

CITY OF NORTHFIELD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 18, 2025

At 6:39pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2025, and in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Mayor Chau

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Mauro, and Sergeant Czaplinski (for Chief of Police VonColln) were also present.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Councilman Polistina with a second by Councilwoman Carfagno all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of February 4, 2025, without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau was absent.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Mauro referred to the Local Recreation Improvement Grant and the desire of the Council to change the scope or extend the timeframe. Council has until May 2026 to complete the project and a onetime extension was minor. A change in scope must use an existing award; DeBlasio and Associates needs to know details for a change in scope. They needed guidance.

Councilman Dewees felt Council should move forward with parking for pickleball and basketball; basketball would probably be in same area but pickleball may be relocated. We should move forward now with parking.

Councilman Notaro noted that at the last meeting the parking was nixed.

Councilman Dewees did not recall that and believed we should keep the parking and move forward.

Engineer Mauro advised the shortfall was only \$7,000.00.

Solicitor Facenda asked what was the lead time on an amendment?

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Engineer Mauro replied, that was a good question; a new online application would have to be completed and she believed there would be a two-to-three-month turnaround.

Councilman Notaro asked when can we earmark the courts?

Engineer Mauro replied, 2026; Council put in the application that the parking was for pickleball courts, since those courts are moving location, you would have justification for the change in scope.

Engineer Mauro referred to the slip line repairs; she said plans and specifications were sent to Council today with plans to approve on March 4th. They made as many revisions as possible to reduce costs, the City would provide Police presence to reduce traffic control costs. They added an alternate bid to rehab manholes instead of replacing.

She added that she'd spoken with Councilman Notaro prior to tonight's meeting and he suggested each location be an alternate bid. They would extend the advertisement for bids to 4 weeks.

Clerk Canesi clarified that the specifications would need to be revised and resent to the Council. Engineer Mauro confirmed understanding.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Council President Bucci closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Bucci 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, it will be treated as a separate matter. Any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds."

Council President Bucci asked if anyone wanted anything voted outside of the consent agenda?

Councilwoman Kern announced she would be abstaining from 75-2025.

Councilman Smith asked for 75-2025 to be voted separately.

Council President Bucci confirmed the consent agenda as consisting of Resolutions 65-2025 through 74-2025.

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On motion of Councilman Notaro, seconded by Councilman Dewees, all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 65-2025 through 74-2025 by Consent Agenda.

- 65-2025** Acknowledging the Notice of Resignation of Sue Poley, Adult School Crossing Guard
- 66-2025** Acknowledging the Notice of Resignation of Hector Manzano, Substitute Adult School Crossing Guard
- 67-2025** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 68-2025** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 69-2025** A Resolution Approving a Sidebar Memorandum of Agreement Between the City of Northfield and the Government Workers Union Local 430 and Appointing Nadine Erwin as Temporary Technical Assistant to the Construction Official
- 70-2025** Authorizing DeBlasio and Associates Consulting Engineers and Planners to Proceed with Engineering Services for the Project Known as USDA Rural Development Planning Grant (PPG)
- 71-2025** Participant's Resolution Leap Implementation Grant
- 72-2025** Resolution to Support Publishing Legal Notices on Official Government Websites
- 73-2025** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities
- 74-2025** Resolution Authorizing a One-Year Extension of the Shared Services Agreement with the Atlantic County Utilities Authority for Solid Waste Collection Services

Councilman Notaro motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

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

Councilman Notaro motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Resolution 75-2025.

- 75-2025** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities

Council President Bucci called for discussion.

Councilman Smith had a number of concerns; the application for Mainland Baseball Camp was to use our fields for summer camps in June and July. One of his concerns was this was a for-profit group. Councilman Smith had mentioned this in the past regarding a group that is not affiliated with the City. This camp has been held at Mainland for 15 or so years, he did not understand why they were now coming to Northfield. Councilman Smith contacted Mr. McCarthy with Babe Ruth and Mr. Bunting with SJSS Baseball and they said no one contacted them; Mr. Bunting has concerns about outside organizations using our fields.

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Clerk Canesi explained why no one checked with Babe Ruth; they too are an outside organization. Technically speaking, we only contact other field-users who have a previously approved request that conflicts with a new one. The dates for which Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Bunting have already been approved did not conflict with the dates on this request; there was no reason to check with those users.

Councilman Notaro understood it was hard to govern what users do and don't do; can we require anything of them in terms of maintenance?

Councilman Smith advised that Mr. Bunting shared that a previous group didn't do anything to maintain the fields, such as raking and dragging. Mr. Bunting shared that he has put in pads for the batter's box, two times a year, at a cost of \$8,500.00. Mr. Bunting has reinvested his own personal money into the field.

Councilwoman Kern asked was Mr. Bunting asked to contribute?

Councilman Smith replied, no.

Councilwoman Carfagno offered to find out from Mainland why the camp isn't being held there.

Council President Bucci noted we don't make any other people who use our facilities invest money as a condition of use.

Councilwoman Carfagno recalled Solicitor Facenda was potentially going to draw something up to require compensation for damages.

Solicitor Facenda was not sure what they may damage.

Councilman Smith replied, sprinkler heads, for example.

Councilman Dewees, to Clerk Canesi, asked do we have any fee structure other than lights?

Clerk Canesi replied, no.

Councilman Smith added that Mr. Bunting expressed that he does camps around that time, for free.

Councilwoman Bucci recalled in years past when she ran Mainland United Soccer and not being able to get use of any fields; she had a problem saying no to anything that is for our kids.

Councilman Smith reiterated that Mainland's fields have been used for years.

Councilman Notaro asked did this need to be voted on tonight; can we get clarification?

Councilwoman Carfagno offered to contact Mainland.

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Solicitor Facenda advised Council needed a motion to lay this on the table and it can be voted on or not at a future time.

Council President Bucci suggested a straw poll to vote on the issue tonight or not.

Councilwoman Carfagno wanted to find out more and vote in the future.

Councilmen Notaro, Smith, and Polistina agreed to table the resolution.

Council President Bucci and Dewees wanted to vote tonight.

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Notaro seconded, to table Resolution 75-2025.

Roll Call: Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees – no; Mrs. Kern – abstain; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mrs. Bucci – no; Motion carried.

ORDINANCE

Councilman Dewees motioned; Councilman Polistina seconded to adopt Ordinance 3-2025.

3-2025 Amending Chapter 330 of the Code of the City of Northfield, Article II, Excavations in Streets
 2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration
 Published in the Press of AC 02/22/2025

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stating that this is the second reading and public hearing. After the public hearing, Council would consider the ordinance for final passage. Clerk Canesi announced the date of final publication, if the ordinance passed this evening, and stated that 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 up until the date and time of the public hearing.

Council President Bucci opened the public hearing for Ordinance 3-2025.

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

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

Councilman Dewees motioned; Councilman Polistina seconded to introduce Ordinance 4-2025.

4-2025 An Ordinance Amending Section 215-42 of the Code of the City of Northfield Governing Land Use And Development
 Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 2/22/2025
 2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 3/4/2025

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The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, there would be no public input, 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, up until the date and time of the public hearing.

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

Councilman Dewees motioned; Councilman Polistina seconded to introduce Ordinance 5-2025.

5-2025 An Ordinance Amending Article XIV, Section 111-27, Schedule I, of the City of Northfield Code Titled No Parking
Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 2/22/2025
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 3/4/2025

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, there would be no public input, 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, up until the date and time of the public hearing.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 362,975.71

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Carfagno seconded, to approve payment of bills.

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

MEETING NOTICES

Councilman Smith read the meeting notices.

At 7:13pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk