

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2024**

At 6:10pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 6, 2024, and in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Chau led the flag salute followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Polistina; Council President Pro Tempore Dewees.

Absent: Councilman Smith

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Mauro, and Chief of Police VonColln were also present.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Councilwoman Bucci with a second by Councilman Notaro all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of November 26, 2024, without formal reading.

RESOLUTION

237-2024 Acknowledging Municipal Council Vacancy Due to the Resignation of Councilman 2nd Ward Eric Leeds

Councilwoman Carfagno motioned, Councilman Polistina seconded, to adopt Resolution 237-2024.

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

NOMINATIONS TO FILL VACANCY ON COUNCIL

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees read the following statement: “Based on the vacancy in the second ward seat, the Republican County Committee has provided the members of Council with 3 names as nominees to fill the seat. The floor is now open for nominations from the Council to fill the 2nd Ward Council seat for the balance of the unexpired term.”

Councilwoman Bucci nominated Cindy Kern.

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees asked if there were any other nominations, seeing none, he closed the floor.

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RESOLUTION

Clerk Canesi announced that Cindy Kern's name will be inserted in the space designated for the name of the candidate on Resolution 238-2024.

238-2024 Appointment to Fill a Vacancy on Council

Councilwoman Carfagno motioned, Councilwoman Bucci seconded, to adopt Resolution 238-2024.

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

Clerk Canesi called for Cindy Kern to come forward for the administration of the official Oath of Office.

Mayor Chau administered the oath.

Clerk Canesi performed a final roll call, to include Councilwoman Kern.

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilwoman Kern; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Polistina; Council President Pro Tempore Dewees.

Absent: Councilman Smith

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau received correspondence from ACUA regarding recycling fees, he reviewed the fee schedule based on Northfield's tonnage, adding that for years Northfield had been a leader in the recycling effort; he urged all to keep up the good work. He read the Police Department report for November. He thanked all for their work and attendance at the Tree Lighting, it was great event.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Mauro reported the Little League field was mostly complete. There was a surplus of funding so the contractor spoke with Jason Yard about synthetic material for the pitcher's mound, there is a resolution on the agenda for the change order. Regarding the slip line repairs, there was a meeting to discuss the traffic control plan and the County Engineer was agreeable, they were able to make some changes, and it was under review now. In some areas it is unlikely that a police presence will be sufficient, the large costs are due to it being night work, they will rework the plan and there may or may not be a significant reduction. She reviewed their annual end of year report, adding that it was good working with everyone and getting to know them. She wished all happy holidays.

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Councilman Notaro asked for timeline on the Zion Road project.

Engineer Mauro replied it was under final review, she hoped by the end of the week. She would like to have it out to bid for longer than two weeks next time to attract more bidders.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees opened this meeting for any member of the public to speak on any topic.

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

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees 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, it 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 to the 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 Carfagno, seconded by Councilman Notaro, all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 239-2024 through 248-2024 by Consent Agenda.

- 239-2024** Acknowledging the Notice of Resignation of Charity Zentmeyer, Adult School Crossing Guard
- 240-2024** Authorization to Hire Substitute Adult School Crossing Guard
- 241-2024** Authorization to Hire Substitute Adult School Crossing Guard
- 242-2024** Authorization to Create Municipal Lien for Property Maintenance Costs
- 243-2024** Resolution Authorizing Cancellation and Refund of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 & N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 on Property Known as Block 157 Lot 26 (120 E. Oakcrest Avenue)
- 244-2024** Resolution Authorizing Cancellation and Refund of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 & N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 On Property Known as Block 77 Lot 24 (118 W. Revere Avenue)
- 245-2024** Participant’s Resolution for LEAP Implementation Grant
- 246-2024** Work Change Order No. 1 – Contract for Improvements to the Little League Baseball Field

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- 247-2024** Amending Minimum Age Requirements for the Position of Police Officer in the City of Northfield
- 248-2024** 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 Firefighters Association, Local No. 2364

Councilwoman Carfagno motioned, Councilman Notaro seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 632,510.05

Councilwoman Bucci motioned, Councilwoman Carfagno seconded, to approve payment of bills.

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

MEETING NOTICES

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees announced the Executive Session for resolution 248-2024.

- 248-2024** 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 Firefighters Association, Local No. 2364

Clerk Canesi read the resolution by title and announced that it had just been adopted as part of the Consent Agenda. Clerk Canesi stated that members of the public who were in attendance would need to exit Council Chambers during the Executive Session and were welcome to wait in the lobby if they chose. At the conclusion of the Executive Session of Council, the Council will resume the public portion of the meeting and welcome the return of members of the public. A statement would be made for the record at that time.

Clerk Canesi further stated that we are required to set forth as much information as

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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 deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed is a Memorandum of Agreement between the City and Fire Fighters Local 2364 potentially effective January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2028. 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 session when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement and possible official action.

At 6:32pm Council entered Executive Session and remained in Council Chambers.

At 6:49pm 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 pertained to a Memorandum of Agreement between the City and Fire Fighters Local 2364. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown. Official action would be taken this evening via resolution 249-2024.

249-2024 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Northfield and International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2364 Effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2028, and Authorizing Execution of a Final Agreement Consistent with Same

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

At 6:52pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk