

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 11, 2017**

At 7:16pm, 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 introduced Mayor Chau to administer the ceremonial oath of office to new Patrolman Keith Lyons.

Mayor Chau read the following biography of Patrolman Lyons:

Patrolman Lyons is a Southern Regional High School graduate and is also a Certified Electrician after attending Ocean County Vocational School and received his Associates degree in Criminal Justice from Ocean County Community College. Mr. Lyons attended the Ocean County Police Academy in 2016 and worked as a Special Law Enforcement Officer II in Point Pleasant Beach where he was assigned to the Bike Unit and is now Police Mountain Bike Certified. Prior to attending the police academy Mr. Lyons worked as a Parking Enforcement Officer in Point Pleasant Beach. Mr. Lyons and his girlfriend Alanna have a sixteen month old son together named Brody and a five year old Husky named Summer. The family lives together in Beach Haven West in Ocean County and enjoys taking their boat out as a family for a cruise.

Patrolman Lyons introduced his girlfriend Alanna and son Brody, his family and friends in the audience, including members of the Police Department.

Mayor Chau welcomed members of the Police Department who were in attendance, he was very proud of them all and they had his 100% support. He called forward Chief Newman to join him.

Mayor Chau administered the oath of office to Patrolman Lyons.

Patrolman Lyons thanked everyone including his family for their love and support. He thanked Council for the opportunity.

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*At 7:16pm Council President Dewees announced a five minute recess.  
At 7:30pm Council President Dewees resumed the meeting.*

**RESOLUTION BUDGET**

**92-2017**        A Resolution of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Reading of the Budget by Title Only

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded for the adoption of Resolution 92-2017.

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 adopt Resolution 92-2017.

**93-2017**        Self Examination of Budget Resolution

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman Perri seconded for the adoption of Resolution 93-2017.

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 adopt Resolution 93-2017.

**83B-2017**        Adoption of the 2017 Budget  
*Public Hearing and Final Consideration*

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded for the adoption of Resolution 83B-2017.

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 –no; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried to adopt Resolution 83B-2017.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Perri reported that the Planning Board application last week was tentatively approved with conditions. He had no report for the sewer interlocal. The seniors would meet next week; he is trying to get the County Clerk to attend. There

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was a shared service meeting last week. Councilman Perri attended the Opening Day at Birch Grove Park, noting it had been many years since he attended, and that all volunteers and coordinators, the Alliance Coordinator and Chief Newman did a great job. The park was clean and event was well run. People from all over the County attended. He congratulated all.

Councilman O'Neill was at park this weekend, and fields looked phenomenal, he congratulated all. He acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Bunting to the fields and suggested that the City acknowledge him. He asked Mayor Chau if he was familiar with Mr. Bunting's contributions.

Mayor Chau replied that he was generally familiar; he suggested that anyone attend an upcoming ceremony where Mr. Bunting would be honored by the Mainland Regional Educational Foundation. Al Becker from Somers Point and Mayor Chau would also be honored.

Council President Dewees agreed that the City should recognize Mr. Bunting.

Councilman O'Neill also noted that the park looked great.

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

Councilman O'Neill advised Council that he had been working with Donna Clark to make sure that the City is getting what it should from the other town, we were watching every penny. The courts are running very smooth; the new judge and prosecutor were working out well.

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

Councilman Piergiovanni read the following letter from the Joint Insurance Fund.

Dear Mayor and Council:

It is our pleasure to report that the Northfield City has earned **\$2,150.00** as a result of your employees' outstanding performance in the 2016 ACMJIF Safety Incentive Program. The Safety Incentive Program is intended to foster a safety attitude among the ACM JIF members, change behaviors to create a safer work environment, as well as promote continuing efforts to "Change the Culture". The awards were announced at the Safety Coordinator's and Claims Coordinator's Regional Training held on March 3, 2017, and will be celebrated during our Annual Safety Kickoff Breakfast scheduled for April 6, 2017.

The Safety Incentive Program required the execution of the "Safety Contract" and the completion of various reports confirming compliance with JIF safety criteria. These

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reports were evaluated by the JIF Safety Director to determine your municipality's compliance with these criteria.

During 2016, members competed against a set of standards established by the Executive Safety Committee to determine their awards. The JIF members were sorted into five size categories (XS, S, M, L, XL) based upon their annual JIF Assessment. Each member competed against the established standards to determine if they either qualify or not (Pass or Fail) for a Safety Incentive Program Award.

Due to your employees' efforts, Northfield City has qualified (Passed!) for reimbursement of **\$2,150.00** to be used for recognition of your employees' safety accomplishments.

We would also like to extend our **CONGRATULATIONS** to your Fund Commissioner, James Dickinson, your Safety Coordinator, Shannon Campbell, your Claims Coordinator, Mary Canesi, and all your employees who played an important role in achieving these results. Their dedication to the principles of the JIF has enabled them to effectively communicate the importance of the safety program and their continuing commitment to the safety of all employees. We ask that this letter be read at your next Council Meeting to acknowledge these efforts by your employees' and make these accomplishments part of the public record.

Guidelines on how to collect your award has been sent to your Fund Commissioner and Safety Coordinator. You can find additional information about the JIF Safety Program, Polices, and Safety Incentive Program Criteria, as well as the presentation given during the Safety Kickoff Breakfast, on the ACMJIF website, [www.acmjif.org](http://www.acmjif.org).

I once again want to thank you for your involvement and congratulate you and everyone involved in the JIF safety program for making "***Safety First in All We Say and Do***"!

Very truly yours,  
ATLANTIC COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND  
Paul J. Miola, CPCU, ARM  
Executive Director

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

Councilman Travagline reported there was a shared services meeting last Friday with Linwood and they had discussed a few things, he would get a list of the different things that were discussed for presentation to the Council in the next week or two. FAN Board elections will be on April 27th at 6pm in the school cafeteria.

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

Councilman Murray reported that the rough count of tax appeals was approximately 300 new appeals this year; noting it was similar to the amount received in the past 4-6 years. He advised that he would keep Council abreast of the process as it developed.

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

Councilman Lischin announced that he also attended the shared service meeting with Councilman Travagline and State representatives regarding the Fire Department. He read the Fire Department report for the month. He offered the detailed list of calls if anyone from Council wished to review it. He noted that the decals have been applied to the one of the cars for the Building Department, but he did not see them on the white car. He read the inspections and permits report for the month and provided year to date totals.

**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

Council President Dewees reported that the Birch Grove Park Supervisor had presented an idea to Council President Dewees to only rent RV sites, as opposed to renting tent sites as well. The tent sites involved a lot more paperwork, and did not generate much revenue. Council President Dewees supported this idea. He stated that Councilman Travagline had asked that more RV sites be added; Councilman Dewees would look into that. He added that the Department of Public Works had been doing a fantastic job at Birch Grove Park, and in the City in general, much positive feedback had been generated.

Councilman O'Neill suggested creating a Public Works Employee of the Year program.

Council President Dewees acknowledged the suggestion.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau reported that would be meeting with Verizon and NJ American Water; if anyone had concerns forward them to Clerk Canesi and he would review them when he met with these groups. CGI, the group that created the videos on our website, had approached Mayor Chau for feedback and wanted to record his thoughts. He noted that he had very positive comments about the company and their program. Mayor

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Chau advised that there was still a position available on the Library Board. He read the Police Department statistics for the month, and noted that drug offenses continue to be a priority. He spoke in regard to promotional testing for the Police Department; final interviews would be scheduled soon. He also referred to a letter about a street opening and provided background. He reported that South Jersey Gas was doing road openings along Shore Road, and we were aware of an initial opening, but not of a subsequent opening that blocked the apron in front of the City Hall complex. He read a letter into the record that was the County's response to the letter he had sent to express our concerns. Mayor Chau disputed the assertion that the City was notified; a meeting occurred in December but no specific dates were given. He had asked the Chief Newman and Chief Cummings to put in writing the details of the notification so that he could reply.

Councilman Murray asked about the Centennial Clock.

Council President Dewees replied that he would follow up with Kathi Smith; the contractor was notified some time ago.

Clerk Canesi advised that Kathi said it was fixed, but it broke again; the contractor was coming back.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed updates to the Engineer's report as provided to Council. The construction on the Rosedale Pump should start by the end of April; Schaeffer, Nassar & Scheidegg is preparing a remedial plan to address the paving issues, and work should be done in the next few weeks. He was working on a schedule for punch items for the 2015 Paving Project. Engineer Nassar would be pushing SJ Gas Company to repair older paving work that was done improperly. He reported that Delmar Drive was fully paved; Sutton Avenue was done half width. Glencove, Shepherd Circle West, Shepherd North, Wells and Juniper should be done. He was hoping that by August all paving would be complete.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Dewees opened the public session.

Seeing no one 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

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matter. Any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds.

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded for Resolutions 94-2017 to 103-2017, to be voted on by Consent Agenda.

- 94-2017** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – Northfield Community School
- 95-2017** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Certain Projects – Birch Grove Museum ADA Compliance
- 96-2017** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Certain Projects – Davis Avenue Sanitary Pump Station Upgrade
- 97-2017** Approval for Engineer to Submit A Grant Application to the Atlantic County Improvement Authority for the 2017 Community Development Block Grant Program
- 98-2017** Authorization to relocate a New Jersey Transit Bus Stop within the City of Northfield
- 99-2017** Authorizing the Appointment of a COAH Attorney as Special Counsel in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 (1) as a Professional Service
- 100-2017** Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a License Agreement
- 101-2017** A Resolution Recognizing Babe Ruth Volunteer Coaches for 2017
- 102-2017** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – Mr. Sean Sutley
- 103-2017** To Hire a Laborer in the Public Works Department

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 Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded for Resolutions 94-2017 to 103-2017, to be adopted by consent agenda.

Councilman Lischin referred to Resolution 94-2017 for field day, noting this was why we had the fields; he also referred to Resolution 102-2017 he was in favor of that as well since it was for Northfield kids.

Council President Dewees appreciated that the applicant did the right thing and applied for the use of the field, he agrees that it was a great thing for the kids.

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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.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** \$ 404,131.58

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni 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.

At 8:04pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk