

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

At 7:16pm, 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
Absent: Lischin

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Madden all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of November 12, 2019 without formal reading. Councilwoman Korngut noted that in the minutes it said she'd spoken about possibly moving one of the BBQ's, and what she believed she'd said was they would have had to move more than one, but it was moot since there was no record of it.

Council President Pro-Tempore O'Neill asked the girls' softball team to stand and asked Councilman Smith to speak.

Councilman Smith deferred to Mayor Chau

7PM PRESENTATION - SENIOR GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

Mayor Chau announced that on behalf of the Council we were honored to have the team here. O behalf of County Executive Dennis Levinson, the City of Northfield Council would be presenting a certificate to each girl.

Councilman Smith read from the certificate for the coaches, and told the girls he'd have a certificate for them. He was proud to have them come because as the coach at Mainland he had coached many of them; he loved to see them bring championships and awards back to Northfield. He was thrilled to be here to share these awards. Councilman Smith presented a certificate to each team member. The team included the following players and coaches: Aleishka Lantigua, Chloe Vogel, Olivia Hull, Annika Asuncion, Megan Tierney, Ava Zanas, Maggie Wilkinson, Farley O'Brien, Ava Jamison, Rayonna Wagner and Haley DaPrato; Coaches: Andy Asuncion, Bob Wilkinson and Mike Tierney.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

At 7:33 Clerk Canesi discovered that the audio recording equipment had not been activated; it was activated and remained operational for the balance of the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Perri reported that Tilton Theater would be coming before the Planning Board for a “C” variance hardship for a sign and memorialization of a previous issue. He thanked Amanda from Atlantic Prevention Resources for her outstanding presentation on vaping; he couldn’t thank her enough. He also thanked Chief Newman and Mayor Chau for having some of the new officers at the last Senior Meeting. He had no report for roads and engineering. He announced that the sewer flows were down but we were still over the projected amount year to date with the ACUA.

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

Councilwoman Korngut reported the Board of Education for the Northfield Community School met Monday night. She wanted to thank Superintendent Bretones for getting out the word about the snow shoveling program; in the event of snow the group would shovel for seniors. The Library Board met on the 14th; she read the following library report for the month of November: 3,822 people visited the Library; 1,755 items were in circulation; \$233.45 in fines and fees were collected; there were a total of 44 total programs and 477 people attended the programs. The next meeting was scheduled for December 12th. She had the privilege of meeting with Pack 72 Cub Scouts and they had a lot of good questions; they wanted more Crossing Guards and they had questions about making the bike path better, and other smart questions. They earned a badge in the process and she encouraged them to come to Council as there is no age limit for the public session.

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

Councilman Dewees reported that he has had suggestions about decorating the bike path; of the 56 poles, 33 have outlets at the top where we could plug in lights. Most of the poles from Merritt, south to Oakcrest can be decorated with lights. He asked Council for direction; we can do this section this year, but from Merritt north the lights are sporadic and these could perhaps be modified in the future. He asked if Council wanted to do part this year, or wait until next year when perhaps we can do it all. Decorating the lights would cost about \$1500.00 and funds could come from the bike path.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

Council President Pro-Tempore O'Neill asked Council's opinion.

All Council members present were in favor of spending the \$1500.00 this year.

Mayor Chau added that he always likes decorations!

Councilman Dewees advised that in addition, we have three to four light poles that need to be replaced; they were all close to 20 years old. He cannot find an exact duplicate, but new lights would be similar. The cost was around \$15,000.00 for the three, he was recommending we wait until next year.

Councilman Perri asked if any were insurance related.

Councilman Dewees replied that he was not certain, one may have been but it was a long time ago.

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

Councilman Smith had no committee report, but wanted to make a statement about volunteers. He commended Northfield Mothers' League for extending their "Soup and Cookies" this past weekend to those around town, there were quite a few residents, who may have needed a little pick me up. He commended Northfield Mothers' League for what they do.

Councilwoman Madden – Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden reported that the Mainland Regional High School Board of Education Meeting was scheduled for last Monday, but when she went there was no meeting; this had happened before. She requested that she be contacted if a meeting was canceled in the future. She would also miss next Friday's safety meeting, but she would touch base with Safety Coordinator Shannon Campbell to find out what she would miss.

Council President Lischin - Fire Department/EMS, Cultural Committee

Council President Lischin was absent.

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

Council President Pro-Tempore O'Neill reported that FAN had a great year with football and basketball would be starting very shortly. He thanked Councilman Perri for his team's efforts in closing the buildings.

MAYOR'S REPORT

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

Mayor Chau agreed with Councilman Perri's earlier comment about the Senior Meeting having been very well attended. He hoped the Governor would be addressing vaping. He reported that Labor Counsel advised that the PBA had requested another contract negotiation meeting. He would like to conclude finalizing Chief Newman's contract before the end of the year. He congratulated Chief Newman on reaching their Shop-With-A-Cop goal. He asked Chief Newman to speak.

Chief Newman advised that Shop-With-A-Cop was part of the Egg Harbor Township Police Athletic League. The cost was \$111.00 per child, and was for the benefit of kids who, for various reasons, needed support at Christmas. Various Police Departments meet, and they have a breakfast for the kids and caravan to Wal-Mart where they "shop with a cop". It was very rewarding for those who participated and there were always plenty of volunteers.

Mayor Chau thanked Chief Newman. Mayor Chau attended the Cultural Committee's Flea Market at the Community School, and from there went to the Library for their cultural event. He congratulated the Library for their very successful event. He reminded all about tree lighting; Mayor Chau would be out of town and Councilwoman Korngut would be standing in for him. He thanked her. He reminded all about the holiday light contest, he thanked the very generous businesses in town who have donated prizes.

Council President Pro-Tempore O'Neill asked how we were doing with the hiring of the Class II.

Mayor Chau replied that a candidate had been identified; he asked Chief Newman for an update.

Chief Newman advised that the background check was in the works, he would present with recommendation, hopefully, at the next Council meeting.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. He announced that tomorrow we had South Jersey Gas in court for the violations on Broad Street; he would report back at the next meeting. He was trying to close out remaining paving projects by the end of the year with final change orders, etc. by the next meeting. The Department of Public Works contacted him today regarding the sewer system cameras; they are ready to be delivered by next week and Engineer Nassar was working with them on getting the camera in operation in the next few weeks.

Council President Pro-Tempore O'Neill asked Engineer Nassar his opinion on the Mill Road project.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

Engineer Nassar replied it was ok; there were a few issues with the castings, where paving created a high issue. The County was working on that. It was a county project though and we don't have say in the quality of the work.

Councilman Dewees added that the County aware of the manholes, the project was not closed out yet.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Pro-Tempore O'Neill opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any subject. Seeing no one wishing to speak Council President Pro-Tempore O'Neill closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS

Solicitor Facenda announced that he would read Resolution 236-2019 into the record after the motion was made and seconded.

On a motion of Councilwoman Korngut, seconded by Councilman Smith, all present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 230-2019 through 233-2019 and Resolutions 235-2019 through 236-2019 by consent agenda.

- 230-2019** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers, LLC, to Proceed with Engineering Services for the Project Known as the 2020 Local Road Paving Project
- 231-2019** Award of Contract for General Repairs and Construction of Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Facilities
- 232-2019** Authorization to Hire Part Time Construction Official
- 233-2019** Authorization to Hire Part Time Building Inspector
- 235-2019** A Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the New Jersey Citizen Participation Plan
- 236-2019** 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) – Contract Negotiations

Solicitor Facenda read the following into the record:

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD, NJ
RESOLUTION NO. 236-2019**

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

**NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7) –
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Northfield is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-12 provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Common Council of the City of Northfield to discuss in a session not open to the public contractual negotiations pertaining to an Agreement for Shared Municipal Court Services with the Township of Egg Harbor, and matters that fall within the attorney client privilege related thereto.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Northfield that Council move into Executive Session, closed to the public.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be released when a decision with respect to the matter has been made and all rights to litigate or appeal are exhausted; provided, that material entitled to Court protection or subject to attorney-client privilege shall not be disclosed.

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 Northfield, held this 26th day of November, 2019.

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 230-2019 through 233-2019 and Resolutions 235-2019 through 236-2019.

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

ORDINANCE

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, to introduce Ordinance 14-2019, to be read by title only.

14-2019 Amending Chapter 61 of the City of Northfield Municipal Code, Entitled “Police Department”
Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 11/30/2019

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 12/17/2019

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 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. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – absent; Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 876,609.86

Councilwoman Madden motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, for payment of bills.

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

Council President Pro-Tempore O’Neill read the meeting notices and announced the Executive Session for Resolution 236-2019.

236-2019 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) – Contract Negotiations

Municipal Clerk Canesi read Resolution 236-2019 by title and deferred to Solicitor Facenda for further comment.

Solicitor Facenda stated that Resolution 236-2019 was in regard to continued negotiation regarding a shared service agreement for the municipal court. The Resolution was not on the agenda because the attorneys for two towns became aware of some issues that needed to be discussed by Council after the agenda was published. Minutes would 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. No employees would be discussed so RICE Notices had not been issued. It was unknown if any action would be taken this evening. Council would return with public comment for the record.

At 8:03pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office.

At 8:41pm Council returned to Council Chambers, and resumed the Regular Meeting.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. Matters discussed were contractual negotiations concerning a shared court with Egg Harbor Township. 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 taken this evening.

At 8:42pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Perri, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk