

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2018**

At 6:26pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 13, 2018, 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: Korngut, Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline, Dewees

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Travagline, second of Councilman Murray, all present were in favor of approving the minutes of the meetings of November 27, 2018, without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Council President Dewees advised that he would hold off on the presentation of awards for the light contest winners until 6:45pm and called for committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri - Sewer Inter Local, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri reported that the Planning Board had two approvals, one for a minor subdivision and another for a "D" variance. The senior event was held last week and was very nice. He offered condolences to Bob Burns' family.

Councilman O'Neill - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Court/Violations, Chamber of Commerce, Little League/Babe Ruth, Traffic Safety, Green Team Advisory Board

Councilman O'Neill thanked Councilman Travagline for his service; they had been friends although they've disagreed. They had done some great things for the City together. He also thanked Councilman Murray noting it was great working and coaching with him, they too had done a lot of great things. He again thanked them both for their service.

Councilman O'Neill reported that Mike Dattalo was doing a great job downstairs, he brought people to court when needed. The housing complex was moving along, 3 buildings are up and the clubhouse was underway. He wanted to find out what we

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were doing with regard to police staffing, especially with all of the new people coming to town. He reported that the court was doing well and that baseball would be having a fundraiser soon, details to follow.

Councilwoman Korngut – Library, Municipal Alliance, Economic Development, Shared Services

Councilwoman Korngut reported that the Library had a board meeting last week, and reviewed their 2019 budget. It looked to be about a 2% increase; they agreed to wait until the next meeting to finalize. She thanked Council President Dewees and or Kathi Smith for the prompt installation of deadbolts at the library, as requested at the last meeting.

Councilman Travagline – Insurance and Safety, Northfield School, FAN; Shared Services

Councilman Travagline had nothing to report, but thanked all of the residents of Northfield. He's lived here for 18 years and has loved every minute of it. He grew up in Margate and didn't think much about the other side of the bay. He has made a lot of friends here. He thanked members of Council and the Mayors: Mayors Mazzeo, O'Neill, McGee and Chau. He thanked the residents for their support. When he came on Council, the market was on a major downswing, hoped he and other members of Council had made a positive change. He believed in term limits and welcomed change, he welcomed Councilman Smith and hoped some major things could be accomplished

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

Councilman Murray thanked the citizens, and the employees. They work hard and they were committed. He wished everyone the best of luck.

Council President Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans' Park, 1st Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering

Council President Dewees, to Councilman Perri, advised that Public Works did go over and clean the gutters at the Library, as requested at the last meeting. He thanked Councilmen Murray and Travagline for their hard work, and said it was a pleasure working with them.

Councilman Lischin – Fire Department/EMS, Technology/MRHS Channel 2, Cultural Committee, Green Team Advisory

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Councilman Lischin thanked Councilmen Travagline, Murray and former Councilwoman Brown for all of their hard work. He noted that we have lost revenue year after year and haven't seen the flow stop yet; we are only 35 % of the budget.

Councilman Lischin reported that the Fire Department calls for November included: 2 total fire incidents, 6 false alarm calls, 4 good intent calls, 2 hazardous condition calls and 5 EMS 1st responder incidents; for a total of 19 dispatched incidents.

TriCare had a total of 132 dispatches, 143 calls with patients, 80 transports, 20 mutual aid calls to EHT and did not administer any Narcan.

Councilman Lischin then thanked the Mainland Channel and videographer Riley Murray.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau thanked Councilmen Murray and Travagline for their outstanding service, it takes a lot of time away from your family and it's not easy. They had both worked hard to make Northfield a better place. He read the monthly emergency management report, which included no incidents. The Fire Department had a great drill that involved training on missing persons, using the facilities at Birch Grove Park; it was very successful. Mayor Chau thanked Norm Zlotnick, Planning Board Solicitor, who was retiring. He had done an outstanding job for the City. This month, Mayor Chau established a committee with Linwood's Mayor DePamphilis, together they interviewed 4 applicants and a selection was made to reappointing Judge Maguire. He also has a practice here in Northfield. He would also be appointing new Library Board members and Planning Board members.

Councilwoman Korngut wanted to acknowledge the NCS choir, led by Mrs. McGrath, and the Northfield Mothers' League, and others, who made the Tree Lighting really amazing. She and Mayor Chau also attended a presentation of a \$2,000 check by Dunkin' Donuts to the Toys for Tots program, which this year benefitted 1,400 families and several charities in Atlantic County.

Councilman O'Neill asked Mayor Chau for an update on police staffing.

Mayor Chau replied there were 21 officers and 1 class II, cannot comment on any officers who may be on sick leave.

Councilman Perri asked for elaboration on the Safe and Secure grant; do we have to pay for the benefits, etc.

Police Chief Newman responded that this was not a new grant, have had it for a while; it covered personnel.

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Council President Dewees announced that we will now announce the winners of the Mayor's Holiday Light Contest.

Mayor Chau noted that this was the 3rd year for the Holiday Lighting Contest, and we had a fantastic turnout. There were more participants this year as well. He hoped residents had taken the time to view these homes. He thanked the judges, who went out over the course of two nights to judge the contest. He also recognized the sponsors, adding that the support was a wonderful response: Ventura's, Dunkin' Donuts, Bootleggers, Capri, Gerber Insurance, Chico's, Nick's, AAA, Stir It Up, Christine's, Primo, PJ's Car Wash, Sack O' Subs, Mazzeo's and Carluccio's. He extended appreciation to all of these businesses for donating the prizes.

Deputy Clerk Shannon Campbell announced the following winners:

Clark Griswold category: The Ludwig Family, 1st Place; The Santori Family, 2nd Place; The Wineland Family, 3rd Place; The Cembrale Family and the Albert Family received honorable mention.

Norman Rockwell category: The DeRosa Family, 1st Place; The Garman & Parker Family, 2nd Place; The Horwitz Family, 3rd Place; The Perri Family, The Geubtner Family, The Michel/Taylor Family, The Rinker Family, The Dreager Family, The Welsh Family, The Dagen/Bakley Family and The Desantis Family received honorable mention.

Themed category: The Simpson Family, 1st Place; The Marshall Family, 2nd Place; The Wilson Family, 3rd Place; The Previti Family, The Werber Family, The Fresh Family and The Henry Family received honorable mention.

Winners in attendance to receive their awards this evening included the Ludwig Family, the Simpson Family and the Marshall Family.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the engineer's report as previously provided to Council. South Jersey Gas was doing work upgrading a main, on Cedar Bridge, they had some night work, and then they moved on, but now they have to come back. They would do the work during Christmas break, and when school was in session only between 9am and 2pm. They are working every night along route 9 to finish the main. The contractor started doing work on the Davis Avenue pump; bypass pumping would start the 1st or 2nd week in January as a trial run, major equipment would be delivered to the site in February. The job should be finished in March; the work was coming along on schedule. Cresson Avenue would be paved if weather holds, between Christmas and the New Year.

Councilman O'Neill reported that he received a request from a resident of Cedar Bridge about areas that were not backfilled, and reported that someone had fallen.

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Engineer Nassar replied that there were issues with a sink hole, he asked Councilman O'Neill to let him know so he could bring the contractor back to have them filled.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Dewees opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any subject.

Brian Smith, 104 Catherine Place – thanked Councilmen Murray and Travagline for their years of service and their support in the recent election.

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

RESOLUTIONS

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 of funds 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.

Solicitor Facenda announced the addition of Resolution 218-2018 and read the full Resolution into the record:

RESOLUTION NO. 218-2018 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 Pending Litigation in the Matter of William Ward V. City of Northfield and Paul Newman, Police Chief of the City of Northfield

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 certain matters relating to a lawsuit filed in

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Atlantic County Superior Court by William Ward against the City of Northfield and Police Chief Paul Newman; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this meeting is to provide a status update to the Common Council of the City of Northfield with regard to the lawsuit.

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.

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 Councilwoman Korngut, second of Councilman Perri, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 207-2018 through 218-2018.

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| 207-2018 | A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Timothy Maguire as the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Northfield |
| 208-2018 | Acknowledging Retirement of Adult School Crossing Guard Supervisor |
| 209-2018 | Memorialize Promotion of Regular Adult School Crossing Guard |
| 210-2018 | Separation of Employment for Part Time Technical Assistant to the Construction Official |
| 211-2018 | 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 175 Lot 6 |
| 212-2018 | 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 108 Lot 50 |
| 213-2018 | Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes |
| 214-2018 | A Resolution Approving Participation with the State of New Jersey Federal Grant Program Administered by the Division of Criminal Justice, Department of Law and Public Safety |
| 215-2018 | A Resolution Extending Term of a Contract with Tri-Care Medical Transportation for Shared Emergency Medical Services in the City of Linwood and the City of Northfield |
| 216-2018 | To Accept Land Sale Bid for Block 115, Lot 10 and to Reject Land Sale Bid for Block 67, Lots 9 and 10 |

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217-2018 A Resolution Authorizing a Second Amended Agreement for Shared Municipal Court for the Municipalities of the City of Northfield and the City of Linwood

218-2018 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 Pending Litigation in the Matter of William Ward v. City of Northfield and Paul Newman, Police Chief of the City of Northfield

Councilman O'Neill asked for the annual fee to Tri Care.

Councilman Lischin replied it was \$1,500.00 per month.

Councilman O'Neill thought it was a good operation, but thought we made a mistake; the internal rescue squad was doing a good job and we made a mistake in getting rid of them.

Councilman Travagline replied that he was here for the negotiations, the \$18,000.00 was money well spent; bringing them in house would be hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Councilman Lischin acknowledged Vicki Burke's contribution and wanted to thank her for everything she did.

Councilman Lischin, as to Tri Care, stated he had nothing bad to say, they've done a great job, they work well with the Fire Department, He recommended renewing.

Councilman Perri asked if there were any changes to the terms of the Tri Care agreement.

Solicitor Facenda replied there were no changes.

Councilman Perri believed one community has switched from Tri Care and gone to Egg Harbor Township; he was curious as to why.

Mayor Chau stated that he spoke with Somers Point, it was economics; it also moved a rig closer to Somers Point.

Councilman Perri asked for monthly reports we should be getting.

Councilman Lischin replied that he reads a report every month, did Councilman Perri want anything in particular.

Councilman Perri suggested response times as an example. He had heard of balance billing, and believed we would have to renegotiate in 12 months.

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Councilman O'Neill had heard the same, residents are getting a big bill and pursued for the debt.

Councilman Lischin did not believe Egg Harbor Township would provide us with better service, based on the number of mutual aid calls we provide to them.

Clerk Canesi confirmed that all were in favor of voting by consent agenda on 207-2018 through 218-2018.

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 207-2018 through 218-2018.

Councilman Perri recognized Debbi Doherty for her service to the community in so many ways.

Councilman O'Neill agreed with Councilman Perri.

Mayor Chau confirmed that Mrs. Doherty would be invited to the next council meeting.

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

Clerk Canesi announced that the clock won't likely be in for Mrs. Doherty at the next meeting, would likely be the meeting after.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 1,771,521.75

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman O'Neill seconded, for payment of bills.

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

Council President Dewees read the meeting notices then announced the Executive Session.

218-2018 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 Pending Litigation in the Matter of William Ward V. City of Northfield and Paul Newman, Police Chief of the City of Northfield

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title, and 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-

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public portion of the minutes can be disclosed. Clerk Canesi then deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed was a pending lawsuit filed in Superior Court by William Ward. The purpose was for JIF counsel to provide a status update and potential settlement discussions. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law.

At 7:08pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.

At 8:01pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. Matters discussed were the pending and continuing litigation between William Ward versus the City of Northfield and Paul Newman, Police Chief of the City of Northfield. Matters discussed were a potential settlement and the procedural status of the litigation. The minutes were kept but will not be released until the matter had concluded and they would be released when permitted by law.

At 8:02pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk