

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

At 6:24pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi, who welcomed the audience. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 6, 2024, and in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Polistina; Councilman Smith*; Council President Leeds.

**Councilman Smith was present via the telephone.*

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Mauro, and Chief VonColln were also present.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Councilman Notaro with a second by Councilwoman Bucci, all members present, were in favor of approving the minutes of January 16, 2024, without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau read the Police Department report for January. He announced Council would be voting on the police contract tonight. The Diocese has been in contact with our Planner regarding their proposed project. Everyone received an email regarding Governor Murphy's recent vote on liquor licenses; two individuals had approached Mayor Chau with interest. He suggested Council should appoint someone to do the necessary research.

Council President Leeds announced that Solicitor Facenda would send out a summary of what needed to be done.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Mauro was working on grants for the park to include pickleball, etc; the grant deadline was February 27th. Regarding the USDA Grant, the City was working on getting financials. The City was looking to put a pole barn in the Public Works yard, Superintendent Vitale had asked for a geotechnical report so they would be working on that, and they will be working on updating the stormwater ordinances as well.

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Clerk Canesi noted that the authorization for the geotechnical report will be on the February 20th agenda.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Leeds opened this meeting for any member of the public to speak on any topic.

Seeing no one from the public or in Zoom wishing to speak the public session was closed.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Leeds read the following statement: “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 has concluded. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.”

On motion of Councilman Polistina, seconded by Councilwoman Carfagno all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 43-2024 through 50-2024 by Consent Agenda.

- 43-2024** Resolution to Hire Substitute Adult School Crossing Guard
- 44-2024** Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, County Of Atlantic, New Jersey Authorizing the Mayor and the Office Of Emergency Management Coordinator to Execute the Office of Emergency Management Memorandum of Understanding
- 45-2024** Authorizing DeBlasio and Associates Consulting Engineers and Planners to Proceed with Engineering Services for the Project known as FY2024 NJDCA Local Recreation Improvement Grant Application
- 46-2024** A Resolution Approving the Application for the Project known as “Recreation Improvements at Birch Grove Park” for the FY 2024 Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG)
- 47-2024** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – Mainland/Northfield Babe Ruth
- 48-2024** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – South Jersey Shore Baseball

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- 49-2024** Resolution of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, Opposing Assembly Bill No. 4/Senate Bill No. 50, Which Proposes to Overhaul the Fair Housing Act (“FHA”) in a Way that Imposes Unrealistic Obligations with Unrealistic Deadlines Based Upon Onerous Standards
- 50-2024** 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. 10:4-12b (4), Regarding Contract Negotiations between the City of Northfield and Mainland PBA Local No. 77

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilwoman Carfagno seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees-yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Motion carried.

ORDINANCE

Councilwoman Carfagno motioned; Councilman Dewees seconded to introduce Ordinance 2-2024.

- 2-2024** Calendar Year 2024 An 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 2/13/2024
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 2/20/2024*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication, public hearing, and final consideration dates. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Polistina– yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 4,600,127.84

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilwoman Bucci seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Polistina– yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Motion carried.

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MEETING NOTICES

Councilman Notaro read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

50-2024 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. 10:4-12b (4), Regarding Contract Negotiations between the City of Northfield and Mainland PBA Local No. 77

Clerk Canesi read the resolution by title and announced that it had just been adopted as part of the Consent Agenda. Clerk Canesi announced that members of the public who were in attendance in-person would need to exit Council Chambers during the Executive Session. For those participating via Zoom, the audio and video portions of the meeting would be paused. At the conclusion of the Executive Session of Council, the Council would resume the public session, including reactivating the audio and video for Zoom participants, and welcoming the return of the in-person public. A public statement would be made for the record at that time.

Clerk Canesi further 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-public portion of the minutes can be disclosed. She deferred to the Counsel for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed would be contractual negotiations between the City of Northfield and the Mainland PBA #77. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown. Council will remain in Council Chambers and return to the public session when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement. It was his understanding that official action may be taken.

At 6:38pm Council entered Executive Session and remained in Council Chambers.

At 7:02pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. The matters discussed involved contractual negotiations between the City of Northfield and the Mainland PBA #77. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown. Council could now consider Resolution 51-2024.

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Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Resolution 51-2024.

51-2024 Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Northfield and Mainland PBA Local No. 77 Covering the Period January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2027, and Authorizing the Execution of a Collective Negotiations Agreement Incorporating the Terms of the Memorandum of Agreement.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Polistina– yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Motion carried.

At approximately 7:04pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk