

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

At 7:25pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on February 14, 2015 in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

**ROLL CALL** Present: Dewees, Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Kris Facenda and Engineer Dan Kwapinski were also in attendance.

Council President Travagline welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman O'Neill, seconded by Councilman Perri to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 10, 2015, February 12, 2015 and February 19, 2015. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Councilman Perri**

Insurance and Safety, Sewer Inter Local, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri stated that he attended the JIF Excess Liability seminar last night and it was very informative. All is well with the sewer inter local. The Planning Board March 5<sup>th</sup> agenda includes a cell tower and the Arthur Henry property. Plans for a senior meeting are still ongoing.

**Councilman O'Neill**

Fire Department/EMS, Court/Violations, FAN, Library, Economic Development, Shared Services

Councilman O'Neill stated that Shore Medical has a new contractor for EMS. There will not be any change in service to the City. He has reached out to Assistant Fire Chief Crooks to coordinate a site orientation for the employees. Elections for FAN

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

are coming up. Councilman O'Neill will speak with Facilities Supervisor Kathi Smith in regards to issues with the library. The Economic Development Committee would like to do a pre-summer event and he will be meeting with them to review their plans. He will inform council on what the Committee decides to make sure there are no issues. A shared service meeting with Somers Point and Pleasantville will be coming up.

**Councilman Piergiovanni**

Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance

No report.

**Councilman Dewees**

Buildings/Grounds, Birch Grove, Public Works, Little League/Babe Ruth, Northfield School

Councilman Dewees asked Council President Travagline for the phone numbers of volunteers interested in helping at Veteran's Park.

**Councilman Murray**

Finance/Collections, Inspections/Engineering, Veterans Park, County/State

Councilman Murray announced that there will be a budget meeting tomorrow night at 5pm. Council is working hard trying to keep the tax increase as low as possible while keeping City services intact. He thanked Council and CFO Dawn Stollenwerk for their hard work. He referred back to the Engineer's report in regards to the Veterans Park which shows a final rendition of the park and stated that Councilman Perri will be taking it to the Planning Board for final approval. The Engineer will be filing the soil conservation permit for approval.

**Councilman Lischin**

Technology, Cultural Committee, Mainland Regional, Green Team

Councilman Lischin thanked Detective Sergeant Dettinger for his presentation.

**Council President Travagline**

Council President Travagline wished Chief Hickey well, he appreciated his service and hopes he enjoys retirement. Last week, he met with the NJDOT and the City Engineer about some exciting plans for Northfield that include Tilton Road and the bike path. Council President Travagline is pushing for sidewalks on Mill Road and Zion Road. The whole reason he ran for Council was to get sidewalks, he thanked Engineer Kwapinski, and stated the City should be able to get them with grants, hopefully in the next 3-5 years.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau has asked the Clerk to place a flyer in the folders for all of Council with regard to a solar energy provider. He thanked Detective Sergeant Dettinger for coming and for his presentation. He also thanked Chief Colin Hickey for his guidance and support. Mayor Chau read the following:

Council President and City Council Members: Tonight, I have placed on your agenda for your consideration Resolution 54-2015. This resolution is my recommendation to City Council that we appoint Acting Captain Paul Newman to the position of Northfield Acting Police Chief. If approved, this will result in the ending of our shared service Police Chief Agreement with the City of Linwood. Acting Captain Newman will assume the position as our Acting Police Chief effective upon the retirement date of Chief Colin Hickey.

My decision to move in this direction was not taken lightly. I have spent many hours researching, interviewing various sectors of City Government officials, members of our police department and other municipal police departments, PBA Local #77, and many of our Northfield residents.

As local, county and state budgets have tightened, the idea of consolidating, merging, or sharing municipal services has become a focus of interest to many elected government officials. There are definite benefits in these cost saving ventures. However, a successful shared service can be a complex process. Our municipalities have unique cultures, policies, and procedures. Moreover, efforts to consolidate merge or share services may have profound effects - both good and bad- on the employees and municipality as a whole.

There is a perception that consolidated government services will be more efficient (services delivered at less cost) than will separate City government. However, this may only be a perception. Documents that have been presented to me have shown that this has not been demonstrated or verified empirically.

I feel I was elected on a platform of public safety and I want to focus on addressing the issues taking place in our City. I would like have a Northfield Police chief who will be able to focus on a full time basis the growing public safety issues that are taking place in this community. We need a Police Chief who will be able to give his full attention, time and leadership to the members of our Police Department. I have heard and seen our Police department members beg for this consideration.

Some services are easy to merge, and some are not. At this time, I feel that to continue to have a shared Police Chief would not benefit our Police Department and the City of Northfield at this time. Perhaps some time in the future, these ideas and

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

other possible shared services models may become more realistic and beneficial for Northfield.

Gentlemen, I urge all of you to consider my words and vote to support this resolution.

Councilman O'Neill thanked Mayor Chau for allowing City Council to participate in these discussions and he has been provided a lot of detailed information. He stated most of the public thought we saved money with the shared service and after looking at legal, grants, overtime and revenue, there were no savings.

Mayor Chau thanked Councilman O'Neill and Council for their help in making this decision. He stated that until you find out what is happening to the infrastructure from having this type of service, it is not necessarily in the best interest of the residents or the department.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Kwapinski referred to presentation being made by the bicycle and pedestrian grant group at an upcoming meeting. The group is also looking at the Oxford Circle area, which Council has also looked at previously. He noted that the number in the Community Block Development grant is \$20,000.00 less than his application included, if that is not a mistake then the project will have to be reduced.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Art Faden, 6 Raina Drive, - commended Mayor Chau and Council for having a great open dialogue with the Police Department over the past few weeks, he realized no decision had been made, but believed that if this proposal was passed it would be the best thing that has happened to this town in years. He thanked Chau, Councilmen O'Neill, Dewees, and Council President Travagline individually. He stated that as a former Police Executive from this department he was glad that the Council opened their eyes and ears and listened. He hoped that Northfield will become safer as it is moving in the right direction. He has known Paul for years and Council cannot be making a better choice.

Jerry McGee, 1620 Zion Road, - stated he understood where Mayor Chau was going with this, but also understood that if there were zero savings that we will incur debt by bringing a Chief into town. He felt we were abandoning something that should be moved forward on. He stated we are not saving in overtime. Council should move

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

forward with consolidation. He said he understood the Police Department's outlook, but if you want something to work you can make it work.

Lisa Brown, 9 Haviv Drive – stated she was on Council when the City decided to share the Chief with Linwood. She thought it was a good idea at the time and thought it would save a lot of money. She has watched the data for years and it does not save any money. The Police and Council have started to work together for the first time in many years and it is becoming a shared responsibility between the Police, Council and the residents. She thanked everyone for their hard work.

Dennis Gitsas, 227 East Rosedale Avenue, - commended Mayor Chau for taking the position he is taking, he is not in favor of a shared Chief. Mr. Gitsas said his family's safety is not worth it. The department needs to be whole again. He stated he has known Paul Newman and has complete faith in him. Paul knows the town like the back of his hand.

Mayor Chau appreciated Mayor McGee's comments, he stated that we may not all agree, but we are all here to serve the people and make things better. Having a zero cost would be wonderful, but there are going to be ups and downs. Having a shared Chief was a brilliant idea and it does work in some cases, but it has not been proven to work in this situation. Mayor Chau referred to the fact that there is no longer a shared service Superintendent, it is no longer there because even though it saved money, it was not in the best interest of the residents, and most importantly, the students. Our Police Department is fractured; until it is whole it will not work. He encouraged all to vote affirmatively for the Resolution. He thanked all that have made comments.

Councilman O'Neill reiterated the offer to share his spreadsheet to former Mayor McGee or Mayor Mazzeo to show that this did not save money. The information he has is available to anyone who would like to see it.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak Council President Travagline 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 Sessions 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

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

record after the Executive Session. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded, to vote by consent agenda on Resolutions 54-2015

**54-2015** Appointment of Paul Newman as Acting Chief of Police for the City of Northfield

Councilman Perri stated he has not given up on shared service; it is not the job it is the person. He has the utmost respect for Paul Newman, but based on conversations he's had with Linwood, he's not willing to abandon the concept.

Council President Travagline said he can't speak for all of Council but he is not giving up on the concept, there are many factors, including the person, who is sharing with who, etc. Council had to look at the numbers and answer the tough questions. Council wants to move forward with a sound structured department, which is what they want and is what the citizens deserve. He appreciated all of the input from all parties, but in this situation it just did not work.

Councilman O'Neill stated that he is a small business owner with 20 employees, with an operations manager. He considered what would happen if his operations manager was only there a few days a week, and he realized there would be issues of productivity, customer service, etc., this is in the best interest of the town.

Council President Travagline agreed; must consider all areas that are affected.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – no; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Resolution 57-2015.

**57-2015** Authorization for the Mayor of the City of Northfield to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Mainland PBA Local No. 77 for the Purpose of Amending the January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2017 Contract

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – no; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – abstain Motion carries.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to vote by consent agenda on Resolutions 51-2015 through 53-2015 and 55-2015.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

- 51-2015** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities  
**52-2015** Authorization for Negotiated Settlement  
**53-2015** To Authorize the Sale of Surplus Property No Longer Needed for Public Use on an Online Auction Website  
**55-2015** Community Block Development Grant-Birch Grove ADA  
Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt by consent agenda on Resolutions 51-2015 through 53-2015 and 55-2015.

Councilman Perri abstained from Resolution 52-2015.

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

**ORDINANCES**

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded, to adopt Ordinance 4-2015.

- 4-2015** An Ordinance Granting Renewed Consent And Permission To South Jersey Gas Company To Use The Public Streets To Furnish Gas For Light, Heat And Power In The City Of Northfield  
*2nd Reading/7:00PM Public Hearing/Final Adoption  
Publication in the Press of AC 2/28/2015*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and announced the final publication date. This is the second reading and the matter will be considered for final adoption after a public hearing. 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 to any member of the public who requested same.

Council President Travagline opened the public hearing. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak on Ordinance 4-2015, he closed the public hearing.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries to adopt Ordinance 4-2015.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded, to adopt Ordinance 5-2015.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

- 5-2015**           An Ordinance Amending Chapter 43 and Chapter A376 of the Code of the City of Northfield  
*2nd Reading/7:30PM Public Hearing/Final Adoption  
Publication in the Press of AC 2/28/2015*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and announced the final publication date. This is the second reading and the matter will be considered for final adoption after a public hearing. 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 to any member of the public who requested same.

Council President Travagline opened the public hearing. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak on Ordinance 5-2015, he closed the public hearing.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries to adopt Ordinance 5-2015.

- 6-2015**           An 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 2/28/2015  
2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 3/10/2015*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the introduction, and there will be no public input. The public hearing date, and requisite publication dates were announced. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies will be 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; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 6-2015.

- 7-2015**           An Ordinance To Amend The Code Of The City Of Northfield By Adding A New Chapter 229 To Be Entitled Marriage And Civil Union Fees  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press of AC 2/28/2015*



**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

*2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 3/10/2015*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that this is the introduction, and there will be no public input. The public hearing date, and requisite publication dates were announced. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies will be 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; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 7-2015.

**8-2015** Amending Chapter A376-213 of the City of Northfield Municipal Code, Regarding Transitional (Alternative) Duty Assignments  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press of AC 2/28/2015  
2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 3/10/2015*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that this is the introduction, and there will be no public input. The public hearing date, and requisite publication dates were announced. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies will be 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; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 8-2015.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$2,061,890.15.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries for payment of bills.

Council President Travagline read the meeting notices.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

Paul Newman thanked everyone for their support.

All members wished him luck.

At 8:35pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk