

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

At 6:33pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 7, 2023, and in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

Absent: Councilman Smith

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Councilman Notaro with a second by Councilman Leeds, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of October 24, 2023, without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau congratulated Council President Polistina and Councilman Notaro on their reelection and thanked the voters for their confidence; other than a few things at the end, it was a nice campaign. He thanked Deputy Clerk Campbell and all who were able to attend the Veterans Day Service, it was a beautiful day and event. All have received a letter from County Executive Levinson regarding a request from a resident for sidewalks along Zion Road; Mayor Chau read the letter. The County supports the idea but does not provide sidewalks. They were willing to work with the City on such a project. PBA negotiations started last week; they were continuing the process. New Jersey American Water was going to initiate their lead replacement project, the water company's door to door personnel would work with the Clerk's Office and Chief of Police. Mayor Chau stressed that the lead pipe replacement project would be at no cost to the residents.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineers Report as previously distributed to Council. He had a bid opening for the sanitary and storm contract, there was only one bidder and the bid far exceeded the estimates and funds available. He received the 2024 municipal aid grant for Wabash Avenue, he would try to coordinate with Linwood, as they are also paving Wabash Avenue. He received the check from New Jersey American Water for repaving of Oak Avenue for approximately \$99,000. The resolution was on the agenda tonight and he would give Clerk Canesi the check.

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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 city of residence for the record and observe the five-minute limit per speaker.

Tom Boyd, Northfield; asked what portions of Wabash were being paved?

Engineer Nassar replied from Linwood to Mill Road.

Mayor Chau asked would there be curbing.

Engineer Nassar replied; it would depend on the need for drainage and grading.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, 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 session has concluded. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.”

On motion of Councilwoman Bucci, seconded by Councilwoman Carfagno, all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 203-2023 through 221-2023 by Consent Agenda.

- 203-2023** Memorialize Resignation of Part Time Housing Officer
- 204-2023** Memorialize Resignation of Part Time Electrical Inspector
- 205-2023** Acknowledging Retirement of Adult School Crossing Guard
- 206-2023** Employment Status Change for Regular Adult School Crossing Guard
- 207-2023** Employment Status Change for Substitute Adult School Crossing Guard
- 208-2023** Employment Status Change for Substitute Adult School Crossing Guard
- 209-2023** Resolution Authorizing the City of Northfield to Accept a Subgrant Award of the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 of Emergency Management Performance Grant and Emergency Management Agency Assistance

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- 210-2023** A Resolution Authorizing an Award of Contract for Natural Gas Supply Services
- 211-2023** 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
- 212-2023** To Reject the Sole Bid and Authorize Re-Advertisement of Request for Bids for General Repairs and Construction of the City of Northfield Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Facilities
- 213-2023** Authorizing The Mayor To Enter Into A Payment In Lieu Of Performance Agreement With New Jersey American Water Company
- 214-2023** Transfer of Funds
- 215-2023** To Amend Resolution 169-2023, And Establish A New Last Day Worked For Lydia Bickel, Adult School Crossing Guard
- 216-2023** To Approve An Application For Use Of Facilities
- 217-2023** Resolution To Amend The Agreement Between Surenian, Edwards, And Nolan, LLC, Special Counsel On Affordable Housing Matters, And The City Of Northfield
- 218-2023** Approval Of Specifications And Authorization To Proceed With Public Bidding For Renovations To The Existing Little League Major Field At Birch Grove Park
- 219-2023** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers To Proceed With Engineering Services For The Project Known As Reconstruction Of Wabash Avenue
- 220-2023** 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
- 221-2023** 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 Firefighter’s Association, Local No. 2364

Councilwoman Bucci motioned, Councilwoman Carfagno seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – absent; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

ORDINANCE

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Ordinance 13-2023.

- 13-2023** Amending Chapter 215 of the City of Northfield Code, Land Use And Development
*2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration
Published in the Press of AC November 21, 2023*

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The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title and explained that this ordinance established zoning regulations for standby generators; it had been referred to the Planning Board and we have received concurrence from them, without changes, which Solicitor Facenda has reviewed. She further stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption and thereafter published. Since introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies have been available at 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 requested same.

Council President Polistina opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – absent; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 2,381,886.02

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

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – absent; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

MEETING NOTICES

Councilwoman Bucci read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

221-2023 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 Firefighter’s Association, Local No. 2364

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 said she would defer to the Solicitor for further explanation.

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, and the video would be temporarily paused. Those in attendance in-person would need to exit Council Chambers during the Executive Session. Council would resume

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the public session, including reactivating the audio and video, and welcoming the return of the in-person public as soon as the Executive Session concluded. A public statement would be made for the record at that time.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matters to be discussed were negotiations between the City and the Local 2364, specifically, terms of a Memorandum of Agreement and an extension of a temporary work schedule. 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 public when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement.

At 6:49pm Council entered Executive Session and remained in Council Chambers.

At 7:03pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. The matters discussed were terms and conditions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the fire union pertaining to an extension of an existing temporary work schedule. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown. No official action will be taken tonight, but, anticipated action will be taken at the next meeting.

At approximately 7:04pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk