

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 16, 2019**

At 8:02pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 5, 2019, 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: Dewees, Korngut, Madden, Perri, Smith, Lischin  
Absent: O'Neill

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

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Madden, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of April 2, 2019, without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Councilman Perri** - Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Sewer Operations, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri reported that the seniors were meeting Thursday at the Library with a presentation from the ACUA. The Davis Avenue pump station was on line. He was still trying to meet with the ACUA regarding flows; it was another record high month last month. As far as the Planning Board, he would recommend that the Council not discuss the Carluccio's application. It was now a "D" variance and more complicated.

Solicitor Facenda believed what Councilman Perri was alluding to is that an appeal of a denial of a "D" variance goes to this Governing Body.

Council President Lischin asked Councilman Perri to explain what was going on with Carluccio's.

Councilman Perri explained it was public record; a 600 square-foot addition was erected without proper approvals. A formal complaint was made to the Tax Office, that's how it started.

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Council President Lischin asked how we pay the ACUA. Councilman Perri replied quarterly, in advance.

Council President Lischin asked if there was any way to say we aren't paying until they meet.

Councilman Perri did not believe so; the contract terms were stringent. There was correspondence back and forth.

Engineer Nassar reviewed historical data as compared to Linwood; it seemed to support his and Councilman Perri's contention that something was amiss. The bottom line was that they needed to justify to us if the failure of their pump station has affected our flows.

Councilman Perri added that we still do not have one answer resolved.

Council President Lischin confirmed that Mr. Pantalone was a Vice-President, was there anyone higher?

Councilman Perri suggested forwarding to Mr. Dovey and going from there.

Engineer Nassar suggested having Mr. Pantalone come to the May 7th meeting.

Councilman Perri suggested a letter from Mayor and Council.

Engineer Nassar advised he would prepare and send a letter.

**Councilman O'Neill** - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Court/Violations, FAN  
Councilman O'Neill was absent.

**Councilwoman Korngut** – Library, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Technology/MRHS Channel 2

Councilwoman Korngut reported that she attended a presentation put on by the County Municipal Alliance on vaping; she did not know how dangerous vaping was. She received a good response when sharing this information and plans on having an event at the Library with the same speaker; the date would be announced at the next meeting. The Library Director indicated it was in-line with programs already done at the Library. She announced the Hooked on Fishing Event would be held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> for kids ages 5-15; prizes would be given out. Chief Newman will be giving a presentation. Registration starts at 7:30am with prizes given out at 11:30am. She reported that at the last Council meeting Council President Lischin asked for figures on the school budget, which she has obtained and forwarded. We would have

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a 2-cent tax increase. The next Board of Education meeting would be April 29<sup>th</sup>. She attended the Library Board meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup> and recited the library statistics for March. She spoke about the LENS mentors program that involved high school students working with middle school students to get them excited about STEM. The next Library Board meeting was scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Council President Lischin expressed his disappointment that the school wasn't able to hold the line.

Councilman Dewees asked about enrollment; was it still around 900?

Councilwoman Korngut would find out.

**Councilman Dewees** - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Parks, Playgrounds

Councilman Dewees reported there are a handful of trees at Birch Grove Park and the 1st Street playground that needed to be removed, and some in the picnic area and bandstand that may need to be trimmed; we are waiting for prices. He thanked Northfield Mothers' League for a great job on the Egg Hunt. During the event a piece of wire was found sticking out of the ground which had since been removed.

Councilwoman Madden asked if there were plans to replant trees.

Councilman Dewees had identified 20 locations; we would be getting trees from Atlantic City Electric.

**Councilman Smith**– Finance/Collections, Little League/Babe Ruth, Shared Services

Councilman Smith reported that Northfield Little League opening day was April 6<sup>th</sup>, the weather and the turnout were nice. He was very appreciative of the support and presence from Police, Fire and State Police. His youngest child attended the Egg Hunt; he thanked the Mothers' League for all they continue to do for the City.

**Councilwoman Madden** – Insurance and Safety, Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden reported the next safety meeting would be held in May. She met with Denny Sher, from the Mainland Board of Education. Northfield was paying more than our proportionate share of taxes. She would be meeting with Mark Sykes, Tax Assessor, to discuss. She attended the MRHS Mainland Board of Education meeting. She referred to a survey done by UPSTANDERS with students (85%) response and parents (10%) regarding school climate and areas for improvement. The school would continue to look at that, and the possibly of changing their disciplinary approach. Their budget meeting is scheduled May 6th.

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**Council President Lischin - Fire Department/EMS, Cultural Committee**

Council President Lischin reported there was an Executive Session on for tonight regarding the Fire Department, and that Fire union negotiations would begin soon.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau reported that he would be attending the Mayor's conference next week, and shared a list of several seminars he'll be attending. He asked Council at the last meeting if they wanted to participate in a local government energy audit. Clerk Canesi had scheduled the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. This month he encouraged all to attend the Atlantic County League of Municipalities meeting. He reported that he, Deputy Clerk Campbell and Clerk Canesi were diligently working on the Memorial Day event at Veterans; Park. Anyone who has anything to add may contact any one of them. Mayor Chau's office had received application and notification for an additional bus shelter on Oakcrest and Shore Road; he was working towards the necessary we will have to get rights of way from certain property owners and from the County.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. He was still trying to meet with the ACUA regarding flows. The Davis Avenue pump station was online. The emergency generator needed to be connected and paving completed. There were no issues so far. In regard to the Reconstruction of Walnut Avenue, we had provided NJDOT with the required information, and once final approval was obtained, we could schedule the pre-construction meeting with work possibly starting in May. The 2018 Road Paving project was anticipated to go out to bid in May and be awarded by end of the month with work to start after school lets out in June; the work would take approximately 60 days. NJ American Water has been flushing their entire system in an effort to fix the water quality issues; hopefully this would solve the problems.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Lischin opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any subject. Seeing no one wishing to speak Council President Lischin closed the public session.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Council President Lischin 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 of funds 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.

On a motion of Councilwoman Madden, second of Councilwoman Korngut, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 94-2019, 95-2019 and 97-2019 through 107-2019.

- 94-2019** Resolution Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2019 Budget
- 95-2019** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Preparation of Bid Documents for the Project Known as Reconstruction of Shepherd Drive
- 97-2019** Authorizing the Award of Contract without Public Advertisement for Bids to Absecon Electric Motor Works, Inc. for Replacement of an Irrigation Well
- 98-2019** Authorizing Refund of Construction Permit Fees to Sunpower
- 99-2019** Authorizing Refund of Construction Permit Fees to Sunpower
- 100-2019** Authorizing Refund of Construction Permit Fees to Sunpower
- 101-2019** Authorizing Refund Overpayment of Taxes
- 102-2019** A Resolution Promoting William Ward to the Position of Sergeant of Police
- 103-2019** A Resolution Promoting William Cornell to the Position of Sergeant of Police
- 104-2019** Authorization for the City of Northfield to Process an Involuntary Disability Retirement Application
- 105-2019** Authorization for the City of Northfield to Process an Involuntary Disability Retirement Application
- 106-2019** Authorizing the Appointment of a COAH Attorney as Special Counsel in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 as a Professional Service
- 107-2019** 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), Regarding Personnel Matters and the Promotion of Acting Captains in the Fire Department to the Positions of Regular Captain

Councilwoman Madden motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, to adopt Resolutions 94-2019, 95-2019 and 97-2019 through 107-2019 by consent agenda.

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

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Councilwoman Madden motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, to adopt Resolution 96-2019.

**96-2019** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities Mainland ‘Pink’ Cancer Awareness Game

Councilman Smith announced he would be abstaining; he explained the Pink Game and said he appreciated Council’s support.

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

**ORDINANCE**

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt Ordinance 7-2019, to be read by title only.

**7-2019** An Ordinance Amending Article XIII F, Sections 111-26.23, 111-26.25 and 111-26.32 of the City of Northfield Code Entitled Vehicles and Traffic  
*2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 04/16/2019*

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 and thereafter published. Since introduction, the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies have been 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 Lischin opened the public hearing; seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

Council President Lischin explained that this Ordinance was suggested for enforcement by the Police Department, he hoped it would enable us to peacefully move people along.

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

**PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 2,692,262.66**

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, for payment of bills.

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

Council President Lischin read the meeting notices.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council President Lischin announced the Executive Session for Resolution 107-2019.

**107-2019**      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), Regarding Personnel Matters and the Promotion of Acting Captains in the Fire Department to the Positions of Regular Captain

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda stated that the matter to be discussed specifically was the promotions of certain acting captains to the positions of regular captain. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. He advised all would move to the Mayor’s Office and return with a comment.

Mayor Chau announced he would not be attending the executive session, and asked if there were any questions from Council. There were no questions.

*At 8:48pm Council moved to the Mayor’s Office for the Executive Session.*

*At 9:36pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.*

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded; the topic discussed was the promotion of acting captains in the Fire Department to the positions of regular captain. No official action was taken. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law.

At 9:37pm, on a motion of Councilwoman Korngut, seconded by Councilman Perri, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk