

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2020**

At 6:31pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2020 and April 4, 2020, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present (in person): Councilman Dewees; Councilman O’Neill; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Perri; Mayor Chau

Solicitor Stein and Deputy Clerk Campbell were also in attendance.

Present (via telephone): Councilwoman Korngut; Councilwoman Madden

Chief Newman and Engineer Nassar were also present via telephone.

Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“As everyone knows, based on an Executive Order of the governor, public gatherings are limited to not more than 10 people. Tonight, the following are in attendance via telephone only, using the speaker function of the telephone in the Council Chambers meeting room:

- Councilwoman Korngut
- Councilwoman Madden
- Engineer Nassar
- Chief of Police Paul Newman

Also for this reason, members of the public are not able to attend tonight’s meeting in person, but we are pleased to announce that virtual attendance has been made possible via a video-conferencing service called Zoom; participants can dial in by telephone and listen to the proceedings, or they can access the meeting using a web-browser, and be able to view and listen. Instructions on how members of the public can access Zoom have been made available on the municipal website and Facebook pages, and was published in the Press of Atlantic City.

All participants will be ‘muted’ upon entry to the meeting. Web-browser participants will not be able to share their screens or see the camera-view of anyone other than the host, which is the City of Northfield.

When the time comes for public comment, a specific announcement will be made; one by one telephone users will be asked to identify themselves and will be unmuted to permit commentary. Web-browser attendees may ask questions or make comments via the ‘chat’ function. Comments will not be acknowledged until the public

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comment portion of the meeting begins; at which time they will be read aloud into the record.”

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Utts, second of Councilman Dewees, with the exception of Councilwoman Korngut and Councilwoman Madden who abstained, all present were in favor of approving the minutes of the meetings of March 24, 2020 without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Chau reported that every night and day he had been driving around inspecting the City. He thanked all of the residents and businesses for observing the Orders of the Governor. He had asked all City departments and employees to conform with social distance measures, wearing masks, etc., he has also spoken with individuals with regard to sanitizing City Hall and various different aspects as well as our police cars.

Council President Perri announced that certain resolutions needed to be adopted before the budget.

RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Smith motioned, second of Councilman Dewees to adopt Resolution 83-2020.

83-2020 A Resolution of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Reading of the Budget by Title Only

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Smith motioned, second of Councilman Dewees to adopt Resolution 84-2020.

84-2020 Self Examination of Budget Resolution

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Perri announced that we needed to wait until 7pm for the budget hearing so we will be going out of order on the agenda.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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Council President Perri opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to comment on any subject.

Seeing no one wishing to make a comment Council President Perri closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS

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.

On a motion of Councilwoman Korngut, second of Councilwoman Madden, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 85-2020, 86-2020 and 88-2020 through 90-2020.

- 85-2020** Appointment of Facilities Use / Events Coordinator
- 86-2020** Memorialize Separation from the City of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
- 88-2020** 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
- 89-2020** A Resolution Approving Participation with the State of New Jersey Federal Grant Program Administered by the Division of Criminal Justice, Department of Law and Public Safety
- 90-2020** Resolution of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to withhold Payment from Warshauer Generator, LLC

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, second of Councilwoman Madden, to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 85-2020, 86-2020 and 88-2020 through 90-2020.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

Councilwoman Korngut announced she had a question regarding Resolution 87-2020 and asked what necessitated that?

Clerk Canesi explained that if the any other entity does not adopt their budget in time, we can’t strike a rate. The State has encouraged everyone to prepare estimated tax bills; this allows us to continue to collect money so we can operate.

Councilwoman Korngut replied that she understood.

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Councilman Korngut motioned, second of Councilwoman Madden to adopt Resolution 87-2020.

87-2020 Resolution of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Tax Collector to Prepare and Mail Estimated Tax Bills in Accordance with P.L. 1994, C72

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$3,054,330.67

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Utts seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Perri read the meeting notices and called for a recess.

At 6:44pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, second of Councilman Smith, all present were in favor of a recess prior to the budget hearing.

At 6:59pm Council President Perri resumed the meeting.

7:00PM –PUBLIC HEARING 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Council President Perri announced that the public hearing on the 2020 municipal budget was now open for any member of the public wishing to comment. He asked those wishing to comment to please state their name and address for the record.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to comment, the public hearing on the municipal budget was closed.

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Resolution 67B-2020.

67B-2020 Adoption of the 2020 Budget

Councilman Perri asked if there were any questions; there were none. He thanked everyone involved: Council Members, employees, CFO Stollenwerk and staff. This was a year-long process, it’s not just something that starts in January. With participation from the Finance Department, CFO Stollenwerk and her knowledge, we passed one of the better budgets we’ve had in many years. We were starting to see our net worth improve, and tax collection. The thanked all again for their work at making this a zero-tax increase.

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Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Smith – yes, Mr. Utts - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

Councilwoman Korngut thanked everyone, especially Clerk Canesi and Deputy Clerk Campbell for getting his together, getting it online, and all other employees for making the best of the situation. She hoped we could all be together again soon.

Council President Perri replied that the new system seemed to be working, he hoped we could move forward; we would prevail.

At 7:04pm, on motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman O’Neill, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk