls, 1 lockout, 5 hazardous condition calls, 3 service call incidents, 1 EMS 1st responder incidents and 0 mutual aid calls; for a total of 20 dispatched incidents.

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TriCare had a total of 125 dispatches, 122 calls with patients, 83 transports, 1 mutual aid calls to EHT and administered 1 Narcan.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau echoed Councilwoman Korngut's sentiments about the Veterans appreciation breakfast, and thanked her for her attendance. He enjoys going to the event and speaking to the Veterans, he understood not everyone could make it due to commitments, but he enjoyed representing Northfield. ACUA representatives would be at the next meeting to give a presentation regarding the City's possible purchase of trash toters. He was hopeful that they were nearing the end of negotiations with PBA and hoped to have it done before year's end. He had initiated negotiations with Chief Newman regarding his contract with the City and hoped to have that completed by year's end. Hopefully we would have a recommendation shortly for another Class II Officer. He looked forward to the Chief's increased usage of the Class II Officers as a presence. He also referred to the use of the motorcycle officer and a new bike patrol. He announced the Mayor's Annual Holiday Light Contest, and said the registered home must be in Northfield. Judging would occur December 14th and 15th between 5pm and 8pm. Over the past few years the response has been overwhelming, which is why we are expanding the days for judging. Winners would be announced on December 16th and honored at the Council meeting on the 17th. Mayor Chau listed the new categories for this year. He asked the reporter in audience to promote the contest, and advised we would put it on our website and Facebook page as well. We have independent Northfield residents who are volunteering this year to be judges.

Councilman Perri asked if there were any openings on the Advisory Board.

Mayor Chau replied yes, and the Library, and Cultural Committee as well.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. He reported he was trying to close out Cresson and Walnut by the end of the year. There was a preconstruction meeting for Shepherd Drive, he was hesitant to do concrete before the end of the year because of the weather; the streets could be torn up all year, they wouldn't be able to pave before winter. He suggested the notice to proceed be next year.

Clerk Canesi asked if the contract language permitted the delay.

Engineer Nassar confirmed that it did.

Councilman Smith noticed that we only received only one bid; he asked if that was a concern.

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Engineer Nassar explained that all of the contractors were extremely busy; the bid received was within the budget. If it was not, he would have recommended that we rebid.

Councilman Smith asked if there was any movement with the flow issues and Catherine Place. He asked if anything needed to be done if that street ends up being paved.

Engineer Nassar replied no; the ACUA was trying to video the sewer line and the project had to be rebid, but we have not heard anything since then.

Council President Lischin asked Engineer Nassar to refresh Council's memory as to the anomaly in flow.

Engineer Nassar explained that at one point we were ten million gallons higher than normal.

Councilman Perri added that anomalies have lessened and flows were down. We've asked for additional inspections but they had not been performed.

Councilwoman Korngut appreciated Engineer Nassar's assistance with the Dog Park.

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 Councilwoman Korngut, seconded by Councilman O'Neill, all present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 223-2019 through 229-2019 by consent agenda.

223-2019 Recognizing Family Association of Northfield Travel Basketball Coaches for 2019 Season

224-2019 Authorizing Refunds of Overpayment of Taxes

225-2019 Authorizing the Northfield Police Department to Apply for a Grant from the South Jersey Gas First Responders Grant Program

226-2019 Authorizing the Northfield Fire Department to Apply for a Grant from the South Jersey Gas First Responders Grant Program

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- 227-2019** Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2020-June 2025
- 228-2019** Budget Transfers
- 229-2019** 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. 10:4-12(B)(7) And (8) – Contract Negotiations And Employment Of Non-Union Public Employees

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded, to adopt Resolutions 223-2019 through 229-2019 by consent agenda.

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 \$ 2,194,097.49

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

Councilman Perri asked Clerk Canesi if the Ward payment on the bills list was the deductible.

Clerk Canesi clarified that it is for Officer Cornell, and yes deductible and coinsurance. The deductible for Officer Ward was paid in full.

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 229-2019.

- 229-2019** 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. 10:4-12(B)(7) And (8) – Contract Negotiations And Employment Of Non-Union Public Employees

Municipal Clerk Canesi read Resolution 229-2019 by title and deferred to Solicitor Facenda for further comment.

Solicitor Facenda stated that Resolution 229-2019 was in regard to shard court and the impact same may have on certain court personnel, Council would receive an update as to the status of negotiations from the Solicitor. 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

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not anticipated that any formal vote would be taken this evening. Council would return with public comment for the record.

At 8:48pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office.

At 9:08pm Council returned to Council Chambers, and resumed the Regular Meeting.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. Matters discussed were continued contractual negotiations concerning a shared court and the potential impact of same on certain court personnel. We did have a RICE notice signed by Mr. Maguire. Minutes were in fact kept they would be approved by Council and made available to the public when required and permitted by law, no official action was or would be taken this evening.

At 9:10pm, on a motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Madden, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk