

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2014**

At 7:51pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2014, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Acting Mayor O'Neill. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chau, Dewees, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Acting Mayor Jim O'Neill, Solicitor Kris Facenda, Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski, and Chief Robert James were also in attendance.

NOMINATIONS

Council President Travagline opened the floor for nominations to fill the City Council vacancy in Ward 1.

Councilman Chau requested to address all the candidates prior to making his nomination. He stated they were all excellent and wished he could nominate each of them but knowing he couldn't, he thanked all the candidates again and nominated Dave Devine.

Councilman Perri nominated Paul Utts.

Councilman Perri nominated Lynn Perri.

Municipal Clerk Canesi advised Councilman Perri that he could not nominate two people. She requested that Councilman Perri clarify who he was nominating and he indicated he was nominating Paul Utts.

Council President Travagline, seeing no other nominations closed the floor.

Municipal Clerk Canesi provided an explanation of the plurality voting process.

Votes cast in the affirmative for Dave Devine: Chau, Dewees, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Vote cast in the affirmative for Paul Utts: Perri

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Councilman Chau motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded, to adopt Resolution 33-2014 with Dave Devine named as the appointee.

33-2014 Appointment to Fill a Vacancy on Council

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni - yes; Mr. Travagline –yes. Motion passes.

Council President Travagline called Dave Devine forward and asked who will be administering the oath.

Municipal Clerk Canesi administered the Oath of Office.

Dave Devine thanked everyone very much and took his seat at the dais.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chau, Devine, Dewees, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Council President Travagline opened the floor for nominations to the fill the City Council vacancy for Mayor.

Councilman Dewees nominated Jerry McGee.

Councilman Perri nominated Debbi Doherty.

Council President Travagline, seeing no other nominations closed the floor.

Votes cast in the affirmative for Jerry McGee: Chau, Devine, Dewees, Piergiovanni

Votes cast in the affirmative for Debbi Doherty: Perri, Travagline

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded, to adopt Resolution 34-2014 with Jerry McGee named as the appointee.

34-2014 Appointment to Fill a Vacancy in the Office of Mayor

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni - yes; Mr. Travagline –yes. Motion passes.

Municipal Clerk Canesi administered the Oath of Office.

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Mayor McGee thanked everyone who supported him and additionally thanked everyone who came out tonight to the meeting. He stated he will do the best job he can.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Piergiovanni to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 17, 2013 and January 7, 2014. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – abstain; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri congratulated all the nominees. He stated he knows they all have the City in their best interest and he looks forward to working with them.

Councilman O'Neill congratulated Councilman Devine and Mayor McGee. He stated he is looking forward to working with them. He noted the presence of the new Library Director and gave her accolades for her work on drawing new interest. He reported the IT issues will be discussed with Council President Travagline directly.

Councilman Piergiovanni congratulated Councilman Devine and Mayor McGee. He thanked all who volunteered and showed their willingness to serve the City of Northfield. He commended the Police Department and Fire Department, noting the rough start to the year, weather wise. They have all done a great job keeping us safe.

Councilman Dewees congratulated Councilman Devine and Mayor McGee. He shared that the drainage project that was recently approved has met some delays due to weather but they hope to get started soon. He thanked the Public Works Department for their excellent job with snow removal. He noted that it's a tough job due to obstacles. He thanked them again and noted there are more storms to come.

Council President Travagline asked if the City uses their website to notify residents of upcoming storms.

Municipal Clerk Canesi explained that storm notices, weather advisories, etc. are posted on the website and email blasted. She noted the alternate parking restrictions that are in place when roads are snow covered.

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Council President Travagline suggested adding information to the Police Department Facebook Page.

Councilman Devine thanked Council for their support.

Councilman Chau read the Fire Department report. He also reported that the Planning Board had one application requesting to exceed signage square footage. He reported that this was approved. He also shared that a committee has been formed on the Planning Board regarding review of illuminated commercial signage. He noted Resolutions 42-2014 and 47-2014 on this evening's agenda and explained the New Jersey American Water grant and reiterated the need for the Fire Department to get a new truck. He urged Council to support both resolutions.

Council President Travagline asked Acting Mayor O'Neill if he'd like to give an outgoing Mayor's report. Councilman O'Neill declined.

Municipal Clerk Canesi asked Councilman Devine and Mayor McGee to see her tomorrow to complete paperwork and go over housekeeping issues.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McGee shared that he is looking forward to working with everyone.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's written report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the Municipal Clerk's office. Dan Kwapinski of Schaffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers, LLC, was in attendance and available for questions. Engineer Kwapinski congratulated Mayor McGee and Councilman Devine and reviewed the highlights of his report.

Councilman O'Neill made a recommendation to include additional information on the Engineer's report. He stated he'd like the Engineer to include the project estimates, who got the award, current money spent and breakdown as to design and inspections.

Engineer Kwapinski stated that he would do so in the future.

Councilman Perri commented that where Haddon Avenue crosses Broad Street on both sides there is a split where a gap is opening up. He noted the project relates to 2012 Broad Street Phase One.

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Engineer Kwapinski stated he was unaware of the situation.

Council President Travagline asked Engineer Kwapinski to look at it and provide a report making sure that he copies both Councilmen Perri and Dewees.

Engineer Kwapinski noted that he attended the pre-construction meeting for the Maple Run Bridge, which is a County project. Work will start at the end of February or early March. He states that this will completely close the Maple Run Bridge.

Chief Robert James stated that he also attended the meeting and he looked at the detour plan.

Councilman O'Neill noted additional mark-outs and asked if sidewalks are going to be done, any additional paving and how far down will the project extend down Mill Road.

Engineer Kwapinski stated there are no sidewalks in the plan and the project extends approximately 100 feet down Mill Road.

Chief Robert James noted the detour will be at the intersection of Mill and Zion.

Councilman Dewees asked Chief James if he anticipates additional traffic on the side streets.

Chief Robert James confirmed that he does anticipate an increase in traffic. He stated that signage will announce that the bridge is out. There will be use of electronic signs hopefully by the end of February. He stated he will forward the traffic plan to Councilman Chau as the Chair for the Traffic Safety Committee.

Engineer Kwapinski stated that the construction should extend until the middle of May 2014.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject.

Paul McSorley, 614 Dolphin Avenue, stated he has lived in Northfield for the last 11 years; however he also grew up in Northfield. He added that he came to Council in 2008 to express dissatisfaction with the Atlantic County car wash. He stated that the barbed wire fence that was put up looked very bad and the only improvement he sees now might be a bit of grass. He believed that, according to zoning, commercial

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properties require landscaping improvements. He added that recently over 100 trees were removed and replaced by 40 Leyland Cyprus trees. He stated that he was told by the workers it was to improve the noise barrier. He asked what can be done to improve the conditions in this very unsightly area.

Council President Travagline stated he has seen the area and agrees with Mr. McSorley. He added that he also noticed a lack of adequate lighting. He stated that he will reach out to the County on Mr. McSorley's behalf. He suggested a petition that he could take to the County along with a letter from Mayor and Council.

Councilman Chau noted that County facilities are part of Northfield. He asked if the City has jurisdiction over the County cutting down trees? He also noted that Northfield does have a tree ordinance.

Councilman Dewees urged getting the Planning Board involved.

Councilman Chau suggested a letter to County Executive Levinson, possibly a cease and desist order.

Council President Travagline suggested that Councilman Chau spearhead the project since he is on the Planning Board.

Councilman Dewees suggested that this is possibly a code enforcement issue as well.

Lynn Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, asked about the trees that were removed near the church.

Councilman Chau stated that he believes proper approvals were obtained.

Councilman Dewees noted that the site improvements that require clearing may also require replanting of replacement trees.

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

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

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matter. Any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds.

Councilman Chau motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded to vote by Consent Agenda on Resolutions 35-2014 through 45-2014 and 47-2014.

- 35-2014** Final Work Change Order No. 1 – Drainage Improvements on Roosevelt Avenue
- 36-2014** Authorizing Release of Inspection Escrow Block 95 Lot 16
- 37-2014** Appointment of Special Conflict Prosecutor Limited to State of New Jersey v. F. Paula Castoran – Docket Nos. SC-2012-004371 and SC-2012-004372
- 38-2014** Final Change Order No. 1 – Reconstruction of Broad Street Phase I
- 39-2014** To authorize Family Association of Northfield, Inc. as the Entity Responsible for the Administration of the Golf Sporting Program within the City of Northfield
- 40-2014** To Confirm the Appointment of Robert L. James to the Position of Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
- 41-2014** Municipal Emergency Management Team Volunteer Appointments
- 42-2014** A Resolution Authorizing the Northfield Fire Department to Apply for and Obtain a Grant from the New Jersey American Water Company
- 43-2014** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for The Remaining Improvements Required to Complete the Project Known as the Enclave at Shore Mill in the City of Northfield
- 44-2014** Acceptance of The LOSAP Point System and Qualifiers for Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Co. #1
- 45-2014** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for Drainage Improvements in the Areas of Broad Street and Fuae Avenues in the City of Northfield

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47-2014 Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Advertisement for Bids for the Purchase of a Triple Combination Pumper Fire Truck Apparatus

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

Councilman Chau motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda for Resolutions 35-2014 through 45-2014 and 47-2014.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

ORDINANCES

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to introduce Ordinance 1-2014, to be read by title only.

1-2014 Ordinance Providing for and Establishing Salary Ranges of Officers and Employees of the City of Northfield and Repealing All Ordinances Heretofore Adopted, the Provisions of Which are Inconsistent Herewith
*Introduction/No Public Input/ Published in the Press of AC 2/8/2014
2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 2/18/2014*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, announcing that there would be no public input on introduction. She provided the hearing and publication dates and noted that full copies of the Ordinance are presently posted on the City website, on the bulletin board at City Hall, and are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Chau motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 1,513,394.25.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

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Councilman O'Neill read the meeting notices.

Council President Travagline reiterated the dates and times of the upcoming budget meetings at 5:00 pm on February 13th, 20th, and 27th.

At 8:40pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk