

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

At 9:14pm, 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 Mayor McGee. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chau, Devine, Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Mayor Jerry McGee, Solicitor Kris Facenda, Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski, and Acting Captain Dan Mitchell were also in attendance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri stated that we've talked about insurance and we've talked about the inter-local but he'd like to report that the Seniors Committee has met and we are putting some programs together for the year. He also noted the passing of John Miller, a longtime Northfield businessman who was instrumental in supporting the Northfield Rescue Squad and Fire Department through the years. He offered condolences to the family.

Councilman O'Neill shared that he is scheduling two shared services meetings, one with Linwood and the other with Somers Point. He will advise the Mayor if he will be meeting about the shared Chief of Police.

Councilman Piergiovanni noted the destruction of the storage shed at Veterans' Park due to a recent wind storm. He announced that the Veterans' Park Committee will be meeting on February 25, 2014 to discuss future development. He added he would like to undertake initiatives to improve the business climate in Northfield.

Councilman Dewees stated that the Birch Grove Park drainage project should start tomorrow and should last 30 days.

Councilman Devine stated he attended the Mainland Regional High School Board of Education agenda meeting. He reported they discussed the back-up server and the hiring of a police officer for the school, as well as a back-up plan for the children who are left behind and not picked up after school.

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Councilman Chau read the EMS report. He reported his attendance at the Cultural Committee meeting and noted they will be having their annual garage sale on March 29, 2014. They also discussed that there is no local nearby cable service for the museum. Councilman Chau contacted Comcast on their behalf and they initiated a Comcast work order to determine feasibility. He noted that the Cultural Committee may have to bear some cost. He also shared that Comcast has not made a firm decision regarding the closure of the Northfield Comcast office.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McGee reported that he spent his first week familiarizing himself with the City departments and acquainting himself with the City's procedures. He noted that he met with Councilman Perri and Council President Travagline regarding insurance. He will attend the Mayors' Association meeting in the near future and will report back.

Councilman Chau added that Friday, February 21, 2014 is the meeting date for the Atlantic County League of Municipalities and extended an invitation to all.

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 noted the potential cost sharing proposal with New Jersey American Water, as discussed earlier.

Council President Travagline asked about Oxford Circle, and Amherst Avenue into Steelman Avenue. He asked if we have gotten the partitions.

Engineer Kwapinski stated that Chief James was checking with the County and he added that since the project is being postponed we will be able to see the traffic patterns over the summer.

Council President Travagline asked Engineer Kwapinski to bring Councilman Chau, as the Traffic Safety liaison, up to speed.

Councilman Chau asked if the objective is to slow traffic or redirect the traffic.

Council President Travagline clarified that from the east side of Oxford Avenue it would be to slow traffic and from the other way, it would be to redirect traffic.

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Councilman Dewees asked if there will be a permanent repair on Burton Avenue in front of the Fire Station.

Council President Travagline stated it will be discussed at the March 11, 2014 Council meeting.

Engineer Kwapinski asked if he could have the stormwater repair contractor go out and make the repair.

Council President Travagline asked Engineer Kwapinski to make a recommendation for two or three.

Engineer Kwapinski shared that on East Revere Avenue, they did not do a final restoration from last year. He reported they are proposing paving one-half width on the first 450 feet. He asked Council if they wanted them to hold up and give us the money instead of paving, since that area is on the 2014 paving list.

Solicitor Facenda reiterated his prior concerns about needing an agreement.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Lynn Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, stated no offense to Councilman Piergiovanni, but she believed it was a slap in the face to Mayor McGee that a County or State liaison is being created. She added she doesn't think the Committee is needed.

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 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 in public session to make a comment for the record after the executive session. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

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Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to vote by Consent Agenda on Resolutions 48-2014 through 53-2014.

- 48-2014** To Temporarily Waive the Insurance Requirement for Cultural Committee Events for the 2014 Summer Concert Series
- 49-2014** Refund of Overpayment of 2013 Taxes
- 50-2014** Establishing the Easter Egg Hunt at Birch Grove Park as a City Event Sponsored by the Northfield Mothers' League
- 51-2014** Request to the County of Atlantic to Use County Roads for Parades and Other Functions
- 52-2014** Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2014 – June 2019
- 53-2014** 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 an Employment Agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief

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 O'Neill motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, to adopt by Consent Agenda for Resolutions 48-2014 through 53-2014.

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

Council President Travagline announced Ordinance 1-2014.

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman Devine seconded, to adopt 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

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Ordinances Heretofore Adopted, the Provisions of Which are
Inconsistent Herewith
Introduction/No Public Input/ Published in the Press of AC 2/8/2014

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that since introduction, the full ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies have been available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Council President Travagline opened the public hearing. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak on Ordinance 1-2014, he closed the public hearing.

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 Perri motioned, Councilman Devine seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 2,757,675.07.

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 O’Neill read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS OF COUNCIL

Council President Travagline announced that Council will be entering an Executive Session and the resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

53-2014 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 an Employment Agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released. She also stated that Crooks had been issued and has signed a Rice Notice.

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Solicitor Facenda stated the substance of the discussion will center on continued negotiations between the City of Northfield and Assistant Chief Lauren Crooks. He stated that it was not anticipated that the matter would be resolved nor would official action be taken this evening. Once that agreement is memorialized the minutes of the Executive Session will become public.

Municipal Clerk Canesi stated that Mayor and Council will be adjourning to the Municipal Clerk's office but will return to public session.

At 9:43pm, Council left the dais and entered the Clerk's office.

At 10:15pm, the Executive Session was adjourned and the regular meeting of Council resumed in Council Chambers. Solicitor Facenda announced a summary for the record as follows: Council discussed continuing negotiations, terms and conditions of the contract and a potential agreement. The negotiations will continue and if and when an agreement is made the agreement and minutes will be disclosed.

At 10:16pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk