

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**JULY 25, 2017**

At 6:59pm, 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, Dewees

Absent: Travagline

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

Council President Dewees welcomed everyone to the meeting and deferred to Mayor Chau.

**PRESENTATION:**

Sgt. Robert Dever and Patrolman Andrew Griess – Life Saving Award

Mayor Chau introduced Chief Newman who read the following details from the incident:

On Saturday, June 17, 2017 at approximately 16:38 Patrolman Andrew Griess and Sergeant Robert Dever responded to the 2500 block of Leeds Avenue in Northfield, NJ, for a report of an 8 year old child actively choking. Upon arrival they found the juvenile male in distress and having difficulty breathing. His mother informed the officers that he was autistic. After a brief assessment Patrolman Griess administered the Heimlich maneuver and cleared the obstruction, which turned out to be a large piece of a hotdog. A short time later, EMS arrived and the juvenile was deemed to be in satisfactory condition and his parents signed a refusal of treatment form.

On Sunday, June 18, 2017 Patrolman Griess took it upon himself to visit the juvenile to check his wellbeing. Having been previously informed by his mother that the child loves the police, Patrolman Greiss delivered police-related stickers, pencils and erasers to the juvenile and spent a few moments with him and his family.

Chief Newman called forward Sergeant Dever and Patrolman Griess. He stated that as Chief, this was something special, not only does it not happen very often in your career, thank God, but it's special that we have officers like Sergeant Dever and Patrolman Griess in our community. He thanked them both.

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Mayor Chau noted that he called the mother after the incident, and she was not only grateful, but she was overwhelmed by what these officers had done to save the life of her child. Mayor Chau then read the following letter from the American Heart Association that was sent to both officers:

The American Heart Association would like to thank you. It is a pleasure to honor you for acting courageously and swiftly to offer lifesaving aid.

Today, many Americans feel helpless to act during an emergency because they do not know how to administer CPR or they are afraid of hurting the victim. We want to recognize heroes that have stepped in to save a life. Thank you for performing the heroic act of CPR, a critical link in our chain of survival. You have not only helped save a life within your community, but you are also partnering with the American Heart Association to improve the survival rate of citizens who receive bystander CPR.

He congratulated both and presented each with a certificate and a pin.

*At 7:10pm Councilman Travagline entered the meeting.*

### **MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilman Murray, second by Councilman Lischin, all were in favor of approval of the minutes from June 27th without formal reading.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Perri received notice that the August Planning Board meeting was canceled due to lack of applications. The last Senior meeting went well. There had been shared-service meetings, and we are meeting tonight in executive session on the interlocal. Councilman Perri announced the birth of twin grandsons Frank IV and George, born last Friday. They were born early but both were healthy.

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

Councilman O'Neill reported that the Library and Court were doing well.

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

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Councilman Piergiovanni reported that Jim Dickinson, Fund Commissioner, was transitioning to a part-time schedule and the Fund Commissioner position would need to be filled in 2018.

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

Councilman Travagline had no report.

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

Councilman Murray had no report.

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

Councilman Lischin reported that new Acting Fire Captain Ted Wolcott assisted with this month's report, and read the following: there were a total of 6 fire incidents, including 3 vehicle fires, 1 cooking fire and 2 mulch fires. There were a total of 7 (19 One Man Weekday Shifts w/No 1st Responder C-60) EMS assist incidents, 7 Total Hazardous Condition (No Fire), Total Service Calls (Non-Emergency Incidents): 2, Total Good Intent Calls: 3, False Alarm & False Call: 6, Total Non-Incident Activities: 3, including: 1 Community Event (Honor Flight Return) and 1 Work Detail. The Fire Department had 67 hours of training.

Councilman Lischin said he had reached out to our EMS service, Tricare, and asked for a direct report for their calls. Tricare reported: 130 dispatches resulting in 82 transports, of these, 22 dispatches were Mutual Aid to Egg Harbor Township and they had 1 Narcan administration in the month of June.

He also read the Construction Department report for June. The department issued 43 permits, conducted 43 building inspections, 55 electrical inspections, 8 fire inspections and 22 plumbing inspections. There were 2 CO's/CCO's, 31 resale certificates, and 9 rental certificates. Councilman Lischin noted the transition of Jim Dickinson to part time status and thanked Mr. Dickinson for his service. The new part time person will be hired and trained and we will transition to one part time employee in 2018.

Councilman Lischin announced that Bandstand's Got Talent was a great success, and read a list of upcoming events that the Cultural Committee was presenting during the rest of the summer.

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**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 acknowledged Qwin Vitale in the audience and thanked him for the work he was doing in keeping the City looking good and well maintained. He noted the removal of a few signs that were no longer needed on Rosedale Avenue.

Councilman O'Neill echoed Council President Dewees' comments and compliments regarding Mr. Vitale, agreeing that the City looked great.

Councilman Travagline asked Council President Dewees to comment on the Mill Road sidewalk project.

Council President Dewees reported that he has a meeting with County personnel next week; we would be extending the agreement while we ironed out the final details with the County.

### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau congratulated the organizers of the 4th of July Parade, noting it was well attended and well organized. He was advised of one minor issue: several years ago; the parade committee changed the rules and disallowed the throwing of candy and squirting with water. It was brought to Mayor Chau's attention that this year, one of our Firemen was shot with a water gun while driving the new fire truck. It was a forcible amount of water that went into the cab, and fortunately there was no driving distraction. He hoped next year people would comply with the rules established by the Cultural Committee. Mayor Chau reported that he would be attending an event at the Library to honor lifetime membership of Friends of the Library. Anyone interested in attending should notify Mrs. Mellon. He also attended the Northfield Community School Board of Education meeting to update them on the status of the bus shelter; we have received verbal agreement for the necessary easements and were proceeding. He shared a story of Northfield Community School Board of Education hiring a long time teacher in a full time capacity at that meeting also. Mayor Chau had the honor of recognizing a Northfield resident celebrating her 90th birthday, Mrs. Helen Upper, she had been a long time member of the community and business owner, he wished Mrs. Upper a happy birthday. He reminded all of National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm and encouraged all to attend. He was happy to announce that in the month of August, the owners of the Northfield McDonald's, with the assistance of Chief Newman, will present a coupon for free ice cream from McDonald's to individuals who are wearing bicycle helmets and seen by a police officer. Ice cream is great, but we want to emphasize the importance of safety. He thanked Chief Newman and McDonald's for their efforts.

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Councilman O'Neill commented that he wished some of the other officers were here; he asked Chief Newman to thank his staff for any involvement they may have had in the recent drug bust and arrests.

Mayor Chau reported to Council that we would lose the \$30,000.00 Safe and Secure Grant because we didn't have enough officers; we needed 21 and we only had 20. He advised that we had several officers unavailable to work due to injuries etc., and it had impacted our overtime. Now that we had a better staffing situation, Chief Newman had created a traffic position.

Solicitor Facenda cautioned Mayor Chau with regard to the Rice Notice that would need to be issued if employment of any individual was discussed.

Mayor Chau asked if Richard Gerber, Risk Management Consultant, can come in and present at the August meeting; a 1/2 hour presentation on social media.

As insurance chair, Councilman Piergiovanni said he would reach out to Mr. Gerber and get details and advise Council.

### **CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed updates to the Engineer's report as provided to Council. He reported that the Rosedale Pump Station was on line. The future station design would incorporate a dehumidifier into the cabinet. The station was working well, and once grass grows in it will look less obtrusive and will blend into the surroundings. Engineer Nassar said he had received long awaited testing information from AE Stone for the Bay Drive project, so we would be able to close out that project. There was an issue on Vernon Avenue where water blow out valves were paved over, and not raised. This would be remedied as well. He was working on the ACIA application and hoped to have it submitted by the next meeting. He was still working with SJ Gas on coordinating the paving restoration work. Engineer Nassar was preparing a new street opening moratorium map for the Clerk's Office and Building Department. Engineer Nassar felt that paving should be completed by the end of September; he reminded Council that we did not control when they do the paving. The portable generator specs had been revised again and would go back out to bid, we had a grant and we needed to use it or lose it.

Councilman O'Neill asked Engineer Nassar to confirm that the Cresson Avenue drainage work would be done before the paving and that the funds had been allocated

Engineer Nassar confirmed.

Mayor Chau added that our Citizen of the Year, Bradley Ferguson, was invited to the Steve Adubato Show; he congratulated Bradley again for the fine work he was doing.

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**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Dewees opened the public session for any person to speak on any topic.

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 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.

On a motion of Councilman Perri, second of Councilman O'Neill, all were in favor of voting on Resolutions 147-2017 to 165-2017, by Consent Agenda.

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| <b>147-2017</b> | Authorizing the Tax Collector to Establish a Grace Period  |
| <b>148-2017</b> | Coin Drop Lottery Procedures   |
| <b>149-2017</b> | Change in Employment Status for Technical Assistant to the Construction Official   |
| <b>150-2017</b> | In-House Transfer from the Position of Regular School Crossing Guard to Part Time Technical Assistant to the Construction Official   |
| <b>151-2017</b> | Memorializing a Grant Application Submitted by the Northfield Police Department for a 'Cops in Shops' Grant from the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control Grant #Al-17-45-05-02 |
| <b>152-2017</b> | Memorializing a Grant Application Submitted by the Northfield Fire Department for a Grant from New Jersey American Water   |
| <b>153-2017</b> | Salary Increase for Deputy Municipal Clerk in Consideration of Job Responsibilities  |
| <b>154-2017</b> | Resolution Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2017 Budget - Cops in Shops   |
| <b>155-2017</b> | Resolution Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2017 Budget - NJ American Water   |
| <b>156-2017</b> | Acknowledging Employment Resignation of Seasonal Maintenance Worker at Birch Grove Park  |
| <b>157-2017</b> | Amending Resolution No. 144-2017, Regarding the Rate of Pay for Adam Gitsas, Seasonal Concession Stand Attendant for Birch Grove Park  |

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- 158-2017** Authorize the Relocation of a New Jersey Transit Bus Stop within the City of Northfield
- 159-2017** Amending the Authorization Provided for Under Resolution No. 166-2017, Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with the Project Known as the Rosedale 1 Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Upgrade
- 160-2017** Release of Escrow Monies from the Planning Board
- 161-2017** Authorization to Create Municipal Lien for Property Maintenance Costs
- 162-2017** Authorizing the Extension of an Interlocal Agreement between the County of Atlantic and the City of Northfield for the Installation of Sidewalks along a Certain Section of Mill Road (CR 662) In the City Of Northfield
- 163-2017** Approval of Application for Coin Drop – Northfield Volunteer Fire Company
- 164-2017** 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) Regarding Contract Negotiations
- 165-2017** 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) Regarding Personnel Matters

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman O'Neill seconded for the adoption of the consent agenda to consisting of Resolutions 147-2017 to 165-2017.

Councilman Lischin announced that Victoria Burke would be the new part time TACO, he thanked Jim Dickinson again. He also noted the coin drop on the agenda was for the Volunteer Fire Company; he hoped it goes well.

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 O'Neill commented on the great job being done by Shannon Campbell.

**ORDINANCE**

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded to adopt Ordinance 10-2017.

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- 10-2017**      Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2-2017, Providing for and Establishing Salary Ranges of Officers and Employees of the City of Northfield, Atlantic County  
*2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration July 25, 2017*

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 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 carries.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** \$ 4,307,679.51

Councilman Piergiovanni 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 164-2017.

- 164-2017**      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) Regarding Contract Negotiations

Clerk Canesi added for the record that Jim Dickinson and Victoria Burke were issued Rice Notices.

Clerk Canesi read Resolution 164-2017 by title and particulars.

Solicitor Facenda explained that the Executive Session was in regards to contractual negotiations with the City of Linwood more specifically matters relating to the sewer interlocal agreement between the City of Linwood and the City of Northfield. A letter was received from the City of Linwood dated June 26, 2017 regarding the

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termination of that interlocal. Council would keep minutes of the executive session as required by law which will be approved by Council then promptly available for public inspection when required and permitted by law; timeframe unknown.

Councilman Perri asked if the sewer professionals in attendance could attend.

Solicitor Facenda replied that at this time, no, noting that discussions with the sewer professionals should occur in public.

*At 7:47pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.*

*At 8:30 the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.*

Solicitor Facenda announced the Executive Session had concluded and that no formal action was taken by the Council, they will continue to review the issues raised by the letter from Linwood. Minutes were kept and would be available once approved; they would be released when required and permitted by law.

**165-2017**      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) Regarding Personnel Matters

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

Solicitor Facenda explained that the Executive Session was in regards to personnel matters, specifically the assignment of additional responsibilities to Qwin Vitale and asked Clerk Canesi to confirm that Mr. Vitale had been issued a Rice Notice.

Clerk Canesi confirm that Mr. Vitale had been issued and returned the Rice Notice.

Solicitor Facenda added that the minutes would be kept and released when permitted by law; timeframe unknown.

*At 8:31pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.*

*At 8:46pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.*

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session of Council had concluded, minutes were kept, Council had agreed to proceed with the concept of assigning additional job duties to Qwin Vitale the Public Works Supervisor.

At 8:47pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk