

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 14, 2017**

At 6:37pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City 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: Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline, Dewees

Absent: Lischin, Piergiovanni

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

**MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilman Travagline, second by Councilman Murray, all present were in favor of approval of the minutes from October 17th without formal reading.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Councilman Perri** - Sewer Inter Local, Planning Board, Senior Citizens, Shared Services

Councilman Perri did not have a report. He thanked everyone for their well wishes, prayers, cards, food, etc. It is overwhelming to lose a child and you have to keep busy, and keep moving. He thanked all for their condolences, in his family's time of need it was very moving and heartfelt.

*At 6:52pm Council President Dewees called for a 5 minute recess.*

*At 6:52pm Councilman Perri excused himself for the balance of the meeting.*

*At 6:53pm Council reconvened.*

**Councilman O'Neill** - Court/Violations, Library

Councilman O'Neill reported that he had received a management report from Donna Clark. The December numbers were not in yet, but we should be slightly above on revenue.

**Councilman Piergiovanni** – Insurance and Safety, Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School

Councilman Piergiovanni was absent at the time of his report.

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*(Councilman Piergiovanni arrived at 7:17pm.)*

**Councilman Travagline** – FAN, Sign Sub Committee, Shared Services, Green Team Advisory

Councilman Travagline reported that FAN had concluded their football season, they were moving into their basketball programs for boys and girls, recreational for grades 1-8, and travel for 3rd to 8th grades. FAN also had the James Hoopes clinics going on with the last one being this Wednesday, there would be assistance this week from MRHS Coach Dan Williams and MRHS players. He commented about how extraordinary it was that Councilman Perri was here this evening, he and his wife wish the Perri family the very best.

Councilman O’Neill asked who the new FAN president was.

Councilman Travagline replied that it was Bill Meade.

**Councilman Murray** - Finance/Collections, Mainland Regional, Economic Development, Traffic Safety

Councilman Murray reported we should have final numbers on tax appeals soon, Mainland High School was running their play for the next several nights, “The Crucible”, and it should be very good. He encouraged all to attend. He echoed sentiments expressed by Councilman Travagline and commented that the Perri family was an institution here in Northfield.

**Councilman Lischin** – Fire Department/EMS, Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Technology/MRHS Channel 2, Cultural Committee, Green Team, Sign Sub Committee

Councilman Lischin was absent at the time of his report.

*(Councilman Lischin arrived at 7:05pm.)*

**Council President Dewees** - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans’ Park, 1<sup>st</sup> Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Little League/Babe Ruth, Sign Sub Committee, Traffic Safety

Council President Dewees noted that Clerk Canesi had distributed the qualifications sheet for professional services and asked Clerk Canesi to comment.

Clerk Canesi replied that she would like to run the ad Saturday and proposals would be due December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The deadline for feedback on changes from Council is this Thursday. If Council wished to change anything, we can just move the date forward.

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Councilman Travagline asked if there were any changes from last year.

Clerk Canesi replied no, this is what was advertised last year.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau commended the Department of Public Works, Qwin Vitale and all who helped and participated with the hayrides. He read the Police Department report for October, and offered kudos to the Police Department for the successful use and operation of the medicine drop box. He received a complaint about police coverage on Halloween night, and he had discussed it with the Chief. He noted that Jackson Avenue was at one point completely impassable, kudos to the Police Department for their successful handling of events on Halloween night. Pro-Phoenix training continued for the Police Department, this was a much more complex type of software than previous applications.

Councilman Travagline added that in Sutton Woods there was a very heavy police presence on Halloween night and he felt it was very successful. He had residents comment to him that they had difficulty getting back into Sutton Woods. He suggested perhaps blocking off the streets and only letting residents in. He deferred to the Police for this decision as they know best.

Mayor Chau reported that all of the paperwork for the bus shelters had been finalized and it had been submitted to NJ Transit. We were probably looking at construction sometime next year, due to the pending arrival of colder weather. He had a meeting, along with Clerk Canesi with a representative from the Department of Environmental Protection. The DEP representative emphasized that she was the liaison for the municipalities. Mayor Chau noted that there was Green Acres funding available for walking trails, and he would be meeting with someone from the DEP this week while at the league. He explained the availability of NJEIT funding for remediation of private sites that needed clean up. This was a very productive meeting and he is now more aware of what the DEP has available to us. He will draw the November winner of the recycling cart contest at the next council meeting, with the final winner being drawn at our December meeting. Mayor Chau officially announced the 2nd Annual Holiday Lighting Contest, it was a great success and Mayor Chau was very proud at the participation on the part of the residents as well as the local businesses who donated prizes. This year the awards would be made at our December meeting on the 12th. He informed Engineer Nassar of curb damage done on Roosevelt and on Jackson Avenues and asks engineer to inform SJ Gas Company so that damages could be repaired. He congratulated Councilman O'Neill on his recent re-election, and congratulated Councilwoman Korngut on her recent election.

Council President Dewees advised Council that he saw another motor vehicle driving on the bike path at Zion Road; he would like to do something similar to what Somers Point has done at Ocean Heights and the bike path.

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Mayor Chau reported seeing motorists park on the grass of the bike path as well.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed updates to the Engineer's report as provided to Council. The Rosedale Pump Station project had been closed out; Bay Drive should be closed out shortly. He should get a decision within the next several weeks on the redevelopment grant application. South Jersey Gas had started the reconstruction on October 30th. He distributed an updated paving map which depicted the paving activity being undertaken by SJ Gas. He noted that it was impossible to see everything the paving contractor was doing, but residents are not bothering him when they bring concerns to his attention; the gas company contractor was addressing them.

Mayor Chau asked why certain areas were not being paved.

Engineer Nassar explained that it depended on where the work was done, our Ordinance did not provide for us to force them to do more.

Councilman Travagline commended Engineer Nassar for working with the gas company on the cooperative paving and felt it's saved easily 6 digits. He also thanked SJ Gas for working so well with the engineer and his firm.

Engineer Nassar advised Council that he was waiting for Mr. Gurwicz to post the performance guarantees and inspection escrows to go out to bid for Davis Avenue. He explained a recent sink hole on Cecil Lane and that repair was done by Kline under our contract with them. He noted another sink hole that was found on Twelve Oaks Court; Public Works was able to make that repair.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Dewees opened the public session for any person to speak on any topic.

Seeing no one wishing to speak Council President Dewees closed the public session.

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

Council President Dewees stated that 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.

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

On a motion of Councilman O’Neill, second of Councilman Travagline, all present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 203-2017 to 210-2017, by Consent Agenda.

- 203-2017** Resolution to Cancel Grant Balances
- 204-2017** Governor’s Council On Alcoholism And Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2018 – June 2019
- 205-2017** Acknowledging Employment Resignation of Plumbing Sub-Code Official
- 206-2017** End of Seasonal Employment for Birch Grove Park Employee
- 207-2017** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 208-2017** Transfer of Funds
- 209-2017** Authorizing Fire Department Study
- 210-2017** 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 Regarding Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded for the adoption of the consent agenda consisting of Resolutions 203-2017 to 210-2017.

Roll call: Mr. Lischin – yes; Mr. Murray – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – absent; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried to adopt the consent agenda.

**ORDINANCES**

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded for the introduction of Ordinance 16-2017.

- 16-2017** Bond Ordinance Appropriating One Million Two Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Dollars (\$1,293,000) and Authorizing the Issuance of One Million Two Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$1,228,000) in Bonds or Notes of the City of Northfield for Various Improvements or Purposes Authorized to be Undertaken By The City Of Northfield, In The County Of Atlantic, New Jersey  
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 11/18/2017  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 7PM on 11/28/2017*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication and public hearing dates. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies are available at

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no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same.

Roll call: Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –absent; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carries.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS: \$ 3,119,671.61**

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll call: Mr. Lischin – yes; Mr. Murray – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – absent; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Dewees read the meeting notices and announced the executive session.

Council President Dewees announced the executive session for Resolution 210-2017.

**210-2017** 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 Regarding Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality

Clerk Canesi read Resolution 210-2017 by title and announced that it was adopted earlier in the evening under the consent agenda.

Solicitor Facenda explained that the Executive Session was in regard to pending litigation and an update from the City’s Mt. Laurel counsel. Minutes of the executive session would be kept as required by law which will be approved by Council then promptly available for public inspection when required and permitted by law; since the matter involves litigation, the timeframe for release remains unknown.

At 7:40pm Council moved to the Mayor’s Office for the Executive Session.

At 8:08pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

Solicitor Facenda announced the Executive Session had concluded. Council discussed the pending Mt. Laurel litigation. No formal action was taken by the Council; minutes were taken and would be available when required and permitted by law. Timeframe for release was unknown as litigation as ongoing.

At 8:06pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk