

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2024**

At 6:51pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. 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.

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Mauro, Planner Morrissey, Affordable Housing Counsel Holm, and Chief VonColln were also present.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Councilwoman Carfagno with a second by Councilman Smith, all members present, were in favor of approving the minutes of February 20, 2024, and March 7, 2024, without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau announced he presented a proclamation to the Volunteer Fire Company, who will be celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. He also presented a proclamation to the local Post Crashers Chapter. Mayor Chau reported that we were recognized as a Bronze Award recipient by the Safe Routes to School program; Mayor Chau had submitted a letter earlier this year for this award and read an excerpt from the letter. May 18th at 10:30am at the park is the date for the bike rodeo. He advised Council that he was contacted by several residents of Henry Drive about rumors of pickle ball at the park, on their behalf, Mayor Chau shared their concerns about lighting and noise associated with pickle ball.

Councilman Notaro replied that affected residents would be notified.

Engineer Mauro stated that the original submission for the LRIG grant included pickleball; the next grant would include the courts and will include a vegetative buffer and no lighting as the game play would only be during daylight hours.

Mayor Chau announced details for our Memorial Day ceremony which is being held at 9:30am on the 27th at Veteran's Park. South Jersey Gas was having their annual 'Games on Grants' program – he gave information to Deputy Clerk Campbell to share with FAN; the application deadline was soon. Mayor Chau, along with Council President Leeds, Councilman Smith, and Solicitor Facenda would be attending the

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Central Court meeting. He read the Police Department report for February. He thanked Chief VonColln for the very successful Coffee with a Cop event.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Mauro reviewed the engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. She anticipated award announcements for the LRIG grant to be at the end of summer. Regarding the Public Works pole barn, her firm started to procure services for the project but it was canceled. She reviewed the road opening permit ordinance project. The stormwater ordinance was last updated in 2020, there have been several changes since, they would prepare a proposal to update that.

Councilman Smith, to Engineer Mauro, advised that on Bonnie Lee Drive there was a water main break and NJ American Water did a repair and there is now a fissure in the road. He asked her to look in front of 127 Bonnie Lee Drive.

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 wishing to speak, the public comment portion of this meeting was closed.

Mayor Chau asked about an update from the County.

Counsel Holm replied there has not been an update.

Mayor Chau asked what about other changes to affordable housing?

Counsel Holm replied there were changes in the form of Bill A4 that may not be favorable, she urged elected officials to speak to their senators before they go into their budget talks. The City now enjoys immunity from Mt. Laurel lawsuits; the law as written requires defiant action to be declared non-compliant. New legislation has hard-stops that remove the City's immunity.

Counsel Holm announced that there is a Resolution on this evening's agenda to adopt the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan. There will be a compliance hearing sometime in June, this will also go before the court to be approved.

Solicitor Facenda to Planner Morrissey: do we need to do anything for the cemetery footprint or the other uses?

Planner Morrissey replied, not yet; she was waiting to get more information from the Diocese Engineer.

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Councilman Polistina noted that the Oak Avenue property was now for sale.

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.”

On motion of Councilwoman Bucci, seconded by Councilman Polistina all members present, were in favor of voting on Resolutions 61-2024 through 72-2024 by Consent Agenda.

- 61-2024** Resolution to Amend the Agreement Between Surenian, Edwards, and Nolan, LLC, Special Counsel on Affordable Housing Matters, and the City of Northfield
- 62-2024** Approving Participation with the State of New Jersey State Grant Program Administered by the Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General
- 63-2024** Establishing Acceptable Forms of Payment for Delinquent Tax Payments Received After April 11, 2024
- 64-2024** Resolution Authorizing Cancellation and Refund of Taxes Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 & N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 on Property known as Block 170 Lot 16 (222 E. Surrey Avenue)
- 65-2024** Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Northfield Providing Consent to A Project at Block 92, Lots 25, 28, 29, 33 and 34 in the City of Northfield Which Requires a Treatment Works Approval Application to the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- 66-2024** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – Baseball Performance Center
- 67-2024** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – OC Premier Softball
- 68-2024** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – General Dynamics I.T.
- 69-2024** Resolution of the City Council of the City of Northfield Endorsing the 2024 Master Plan Revisions to the City’s Housing Element and Fair Share Plan
- 70-2024** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – M.R.H.S. Pink Game
- 71-2024** To Approve an Application for a Coin Drop - Northfield Little League

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72-2024 Approval of Bid Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for the Project Known as Zion Road Pump Station Renovation for the City of Northfield

Councilman Smith announced he would be abstaining from Resolution 70-2024.

Councilwoman Bucci motioned, Councilman Polistina 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.

Clerk Canesi noted the abstention of Councilman Smith from Resolution 70-2024.

ORDINANCE

Council President Leeds opened the public hearing for Ordinance 3-2024.

3-2024 Amending the Municipal Code to Establish a New Chapter 46, Entitled “Municipal Buildings”, and Establishing and Identifying Restricted Areas to Safeguard Records and Property
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 03/12/2024
Published in the Press of Atlantic City on 03/19/2024

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the second reading and public hearing. After the public hearing, Council would consider an amendment, and then the Ordinance would be considered for final passage. Clerk Canesi announced the date of publication if the ordinance is approved this evening. Since introduction, the Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the municipal website. Any member of the public who requested a copy of the ordinance would have been provided with one free of charge in the office of the Municipal Clerk during regular business hours.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Council President Leeds closed the public hearing.

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Resolution 73-2024.

73-2024 Amending Ordinance No. 3-2024, as Introduced on February 20, 2024

Solicitor Facenda read the following into the record:

**“CITY OF NORTHFIELD, NJ
RESOLUTION NO. 73-2024
AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 3-2024,**

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AS INTRODUCED ON FEBRUARY 20, 2024

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 3-2024, an Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code to establish a new Chapter 46, entitled “Municipal Buildings”, and establishing and identifying restricted areas to safeguard records and property, was introduced, and passed on first reading at a Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Northfield held on February 20,2024; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on Ordinance 3-2024, as introduced, was publicly advertised, and held on March 12, 2024; and

WHEREAS, prior to final consideration and passage of Ordinance 3-2024, the Common Council desires to amend the ordinance to add “All Basement Areas” to the list of locations identified in §46-1 B, entitled Restricted Areas.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Common Council for City of Northfield hereby approves the proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 3-2024, and the list of locations identified in §46-1 B, entitled Restricted Areas, shall be as follows (underlined text added):

Office of the Mayor
Finance Office
Municipal Clerk’s Office
Construction/Building Department
Mail & Supply Rooms
Server Room
Tax Assessor Office
Tax Collector Office
Vault and Storage Areas
Utility Closets
Ambulance Quarters
Department of Public Works
Fire Department Administration Office
Police Department (except for lobby area)
All Basement Areas

I, Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk of the City of Northfield, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, held this 12th day of March 2024.

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk”

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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Councilman Dewees motioned; Councilman Notaro seconded to adopt Ordinance 3-2024, as amended.

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 \$658,007.90

Councilman Notaro 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.

MEETING NOTICES

Councilwoman Carfagno read the meeting notices.

At 7:26pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk