

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

At 6:47pm, 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: Dewees, Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline

Absent: Piergiovanni

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Nassar, Engineer Kwapinski and Chief Neman were also present.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman O'Neill to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 18, 2016. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri - Sewer Inter Local, Planning Board, Senior Citizens
Councilman Perri reported that there will be a senior event at the library on Thursday; he had not heard back from Linwood regarding the recent sewer interlocal meeting. The sewer flows had gone down in recent months; since the June meeting with ACUA. Councilman Perri reiterated that the Veterans Park service was a very nice event, and thanked all who assisted. He thanked the candidates who put the time and effort into running, whether they won or lost; for taking part in the democratic process. There was a possibility of one application for the December Planning Board meeting.

Councilman O'Neill - *Court/Violations, FAN, Library, Shared Services*

Councilman O'Neill reported that the Court had become more and more busy each month. He thanked all involved with FAN for a great season. He thanked all again who were involved in the Veterans Park. He congratulated Councilmen Lischin and Dewees on their recent reelection and thanked all who ran.

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

Councilman Piergiovanni was absent.

Councilman Dewees - *Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans' Park, 1st Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Little League/Babe Ruth, Sign Sub Committee*

Councilman Dewees reported that the water had been turned off at all athletic fields except football, which should also be shut down by month's end. Public Works was working on clearing an easement between Jack Sloan Court and Pasadena. He had requested that new decals be put on the Public Works vehicles that identify them as City vehicles. He asked Councilman Lischin if he would like the Code Enforcement vehicle decal as well.

Councilman Lischin replied yes he would.

Councilman Dewees noted that the leaf clean up on the bike path may require sections to be blocked off a bit at a time, and said we are looking for concrete pads for additional benches at the Veterans Park. Local resident Joe Bunting had offered to donate the infield at the Babe Ruth Field at his expense. He thanked Mr. Bunting.

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

Councilman Murray read the following statement:

“The ACIA pooled bond sale closed on 10/26/16. The City sold \$4,675,000 in Bonds and received a net premium of \$193,487.22. The premium will be used to off-set the cost of the first principal payment in 2017.

The one outstanding Bond Anticipation Note of \$1,752,750 was paid off on 10/27 with the proceeds from the bond sale.

The City's total bonded debt is currently \$9,899,000. There are no temporary notes outstanding, and only \$188,500 in unfunded authorizations.”

Councilman Murray reported that our ratable base looked like it would see a decline in ratable base, based on tax appeals, similar to what we had seen in the past four or five years. Many older homes requested appeals this year, which had not been seen in prior years.

Councilman Perri asked for the percent rate on the bond financing.

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Councilman Murray noted that he would get the number for Councilman Perri tomorrow.

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

Councilman Lischin announced the retirement of longtime Assistant Fire Chief Lauren Crooks, and said he had been working with the Chief and committee to identify how we would move forward. Assistant Chief Crooks had been a firefighter with the City for 25 years, and he should be commended for his service. He mentioned the Executive Session on the agenda today to discuss a proposal from the union personnel. He also received the specifications for the replacement of fire hoses; bidding process will start for buying the hose. He read the Fire Department report for the month of October. He also read the reports for the Housing and Zoning Department, but said he did not have an updated report for the Building Department as the longtime TACO was still out on leave. He thanked first time videographer Ryan from Mainland Regional High School for tonight's video recording services. The replay dates are Tuesdays and Thursdays. He also thanked all who were involved in the Veterans Park Ceremony.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau congratulated Councilmen Dewees and Lischin on their recent reelection. He looked forward to continuing to work with them. He recognized the ongoing financial contributions made by local resident Joe Bunting. He had made the recommendation to Chief Newman to advertise and replace now retired Captain Mitchell; this would allow us to keep our Safe and Secure Grant funding. He thanked all who were involved in the Veterans Park Ceremony, including Steve Vain and the committee, who did an outstanding job. His favorite part was the cannon and the 21 gun salute. Mayor Chau thanked the Engineer for his design work as well.

Mayor Chau noted that he attended the Mothers League Halloween Event, Safe Trick or Treat, and the Veterans Park Ceremony. All were well attended and new photographs have been added to the hallway gallery. He read the Police Department report for October. He noted the diligence of the Police Department in keeping Northfield safe; he thanked Chief Newman and the staff. He reported on the addition of LED lighting to the library parking lot, and thanked Councilman Dewees as chairman of buildings and grounds. The Library had submitted a list of proposed capital improvements that would make it a better facility for our residents. Mayor Chau attended the Veterans breakfast held at Mainland Regional, it was a nice event, and was well attended. He had proposed that the City hold a Holiday Lighting Contest, City Clerk Canesi and Deputy Clerk Campbell volunteered to assist him in developing the contest. More information would follow. There are many festive

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displays and it was time that they were recognized. He reported that today, Fire Chief Cummings and Police Chief Newman attended a meeting with the EHT Mayor, Business Administrator, and Communications staff. He received a proposal from EHT for a new agreement, which council now had in their possession. On November 19th the American Legion would be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner for Atlantic County Veterans. The annual tree lighting would be held on Friday December 2nd at 7pm.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Kwapinski commended AE Stone and thanked Mayor Chau for the compliment regarding the pathways at Veterans Park. They went above and beyond and it looked great. The Bay Drive project has been resumed since the state shutdown had been lifted. The 2015 paving project had come to completion, final items were being done. He attended a meeting regarding FEMA flood maps, and maps they would be updated in 2022 to reflect new calculations of who is in a flood prone area. South Jersey Gas had submitted a very aggressive gas main renewal project for 2017; Engineer Kwapinski was reviewing it now. New Jersey American water had finished installing the main line on Shore Road, and they will begin tie-ins shortly. The night time work should now be complete.

Mayor Chau asked for confirmation that for this phase of the New Jersey American water project, that they had gone as far as they can go.

Engineer Kwapinski replied for this phase, yes.

Mayor Chau asked about final restoration.

Engineer Kwapinski stated more than likely it would not be done until the spring.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public to speak on any subject.

Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, thanked Mayor Chau for the Christmas light contest. Mr. Webb believes that we should have kept dispatch in house, would not have the problems we're having now. The doors are locked at police and fire departments at night; we should have our own communications.

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

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RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Travagline 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.

The Executive Sessions 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 each executive sessions has concluded. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Solicitor Facenda reminded Council that Resolution 200-2016 would be deleted and Resolution 204-2016 to reject the Birch Grove Park RFP and Resolution 205-2016, a Use of Facilities application submitted by Cub Scout Pack 72 would be added.

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilman Perri seconded for Resolutions 191-2016 to 205-2016, to be voted on by Consent Agenda.

- 191-2016** To Reject All Bids and Authorize Re-Advertisement of Request for Bids for the Purchase of a Portable Generator for the City of Northfield Office of Emergency Management
- 192-2016** Acknowledging Employment Resignation of School Crossing Guard
- 193-2016** Amending Resolution 127-2016, Recognizing Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company
- 194-2016** Acknowledging the Retirement of Lauren William Crooks, Assistant Chief
- 195-2016** Deer Carcass Removal Contract
- 196-2016** A Resolution Supporting Senate Bill 2663 and Assembly Bill 4234
- 197-2016** Inserting an Item of Revenue into the 2016 Budget
- 198-2016** Governor's Council on Alcoholism And Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2014 – June 2019
- 199-2016** Transfer of Funds
- 200-2016** Removed

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201-2016 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

202-2016 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 Personnel Matters

203-2016 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 – OPRA Complaint

204-2016 A Resolution to Reject a Proposal for the Provision of Campground Management Services

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield did publish an advertisement seeking proposals and qualifications from qualified Campground Managers to manage the Birch Grove Park Campground; and

WHEREAS, one proposal was received, from Pomona RV Park, and said proposal has been reviewed by the governing body for the City of Northfield; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Northfield does not wish to accept said proposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the City Northfield, Atlantic County, New Jersey that the proposal from Pomona RV Park be and is hereby rejected.

205-2016 To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities Boy Scout Pack 72

WHEREAS, on behalf of Boy Scout Pack No. 72, Alanna Blake-Lawler has properly submitted an Application for Use of Facilities requesting use of the Northfield Veteran’s Park on the following date and time: Saturday, December 17, 2016 from 9:00am to 10:00am

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Northfield hereby approves the Application for Use of Facilities presented by Mrs. Alanna Blake Lawler, subject to the full

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execution of the Use of Facilities Agreement, and compliance with its terms and conditions, and the representations made in the subject Applications for Use of Facilities.

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

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 191-2016 through 205-2016.

Councilman Perri questioned the legal expenses.

Clerk Canesi replied that they were the final payment in the Mitchell settlement.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 4,303,863.43

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded, for payment of bills.

Councilman Perri noted that the court audit was on the sewer line.

Clerk Canesi checked the bills list, noted the entry and stated that she would advise Finance.

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

Council President Travagline read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

201-2016 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 and deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

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Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session was in regard to contract negotiations. Minutes would be kept and be made available when provided by law.

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced that Council would move to the Mayor's office; and would come back in public session.

At 7:48pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.

At 8:15pm Council returned from Executive Session and the Regular Meeting of Council resumed.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. The items discussed were contractual/settlement provisions provided to the council by NFPA Local No 2364. No action had been taken, however labor counsel had been directed to be in contact with counsel for the Firefighters Association to move the matter forward. Minutes were kept and would be released when permitted and required by law.

202-2016 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 Personnel Matters

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

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session was in regard to personnel matters in the Construction, Housing and Zoning Departments. Minutes would be kept and be made available when provided by law.

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced that all employees had been issued Rice Notices and had all agreed to allow the matters to be discussed in closed session.

At 8:18pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.

At 8:45pm Council returned from Executive Session and the Regular Meeting of Council resumed.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. The items discussed were personnel matters and a potential shared service agreement with construction, housing and zoning, alternatives will continue to be explored. Minutes were kept and would be released when permitted and required by law, at this time it is unknown as the matter had not yet been resolved.

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203-2016 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 – OPRA Complaint

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

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session was in regard to pending litigation regarding an OPRA complaint and denial, the subject matter to be discussed would be litigation and a potential settlement of same, minutes would be kept and be made available when provided by law.

At 8:47pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.

At 8:57pm Council returned from Executive Session and the Regular Meeting of Council resumed.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded, subject was a potential settlement of a lawsuit, negotiations would continue and will be available when permitted by law.

At 8:57pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk