

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 28, 2017**

At 6:47pm, 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 Council Pro Tempore Murray.

*Mayor Chau was absent.*

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline, Dewees

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

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilman Murray, second of Councilman Lischin, all present were in favor of approving the minutes of the February 14, 2017, meeting of Council without formal reading. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Perri reported that they had a successful senior social at the library last week. Mayor Chau had asked Councilman Perri to reach out to the Jewish Community Center regarding their new programs at the nutrition site; Perri said they came out and gave a good presentation. He also received charcoal Rx disposal bags as provided by Bob Zlotnick from Atlantic Prevention Resources. He would also obtain a supply for the Clerk's Office for the public. The Planning Board would meet to review the ordinance change. He met with members of the Sewer Department regarding possible use of Infrastructure Trust funds, perhaps for a sewer asset management plan.

Councilman Lischin asked how it would be funded.

Councilman Perri replied they were looking to qualify for Infrastructure Trust funds.

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Engineer Nassar explained; it involved an application process, and part of our application would be for an asset management plan. If approved it would involve the issuance of funds as a line of credit.

Councilman Lischin asked would this be a good plan to have.

Engineer Nassar stated that based on Land Use Law we should have such a plan.

Councilman Perri noted we couldn't predict a catastrophic failure; in general it would allow the City to look to the future. Seventy-five percent was zero interest, and the balance is at a very low rate. It used to be a very difficult process, but now has been streamlined; this may be the way to go if we needed to make a major improvement.

Engineer Nassar explained further; you make an application for multiple projects, but you don't have to do them all at once, you draw funds as you use them and when the job is done it becomes permanent financing. We would not qualify for debt forgiveness due to our size and economic situation. This particular study would also involve us being able to determine our actual flows into the ACUA's system.

Councilman Lischin asked if the backflow preventer had been installed.

Councilman Perri replied it had not; they ran into technicalities. A modified version has been provided and they are hoping to be able to install it. Right now the additive upstream had been working very well.

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

Councilman O'Neill reported that he met with the Librarian and walked through the facilities, and she asked that Councilman O'Neill check on the parking lot. There was a 10x10 indentation and she would like it repaired.

Council President Dewees thought that there had been money put in the capital budget for that, he asked Councilman O'Neill.

Councilman O'Neill responded yes there had.

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

Councilman Piergiovanni apologized for missing the work session. He note that the last elected officials seminar was approaching and encouraged anyone who has yet to attend to do so, as we get a \$250.00 credit.

Council President Dewees asked if Councilman Piergiovanni went to the School Board Meeting.

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Councilman Piergiovanni replied no, he was not able to do so due to a work conflict.

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

Councilman Travagline reported that the FAN board would be administering the Jim Hoopes clinics. He was looking to schedule a Shared Service meeting in the next 30 days to discuss several issues.

Councilman Lischin asked Councilman O’Neill when was the last time the Court Agreement was evaluated?

Councilman O’Neill state he touches base with Donna Clark, Court Administrator, and the last time he did so, she indicated everything was equal.

Councilman Lischin noted wear and tear on our building.

Clerk Canesi explained that the financial terms of the current interlocal expire at the end of this year, Council will want to start looking at that not later than June.

Councilman Perri requested that CFO Stollenwerk do a profit and loss statement.

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

Councilman Murray reported that the budget would be introduced at the March 14th meeting and adopted in April. He announced the MRHS play Sister Act, he also congratulated the MRHS swim team as State Champions after an undefeated season.

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

Councilman Lischin also noted the NJ Drama and Forensic League from MRHS recently earned their 6th consecutive State Championship. The Fire Department staffing model was approved by Council, Code Enforcement now has a more proactive presence and it is working out well. The Cultural Committee yard sale is March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**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 the J.F. Kiely was continuing to work on installation of high pressure gas service throughout town. He noted the absence of Mayor Chau due to a medical procedure, and added that he was doing well.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau was absent.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as provided to Council. There was no update to the Rosedale Pump or the Bay Drive Project since the last meeting. The Route 9 sidewalk was almost complete. In regard to the bike and pedestrian study, he looked at a bike path through Birch Grove Park and we would be able to submit that as part of our grant next year, he looked to connect the park to Burton Avenue and possibly the main bike path. There was no update to the 2015 Road Paving Project. The ACIA Redevelopment Grant was discussed during the work session. Engineer Nassar discussed several areas where the SJ Gas contractor was not working in areas that had been previously designated for certain dates, he had addressed this. He reported that NJ American Water was issued a fine for violating the road opening ordinance and they would be paying for the paving of a portion of a street that they opened. He noted specific emergency notification procedures had been put in place to ensure that the Police Department and the Engineer were notified of true emergencies. The Cresson Avenue drainage survey work should be done by early March. The DOT grant application for paving had been submitted.

Councilman Lischin commended Engineer Nassar for complete and concise reporting and for pushing the contractors in Northfield's best interest.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Dewees opened the public session.

William Hickman, 3 Jack Sloan Court - submitted an application for field use, he had 3 kids and served on the Northfield Little League Board. He advised Council that he took his responsibility seriously and devoted significant hours for the program. The application for this evening was for a travel team he coached that did have 9 Northfield children on it; Hickman said he felt if Northfield Little League was not using the fields that these kids should have access to play. There were 4 other coaches on his team, and all were from Northfield. He asked for permission to use the field.

Council President Dewees addressed Council asking if anyone had any questions for Mr. Hickman.

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Councilman Lischin thanked Mr. Hickman; Lischin said he voted no last time and explained the reason, noting that because this application contains more information, that he was now in favor.

Council President Dewees clarified that the application Mr. Hickman completed originally was an older version that did not ask for the level of detail that the new application contained.

Councilman Perri asked how the team was funded and where the money went.

Mr. Hickman replied that the fees pay for tournaments and insurance, hats and uniforms.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak Council President Dewees 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 Travagline seconded for Resolutions 68-2017 to 69-2017 and 71-2017 to 72-2017, to be voted on by Consent Agenda.

Solicitor Facenda clarified that Resolution 70-2017 would be voted on separately.

Councilman O'Neill thanked MRHS Coach Kern, in the audience, for coming out.

Councilman Travagline agreed, the Kern family does an excellent job.

**68-2017**        To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – MRHS Baseball

**69-2017**        To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – SJ Sand Sharks

**70-2017**        To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – PlayMore Sport

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**71-2017** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes

**72-2017** 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 –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried to vote by consent agenda.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded for Resolutions 68-2017 to 69-2017 and 71-2017 to 72-2017, to be adopted by consent agenda.

Roll call: Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –no; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried to adopt the consent agenda.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded to adopt Resolution 70-2017.

**70-2017** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – PlayMore Sport

Councilman Lischin noted that the application was from a for-profit entity from outside of our entity. He suggested guidelines to make it clear who should not apply.

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

**ORDINANCES**

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to adopt 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  
*Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption. Since its introduction, 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

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Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requested same.

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

Roll call: Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried to adopt Ordinance 2.

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded to adopt 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  
*Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption. Since its introduction, 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.

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

Roll call: Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried to adopt Ordinance 3.

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to adopt 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)  
*Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that there would be a public hearing, after which the matter would be considered for final adoption. Since its introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on

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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.

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

Roll call: Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried to adopt Ordinance 5.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** \$ 1,182,977.79

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

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

Council President Dewees read the meeting notices.

Council President Dewees announced an Executive Session for Resolution 72-2017.

**72-2017**      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

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 regard to a potential settlement agreement in the matter of Max Gurwicz and Sons vs the City of Northfield. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law.

*At 7:38pm Council moved to the Mayor’s Office for the Executive Session.*

*At 8:00 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 a pending settlement agreement in the matter of Max Gurwicz and Sons vs the City of Northfield. No official action had been taken. The minutes were

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kept but will not be released until the matter had concluded and they would be released when permitted by law.

At 8:00pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk