

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

At 6:57pm, 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, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline, Dewees

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

Council President Dewees welcomed all and introduced Chief Newman.

Chief Newman announced that back in February, Acting Lieutenant Dettinger was recognized at the State level for Traffic Level I Certification, he was one of few in the State. At that time, the State gave Northfield a certificate in recognition of their efforts to support the program. Chief Newman presented the award to Mayor Chau.

Mayor Chau's family came forward for a picture. Family members present included: Elizabeth Chau, Carol Raph, Alicia, Bill and Jennifer Garry, and Greg, Jackie and Chris Dewees.

Council President Dewees announced the next presentation was an award for Senior Softball Girls.

Mayor Chau was pleased to again recognize the senior softball girls who had again won a State Championship for the 3rd time in a row. These are the events that made Northfield Council Members proud. He congratulated the girls and asked Council President Dewees and Councilman Travagline to present certificates.

Council President Dewees expressed what great fun it was watching these girls play. He introduced Coach Mike Toner.

Coach Toner thanked Mayor Chau, Council, the Northfield Police Department and Northfield Fire Department who had always been very supportive. The support that the city had always given meant a lot to the girls. He announced that this was the first championship for this group of girls; there was a great group of core girls who returned, and several new players. This team demonstrated what youth sports were about, character, sportsmanship, grace in winning and losing. Other teams praised them as well. They handled themselves well, on the field and off, and represented

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what Northfield was all about. He introduced Coach Pat McCarthy, Coach Darrell Ingram, Coach Tom Zanaras, Coach Mike Monzo, and Jason Yard; President of Northfield Little League. The team was comprised of representatives playing at Ocean City, Holy Spirit and Mainland. Coach Toner called forward the following players and presented them with a commemorative coin and a certificate:

Shannon Bennett, Faith Hegh, Marlie Heim, Gabi Hendri, Jessie Higbee, Jessica Ingram, Gillian McCarthy, Meredith Miller, Gabby Monzo, Savannah Robertson, Lauren Toner, Maggie Wilkinson and Ava Zanaras

At 7:21pm Council President Dewees announced a five minute recess.

At 7:22pm Council President Dewees resumed the meeting.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Perri, second of Councilman Murray, all present were in favor of approving the minutes of the February 23, 2017 and February 28th meetings 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 recognized the passing of Ben Mazzeo noting he was very generous, a great member of our community, a mentor and a friend. He also recognized the passing of Whitey Swartz who worked on many accident scenes. He offered condolences to both families.

Councilman Perri informed Council that a member of the community, daughter of a friend, fell into a pit left by the water company on Bonnie Lee Drive. He wanted to put it on record that it occurred. The resident did not want to pursue any action. Michele in the Tax Office indicated that residents have been picking up the neighborhood stabilization information. He had charcoal bags to dispose of prescription medications, and can get more at any time. The Jewish Community Center was managing the senior centers now for the County and had programs 5 days a week. They have speakers that provide valuable information, as well as exercise plans and other activities, and transportation can be provided.

Councilman O'Neill - Court/Violations, Library

Councilman O'Neill reported that courts are more busy, violations and tickets have gone up over previous years. He will sit down with Donna Clark to make sure

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nothing is being missed with regard to expenses and the shared service agreement. He also met with the Library Director and the only issue at present is a small patch in the parking lot.

Council President Dewees asked Engineer Nassar to check the paving in the library parking lot.

Councilman Lischin asked Councilman Perri if he was aware that Linwood was bidding out their pump stations and did we have a contingency plan if they left the interlocal.

Councilman Perri was aware; he had a copy of their contract, and it required that our employees supervise. The interlocal required that they give us notice not later than July or August. The cost in the contract only included pump stations, but did not include the other 35 or so activities that we did as well. We can't control what Linwood did, they knew we wanted their business. Councilman Perri explained that they were bound for this year, and they would have to notify us by midyear if they were going to pull out for 2018. He asked Councilman Lischin if he wanted him to schedule a meeting with Linwood, adding that we did not have anything formal.

Councilman Lischin addressed Councilman O'Neill and asked if the court profit and loss information had been completed.

Councilman O'Neill advised that he was scheduling that with Donna Clark.

Council President Dewees pointed out that we needed to look at what was spent on this building.

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

Councilman Piergiovanni reported that the Northfield Community School did approve the location for the bus shelter. He reminded Council that the Elected Officials seminar was March 29th, if anyone had not yet attended.

Council President Dewees asked Councilman O'Neill if he was going.

Councilman O'Neill replied yes he would.

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

Councilman Travagline had no report.

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

Councilman Murray reported that the budget would be introduced this evening. MRHS is hosting "Sister Act" on 3/16, 17, and 18 at 7pm and Sunday 3/19 at 2pm. He had heard great things about the play and encouraged all to attend.

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 noting after the budget was passed we would be hiring part time firefighters. The Code Enforcement Officer had initiated a more proactive work process, which seemed to be working well. He thanked John from Mainland for video services and reminded everyone that the Council meeting would rebroadcast the Thursday following the meeting at noon and 7pm.

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

Council President Dewees reported that the bike committee was moving forward with exploring bikes in the park; they would be meeting again this week.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau recognized the passing of Whitey Swartz; he gave a Proclamation to the family. He also acknowledged the passing of Ben Mazzeo noting the City had its flags flown at half-staff for 7 days after Mr. Mazzeo's passing. He read the Police Department report. He and Chief Newman were finalizing the interview process for the police officer position to be filled; he would present a report to the Council at the next meeting. Mayor Chau recognized long time City Clerk Carol Raph, in the audience.

Mayor Chau attended the Grand Opening for Nick's Pizza on New Road; we should be very proud that new businesses have so much to offer and want to come and join our community. He received a letter of resignation from Library Board President Shannah Smith, effective 12/31/17, she was no longer able to meet the time commitment required. She had served for 7 years and was grateful for the experience. Mayor Chau noted her endless hours of contribution, and announced the vacancy on the Board of Trustees. Anyone interested can contact the Mayor directly or via the City Clerk's office. The Library was still exploring having solar panels on the library roof; they had one vendor who was interested. He recognized Chief Newman for his attendance and participation in February's Blue Mass. In regards to

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the bus shelter, Council President Dewees and Mayor Chau attended many meetings in an effort to get the easement necessary to install the bus shelter, at the last school board meeting they did approve for us to move forward.

Solicitor Facenda advised that there was a 90' x 200' sight triangle easement in place that was granted by the school to the County, and we were now working with the Board of Education attorney to have that sight triangle easement extinguished, then we could proceed. Tony Pagano, County Counsel, had volunteered to handle the associated paperwork at the county's expense.

Mayor Chau noted that the next step would be to acquire the necessary easement for the south bound side of the street. He thanked all who participated in working to get the shelter approved.

Solicitor Facenda suggested that the City look at that site to ensure that there was no sight triangle easement there - if there was we should handle both simultaneously.

Council President Dewees replied that he would check that and would report back.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed updates to the Engineer's report as provided to Council. The field work for the Cresson Avenue drainage project was done, based on acreage they are designing for a 10 year storm, and it may need to be done in phases. It would be designed to handle all flows coming into this area. He hoped to have a draft plan for Council at the next meeting. He was waiting to hear back from the State on the Cresson Avenue paving grant application.

Mayor Chau asked what the yellow pipes were along Shore Road.

Engineer Nassar explained they were gas lines, part of the South Jersey Gas project to install high pressure gas service throughout town. Engineer Nassar advised that he was watching closely and working with them to ensure that we got the appropriate restoration when the jobs were complete.

Mayor Chau asked for a status of the Bay Drive project that was shut down.

Engineer Nassar replied that there were drainage issues that could not be previously addressed, and would be by the end of March.

Councilman Lischin brought up Resolution 78-2017, and thanked Engineer Nassar for his hard work and efforts in looking out for the City.

Councilman O'Neill asked for clarification on requirements for paving when utilities open roads.

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Engineer Nassar explained; it was based on the Ordinance and the amount of work that was done.

Councilman Perri asked about settlement; some of the streets were brand new. He noted that Roosevelt Avenue was showing signs of sagging in the trench areas.

Engineer Nassar explained the settlement period; the water company did not do as good of a job in paving as the gas company did.

Council President Dewees asked if they aren't responsible for a certain amount of time, after the restoration.

Engineer Nassar replied yes, and he was addressing these as they occurred. They had been cooperating.

Councilman Perri urged Engineer Nassar to look at Roosevelt Avenue and contact the water company.

Mayor Chau asked Council to consider and move forward in an Ordinance that addressed the bike path memorial benches, to facilitate safety and maintenance, and to improve the overall appearance. Over the years, residents have installed gardens, flags, statues, vases and other ornaments that make it difficult to sit on the benches. He stressed the need to create a policy; he had several suggestions, and listed several. He urged Council to take action.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Dewees opened the public session.

Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court, said that in Ventnor they did both sides of the street and we should do that here also. NJ American Water Company is not doing paving well, but they were also bidding on our sewer system. We should consider that. The pump station quotes did not cover much of the costs. He urged Council to aggressively pursue keeping Linwood in the interlocal. He stated that the Library used to come in here with a \$55,000.00 check, and everyone thought it was great. The Sewer Department was also making a financial contribution to the City but did not get the recognition it deserved. He would like to see the Sewer Department as a separate line item in the budget. He thanked Council for a nice job on the budget this year.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak Council President Dewees closed the public session.

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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 Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded for Resolutions 73-2017, 75-2017 and 77-2017 to 82-2017, to be voted on by Consent Agenda.

- 73-2017** Authorize the Hiring of Stephen Mckeone as Seasonal Maintenance Employee for Birch Grove Park
- 75-2017** Establishing the Easter Egg Hunt at Birch Grove Park as a City Event Sponsored by the Northfield Mothers' League
- 77-2017** A Resolution to Cancel Grant Balances
- 78-2017** Resolution of the City Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey Authorizing Acceptance of Reimbursement from New Jersey American Water Company
- 79-2017** Resolution of the City Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a License Agreement
- 80-2017** A Resolution Supporting The 2017 "Udrive. Utext. Upay." Distracted Driving Crackdown April 1 - 21, 2017
- 81-2017** Authorize the Hiring of Harry Cohen as a Seasonal Concession Stand Attendant for Birch Grove Park
- 82-2017** 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 Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded for Resolutions 73-2017, 75-2017 and 77-2017 to 82-2017, to be adopted by consent agenda.

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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 the consent agenda.

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded to adopt Resolution 74-2017.

74-2017 To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – PlayMore Sports

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.

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded to adopt Resolution 76-2017.

76-2017 To Approve an Application for Use Of Facilities – Paul Grace

Councilman Lischin thanked Paul Grace for coming out and representing his team to Council. Unfortunately, Councilman Lischin preferred to keep to Northfield teams.

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.

Councilman Murray introduced Resolution 83A-2017, seconded by Councilman Lischin.

Councilman O’Neill thanked Councilman Murray, CFO Stollenwerk and Business Administrator Canesi for their work on the budget.

Council President Dewees agreed.

83A-2017 Introduction of the 2017 Budget
No public input on introduction
Budget Synopsis Published in the Press of AC 3/18/2017
Public Hearing and Final Adoption: 7:30 pm 4/11/2017

The Municipal Clerk read the Resolution, and stated that this is the introduction, and there will be no public input. The public hearing date, and requisite publication dates were announced. The Municipal User Friendly Introduced Budget has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies will be 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 requests same.

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Roll call: Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – no; Mr. Dewees –yes; Motion carried to introduce Resolution 83A-2017.

ORDINANCES

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to adopt Ordinance 2-2017.

4-2017 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 215 of the Code of the City of Northfield Governing Land Use and Development
Second Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 3/14/2017

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that this was the public hearing after which the matter may be considered for 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. If adopted the Ordinance would be published in the Press of Atlantic City on March 18, 2017.

Solicitor Facenda explained that the Ordinance was referred to the Planning Board after introduction. The Planning Board recommended one additional change, which was reflected in resolution 84-2017; he read a summary of the Resolution. Council would need to decide whether or not to adopt the Ordinance as introduced, or as amended, and if as amended it would be considered at the next meeting of Council, after another public hearing.

Councilman Perri gave the example of a cement mixer; the language, if not amended, would permit that.

Mayor Chau noted that there had been resident concerns about commercial vehicles in residential areas.

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

Municipal Clerk Canesi explained that if Resolution 84 passed, that Ordinance 4 would be postponed for final consideration until the March 28th meeting, at which time there would be another public hearing on the Ordinance as amended, and then it would be considered for final adoption.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded to adopt Resolution 84-2017.

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84-2017 Amending Ordinance No. 4-2017, as Introduced on February 14, 2017

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 Resolution 84-2017.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded to postpone Ordinance 4-2017 until March 28, 2017.

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 postpone Ordinance 4-2017.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: \$ 1,466,819.31

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman Travagline 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 and announced the Northfield Mothers’ League Spaghetti Dinner on March 23, 2017.

Council President Dewees announced an Executive Session for Resolution 82-2017.

82-2017 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 an additional request for the Council to consider. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law.

At 8:29pm Council moved to the Mayor’s Office for the Executive Session.

At 8:53 the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

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Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded and pertained issues of Mt. Laurel Litigation and other issues requiring confidentiality and attorney client privilege. 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. Items discussed were consenting to a request to intervene in our declaratory judgment action.

At 8:53pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk