

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

At 6:55pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Lischin, Murray, Perri, Piergiovanni, Dewees

Absent: O'Neill, Travagline

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Kris Facenda, Engineer Nassar and Chief Newman were also in attendance.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilman Piergiovanni, second of Councilman Lischin, all present were in favor of approving the minutes of the January 24, 2017, meeting of Council without formal reading. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Council President Dewees referred to the 2 field use applications in the agenda packet, and said he'd like to discuss them. He explained the differences between the two application forms as being due to one being submitted before the committee met and recently revised the form. He encouraged discussion before the vote on these two items. Council President Dewees said he was looking at the calendar in the clerk's office; the fields are used every day. He felt we were incurring maintenance and the fields were getting a lot of wear and tear.

Councilman Murray asked how many teams had already been approved.

Council President Dewees replied two; they were using the fields Wednesdays and Mondays.

Mayor Chau noted he had no problem sharing our fields, but as Council President Dewees pointed out, because our fields are in such great shape, others want to use them. We need to think about the citizens and children of Northfield. He would hate to see overuse by other organizations result in deterioration of our fields.

Councilman Lischin felt this had become an issue where the City had to reel it in.

Councilman Murray wanted to get input from the FAN and Little League.

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Council President Dewees asked Clerk Canesi to comment.

Clerk Canesi reminded Council it was up to them as to whether or not the use was approved, the groups can give their opinions as to if the use is appropriate, however they are not asked to approve or disapprove the application. She explained the application process to Council. She noted appreciation for the volunteers but reiterated that the final approval was up to Council.

Councilman Perri urged that Council allow Northfield organizations only.

Councilman Piergiovanni urged not for profit, use policy review, and preference to Northfield residents.

Council President Dewees asked do we approve these this year.

Councilman Piergiovanni felt we had to approve these because we've already approved others.

Clerk Canesi asked Solicitor Facenda to confirm that the Council had no obligation to approve a new application simply because others had been approved in the past.

Solicitor Facenda confirmed that Clerk Canesi was correct.

Councilman Lischin had no issues with the adult team, but wanted to know how many Northfield kids were on the Sand Shark team, obviously the coaches were two residents of Northfield.

Councilman Dewees suggested voting on them separately.

Councilman Perri pointed out a typographical error in resolution 62-2017 where it mentioned Keith Burke.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Councilman Perri - Sewer Inter Local, Planning Board, Senior Citizens, Shared Services**

Councilman Perri reported that he met in committee regarding infrastructure trust monies for wastewater and sanitary sewer projects – members in attendance were himself, Engineer Nassar, Bond Counsel for the City Joel Fleishman, Clerk Canesi, CFO Stollenwerk and Council President Dewees – he noted that the process had been streamlined and there may be an option for upcoming projects. Seventy-Five percent of the funds would be interest-free; there seemed to be renewed interest in this source of funding. The senior citizens will be meeting the 23rd at the library. He would be meeting tomorrow with Council President Dewees and Sewer Department

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representatives to discuss information we received from the ACUA regarding the Sewer Department.

Councilman Lischin asked about the odor issue on Catherine Place – he hadn't heard much recently and asked if there was any update.

Councilman Perri explained that the check valve had been installed. The improvement upstream, a chemical additive, had made a tremendous improvement.

**Councilman O'Neill - Court/Violations, Library**

Councilman O'Neill was absent.

**Councilman Piergiovanni – Insurance and Safety, Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School**

Councilman Piergiovanni reminded Council that the JIF elected officials seminar was this week, the City receives a \$250 credit for each attendee. The Northfield Community School Board of Education meeting was scheduled for February 27th and they would be voting on the bus shelter. He cited the importance of the bus shelter for the Veterans and advised that he would be there to lend his support as well.

**Councilman Travagline – FAN, Sign Sub Committee, Shared Services, Green Team Advisory**

Councilman Travagline was absent.

**Councilman Murray - Finance/Collections, Mainland Regional, Economic Development, Traffic Safety**

Councilman Murray reported that we were in the process of finalizing the budget; Council has to adopt it by April. The Tax Lien sale was scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilman Lischin – Fire Department/EMS, Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Technology/MRHS Channel 2, Cultural Committee, Green Team, Sign Sub Committee**

Councilman Lischin read the Fire Department report and inspection department report for January. He thanked Mr. Murray from MRHS for video services, and announced re-air dates and times for the meetings.

**Council President Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans' Park, 1<sup>st</sup> Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Little League/Babe Ruth, Sign Sub Committee, Traffic Safety**

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Council President Dewees reported that the museum's grant to do the handicap ramp was on the agenda. There was a Veterans Park meeting scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Birch Grove Park Advisory Board meeting for February was canceled. He would be setting up a walk-through of the park to determine the feasibility of allowing bikes in the park. The Department of Public Works was continuing to work on clearing easement areas. The Mill Road sidewalk project was moving forward, we have the aerial overlays of the property, and we would schedule times to meet with residents to discuss getting easements. Council President Dewees noted significant utility work being done, which had resulted in a few areas that have come to our attention that are in need of repair. He thanked Engineer Nassar and asked him about the issue of DEP approval or certification, as related to the NJEIT funds.

Engineer Nassar replied that he spoke with the DEP and Joel Fleishman, some applications would not need a TWA permit, but if not, a permit was not required. It was a simpler process than was anticipated.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau read the Police Department report for January. He recognized Acting Lieutenant Dettinger for receiving his Traffic Safety Specialist award. He thanked Chief Newman for his participation in the Blue Mass at St. Gianna. He asked Chief Newman how many applicants we had for the police officer opening.

Chief Newman replied approximately 20.

Mayor Chau noted that the PT test had to be postponed due to weather. He hoped to have a new officer to be presented to Council very soon. He met with representatives of the JCC recently and forwarded information to Councilman Perri. They would like to open up their programs to our residents, including a daily seniors luncheon. They also had a variety of programs, urged anyone who was interested to contact Councilman Perri.

Mayor Chau reported that he and Council President Dewees met with the Northfield Community School Board of Education Facilities Committee. Mayor Chau had asked the Board to send their questions and concerns regarding the proposed bus shelter to Council. Mayor Chau read them aloud:

1. "My concern with the bus Shelter is inviting people onto school property, even though it's outside the fence. We've done so many things to keep people off our property I would hate to see us go backwards.+"
2. "My concern is safety of our children. I'm not comfortable with the idea of permitting the construction of a shelter that will invite and promote loitering on school property. Our role a board members is to provide the children a quality

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education in a safe environment. A bus shelter on school property does not promote those goals.”

Mayor Chau explained that last year he was approached by residents and veterans to have a shelter at this location; we applied to the Department of Transportation and got a grant for 2 shelters. It was Mayor Chau's idea to have one going in both directions; North and South. He had heard the comments and concerns of the BOE and he respected them, but did not agree with them. He did not feel that the shelters would promote loitering. He explained the dimensions of the right of way that the City would need from the school, approximately 3' x 12'. Mayor Chau asked anyone in attendance who was concerned to offer their comments at the BOE meeting on 2/27. Some of the Veterans who use the Veterans Facility are handicapped. Mayor Chau, due to his own recent physical limitations, has learned how hard it was. He hoped that a bus shelter would offer some comfort and protection to those waiting for the bus.

**CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar referred to the Engineers Report and reviewed pertinent items. Bay Drive punch list items needed to be addressed, and hopefully would be completed by the end of the month. The Route 9 sidewalk project had a final walk through by DOT and the project was complete. The 2015 paving project was being finalized and would be closed soon. Engineer Nassar received an email from Bob McGuigan from the ACIA they were seeking locations for the redevelopment study. The City needed to decide if it wanted to pursue the matter and create a redevelopment plan; ACIA would pay for the study. He suggested Council have a committee to decide. South Jersey Gas had been putting in high pressure gas lines and there were restoration requirements. He met with SJ Gas and walked a few streets, one being Delmar Drive, which was in pretty bad shape. It looked like SJ Gas may do a full width restoration, even though they didn’t have to. They also walked Sutton Avenue and they would do half and full width as required. Shepherd Circle West would be full width restoration where required. West Oakcrest Avenue would be half width in most areas; Glencove and West Revere would be half width all the way through. They would also fix an older section that was not previously paved properly. Wells Avenue would be half width. It seemed like SJ Gas was willing to work with us, and was not going to just do patches. They opened a road recently without a permit and they would do full restoration.

Councilman Perri noted that he had seen newer roads torn up.

Engineer Nassar replied that they were willing to mill and fully repave.

Councilman Perri noted issues with seams.

Engineer Nassar advised that they were addressing that as well.

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Engineer Nassar reviewed the balance of the Engineers Report. The Cresson Avenue grant application was on the agenda this evening. We were not applying for the bikeway grant.

Councilman Lischin asked about restoration in sidewalk areas.

Engineer Nassar explained that they will be replaced, driveways as well if they break them. Dirt, topsoil and seeding would not happen until spring.

Councilman Perri questioned a portion on East Glencove and Shore Road where the paving between the house and the roadway was not complete.

Engineer Nassar explained that the owner had railroad ties, and there was never paving there before. We were not in a position to add new paving where there was never paving before, in the spring there will be topsoil, etc. and it will look the way it did before.

Engineer Nassar asked for approval to proactively address drainage issues that arose when roads were paved.

Council President Dewees noted he would call Engineer Nassar tomorrow.

Mayor Chau announced that he may not be at the next council meeting.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Dewees opened the public session, seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public session.

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

Council President Dewees 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 has concluded. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded for Resolutions 54-2017 to 61-2017 and 64-2017 to 67-2017, to be voted on by Consent Agenda.

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- 54-2017** Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the 2017 Municipal Aid – Reconstruction of Cresson Avenue Project
- 55-2017** Award of Contract for Fire Department Hose and Equipment
- 56-2017** Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 57-2017** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Certain Projects
- 58-2017** End of Seasonal Employment for Birch Grove Park Employee – McKeone
- 59-2017** Resolution in Support of Atlantic County Pledging Non-Acceptance of Less than Its Fair Percentage of Pilot Program Revenues
- 60-2017** Community Development Block Grant Program
- 61-2017** Refund Overpayment of Taxes
- 64-2017** Authorization to Create Municipal Liens for Property Maintenance Costs
- 65-2017** A Resolution Accepting a Grant from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, 2016 Body Worn Camera (BWC) Assistance Program FFY16 JAG
- 66-2017** Acknowledging the Terms and Conditions of the South Jersey Power Cooperative Bid Results for the Purchase of the Commodity Natural Gas
- 67-2017** 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(b) (7) Regarding Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality – Mt Laurel Litigation

Roll call: Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –absent; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –absent; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carries to vote by consent agenda.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded for Resolutions 54-2017 to 61-2017 and 64-2017 to 67-2017, to be adopted by consent agenda.

Councilman Perri commented on Resolution 66-2017, was it the one the company used.

Clerk Canesi replied that is was a county bid, they would go out and get the bids and get the best prices, this was for the supplier.

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Roll call: Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –absent; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –absent; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carries to adopt by consent agenda.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded to adopt Resolution 62-2017.

**62-2017** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – 9U Sandsharks

Councilman Lischin asked if the applicant could reapply if the motion failed, to provide more information.

Councilman Dewees believed we had all of the information we needed.

Councilman Murray agreed with Mr. Perri’s prior statement that we should be asking how many Northfield children are on the team and if they were for profit or not.

Clerk Canesi replied that the new application does require that information; this particular application came in prior to the changes.

Roll call: Mr. Lischin –no; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –absent; Mr. Perri –no; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –absent; Mr. Dewees – no; Motion failed.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded to adopt Resolution 63-2017.

**63-2017** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - South Jersey Mens Senior Baseball

Councilman Perri noted that not for profit did not mean there was not a fee.

Roll call: Mr. Lischin –no; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –absent; Mr. Perri –no; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –absent; Mr. Dewees – no; Motion failed.

**ORDINANCE**

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded to introduce Ordinance 2-2017.

2-2017 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

*First Reading / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 2/18/2017  
Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 2/28/2017*

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The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication and public hearing dates. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies were made 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.

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

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded to introduce Ordinance 3-2017.

**3-2017**            An Ordinance Amending Chapter 111-35 of the Code of the City of Northfield to Remove Certain Streets or Parts Thereof from Being Designated as Through Streets and Amending Chapter 111-36 to Add Stop Intersections

*First Reading / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 2/18/2017  
Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 2/28/2017*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication and public hearing dates. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies were made 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.

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

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded to introduce Ordinance 4-2017.

**4-2017**            An Ordinance Amending Chapter 215 of the Code of the City of Northfield Governing Land Use and Development

*First Reading / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 2/18/2017  
Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 3/14/2017*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication and public hearing dates. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies were made 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.

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Clerk Canesi announced the extra time is to allow the Planning Board time to review the Ordinance.

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

Solicitor Facenda asked Councilman Perri to remind the Planning Board that Ordinance 4-2017 was previously discussed toward the end of last year.

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded to introduce Ordinance 5-2017.

**5-2017**            Calendar Year 2017 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank  
(N.J.S.A. 40a: 4-45.14)  
*First Reading / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 2/18/2017*  
*Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 2/28/2017*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication and public hearing dates. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies were made 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.

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

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**    \$ 3,432,019.21

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Murray seconded, for payment of bills.

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

Council President Dewees read the meeting notices.

Council President Dewees announced an Executive Session for Resolution 67-2017.

**67-2017**            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(b) (7) Regarding Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality – Mt Laurel Litigation

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The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda explained that the Executive Session was in regards to continued negotiations and litigation between the City of Northfield and Max Gurwicz and Sons with respect to the Davis Avenue pump stations. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law.

*At 8:14pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.*

*At 8:29 the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.*

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded and the issue discussed was the continuing negotiations and litigation between the City of Northfield and Max Gurwicz and Sons. No official action had been taken. The minutes were kept but will not be released until the matter had concluded and they would be released when permitted by law.

At 8:29pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk