

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 11, 2014**

At 7:33pm, 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 Chief Robert James were also in attendance.

Council President Travagline introduced Assemblyman Chris A. Brown.

Assemblyman Brown thanked Council and congratulated Mayor McGee. He stated that when he first joined the Legislature he introduced a bill that would require the State Legislature to adhere to the same requirements with regard to transparency as municipal governments. He stated that he supports the legislation. He offered to answer questions.

Councilman Chau asked about the prior legislation.

Assemblyman Brown stated it never made it out of Committee and never got past that stage. He added that now that municipalities have gained interest it is hoped that there will be more support.

Councilman Chau asked Assemblyman Brown his opinion as to why it didn't make it past Committee.

Assemblyman Brown stated he doesn't like to speak for others but feels that it is a case of do as I say, not as I do.

Councilman Chau asked why the legislators held themselves to a lesser standard.

Assemblyman Brown stated that this was not the first thing at the state level that did not make sense.

Councilman Piergiovanni asked what impact there would be if Northfield passed the Ordinance.

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Assemblyman Brown stated that it is known that his District supports it, but additional awareness will help the argument and may help it get out of Committee.

Councilman Perri asked if when the legislation was originally passed, they did not include themselves.

Assemblyman Brown stated that is correct.

Councilman Perri asked if there is some sort of automation in place that would make information easily accessible.

Assemblyman Brown stated whatever all of you have to do, they would have to do exactly the same thing.

Mayor McGee asked what is the main argument for excluding themselves?

Assemblyman Brown stated that no one has yet presented a cogent argument. He thanked Council for doing a great job on behalf of the citizens of Northfield and for the opportunity.

Council President Travagline thanked Assemblyman Brown.

**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 February 18, 2014 and February 20, 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 – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Perri read the following letter into the record.

Dear Mayor and Council:

It is our pleasure to report that the Northfield City has earned \$1,250.00 as a result of your outstanding performance in the 2013 ACMJIF Safety Incentive Program. The Safety Incentive Program is designed to foster a safety attitude among the ACM JIF members, change behaviors to create a safer work environment, as well as promote continuing efforts to "Change the Culture". The awards were announced at our annual

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Safety Kickoff Breakfast held on February 20, 2014 and are designed to recognize safety accomplishments in a variety of areas.

The Safety Incentive Program required the execution of the "Safety Contract" and the completion of various reports confirming compliance with JIF safety criteria. These reports were evaluated by the JIF Safety Director to determine your municipality's compliance with these criteria.

During 2013, members competed against a set of standards established by the Executive Safety Committee to determine their awards. The JIF members were sorted into five size categories (XS, S, M, L, XL) based upon their annual JIF Assessment. Each member competed against the established standards to determine if they either qualify or not (Pass or Fail) for a Safety Incentive Program Award.

Due to your employees' efforts, Northfield City has qualified (Passed!) for reimbursement of \$1,250.00 to be used for recognition of your employees' safety accomplishments.

We would also like to extend our CONGRATULATIONS to your Fund Commissioner, James Dickinson, your Safety Coordinator, Cindy Ruffo, your Claims Coordinator, Mary Canesi, and all your employees who played an important role in achieving these results. Their dedication to the principles of the JIF has enabled them to effectively communicate the Importance of the safety program and their continuing commitment to the safety of all employees. We ask that this letter be read at your next Council Meeting to acknowledge these efforts by your employees' and make these accomplishments part of the public record.

Guidelines on how to collect your award has been sent to your Safety Coordinator. You can find additional information about the JIF Safety Program, Polices, and Safety Incentive Program Criteria, as well as the presentation given during the - Safety Kickoff Breakfast, on the ACMJIF-website, [www.acmiif.org](http://www.acmiif.org).

I once again want to thank you for your Involvement and. congratulate you and everyone involved in the JIF safety program for making "Safety first In All We Say and Do".

Very truly yours,  
ATLANTIC COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

Councilman Perri congratulated the Safety Committee for doing a great job and for their hard work and noted it is a City wide effort on behalf of all employees. He added that he spoke with the Commander of American Legion Post 295 about starting the Sons of American Legion in Northfield. He stated he would like to start a campaign to help them. He asked that he be contacted and provided a copy of discharge papers if anyone has a son or grandson of a parent or grandparent who served. He noted the process is complicated but all interest is appreciated. He stated

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that he has had several insurance meetings to discuss the employee prescription co-pay plan and reported this is on-going. He shared that Senior Committee events will be planned for this month.

Councilman O'Neill thanked Municipal Clerk Canesi for help with the desktop audit for the XP situation but noted that he needs to confirm the Mayor's PC and then he will submit a list to the CFO, Mayor and Clerk. He reported that he had a shared service meeting with Northfield Community School, which Council President Travagline attended as well. He stated that he will send out notices to see if anyone else is interested in attending.

Councilman Piergiovanni referred to Mr. Robert Webb's comments about how frustrating it is that things take a long time. He shared in the frustration and stated that the Veterans' Park Committee just had their first meeting and noted the new shed is being donated by Bill Coulter but the delivery arrangements are pending. He noted that progress is being made on drainage swales. He added that he spoke to Ken Mosca regarding having electric service run for the irrigation system and flagpoles.

Councilman Dewees stated that the Birch Grove Park drainage project is underway and should be completed shortly. He also noted recent weather and construction related park closings. He stated the park is now once again open for business. He reported that he attended the Northfield Community School Board meeting and the curriculum deficit was discussed. He noted that corrections have been made and appropriate courses are being offered.

Council President Travagline asked if there were additional costs incurred.

Councilman Dewees answered no and added that adjustments were made at no cost to the taxpayers. He stated a total of ninety-one eighth graders were affected and it is the first time that it happened.

Councilman Devine stated he attended the emergency Mainland Regional High School Board of Education meeting where they discussed applying for a grant. After about five minutes they went into a closed session and he left the meeting.

Councilman Chau reported that the recent Planning Board meeting was canceled due to lack of applications. He stated he spoke to resident, Paul McSorley, who had attended a recent Council meeting and spoke about an area on Dolphin Avenue. He added that he agreed with Mr. McSorley that the area now looks rather barren. He stated that he will contact the County to see what can be done, aesthetically.

Councilman Perri stated that if the County had come before the Planning Board there would have been a requirement of a staggered tree buffer. He also noted they are exempt but encouraged Councilman Chau to suggest this to the County.

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Councilman Chau confirmed that the Fire Department does not perform any testing on the fire hydrants in Northfield. He clarified it is the responsibility of New Jersey American Water. He announced the annual spaghetti dinner tomorrow at the Northfield Community School, sponsored by the Northfield Mothers' League. He encouraged all to attend.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor McGee reported that he had a meeting with the Linwood Mayor regarding a shared Police Chief and to gather information on the possible merger of the Police departments. He stated he is working on an Ordinance for a shared Police Chief and is also working on amending the existing promotional Ordinance with Solicitor Facenda to eliminate some older language from 2006.

Councilman O'Neill stated he would like to have an Executive Session to discuss the direction the City is going with regard to the Chief of Police and shared Chief services.

Solicitor Facenda will confirm if there is or is not an exemption that would allow said discussion and will advise the Clerk accordingly.

**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 provided a general update on the Maple Run Bridge closure. He stated that he has submitted an application for the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) 2014. He stated that the Clerk was given a copy. He further added that there may be additional costs to raise inlet grates on the Broad Street paving project. He shared that he attended the Veterans' Park Committee meeting and presented a grading plan which was approved by the Committee. Engineer Kwapinski stated that Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers, LLC is donating their services to this project.

Council President Travagline commended Engineer Kwapinski for keeping Council updated on projects. He added that in the past there have been issues when additional costs have gone unreported.

Councilman O'Neill asked Engineer Kwapinski to thank the firm's owners for the donation of services.

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Councilman Perri asked for someone to obtain an update on the sidewalks for the Route 9 project.

Council President Travagline reported that the school has a document that indicates the project is going forward but due to storms and other issues, the project is about a year behind.

Engineer Kwapinski stated there are also delays due to right of way issues. He added the project is roughly from Banning Avenue to the Linwood border, approximately.

Councilman Perri asked if there are funding concerns with the right of way acquisitions.

Council President Travagline state he will meet with the Engineer and get a letter out.

Mayor McGee asked Councilman Devine to elaborate on a possible conflict with Matt Doran working in another town and something not being above board. He stated that the City may want to look at a shared service as an alternative.

Municipal Clerk Canesi noted that since the terms and conditions of employment of the individual are being discussed they would need to receive a Rice Notice and discussions should be handled appropriately.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject. Seeing no one wishing to speak, he 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.

Councilman Chau motioned, Councilman Devine seconded to vote by Consent Agenda on Resolutions 54-2014 through 59-2014.

**54-2014**        Release of Escrow Monies from the Planning Board

**55-2014**        To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities

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- 56-2014** A Resolution Establishing Salaries for Non Union Employees of the City of Northfield for 2014
- 57-2014** Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2014 –June 2019 – Amendment to Resolution 52-2014
- 58-2014** Resolution Calling Upon the New Jersey Legislature to Promote Equality and True Transparency in Government by Amending Provisions of the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A.47-1 et seq. so as to Remove the Exemptions that Apply to Members of the New Jersey Legislature
- 59-2014** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities

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 Devine seconded, to adopt by Consent Agenda for Resolutions 54-2014 through 59-2014.

Councilman Perri stated he will be voting on the consent agenda but no on 56-2014.

Roll call: Mr. Chau – yes; Mr. Devine – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri – No; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

Municipal Clerk Canesi confirmed that Councilman Perri was now voting no on the entire Consent Agenda.

Councilman Perri confirmed.

**ORDINANCES**

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni, to introduce Ordinance 2-2014, to be read by title only.

- 2-2014** Calendar Year 2014 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and To Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)  
*Introduction, No Public Input, Published in the Press of AC 3/15/2014*  
*2nd Reading, Public Hearing, Final Adoption 3/25/2014*

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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 O’Neill motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 408,613.68.

Councilman Perri asked Municipal Clerk Canesi about the insurance payment for the sewer truck.

Municipal Clerk Canesi stated she received full payment less the \$1,000.00 deductible.

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.

At 8:16pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk