

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015**

At 6:59pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on February 14, 2015 in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau; he asked for all to sit and offered a remembrance of the upcoming anniversary of the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center. He also stated that flags will fly at half-staff on 9/11 on all City buildings.

ROLL CALL

Present: Dewees, Lischin, Murray, Perri, Travagline
Absent: O'Neill, Piergiovanni

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Kris Facenda and Engineer Dan Kwapinski were also in attendance.

Councilman Perri motioned to adopt Resolution 160-2015, seconded by Councilman Dewees.

160-2015 To Approve the Hiring of Andrew Griess Police Officer

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O'Neill –absent; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline –yes. Motion carries.

Mayor Chau called Patrolman Griess and his family forward; Griess introduced his father; Michael, mother; Bernadette, stepmother; Jane and wife Audrey. Mayor Chau administered the Oath of Office.

Mayor Chau read the following biography on Patrolman Griess:

Andrew is a resident of Hammonton, NJ, he graduated from Washington Twp. H.S.; and the Academy of Culinary Arts, Mays Landing. He is currently enrolled in ACCC Criminal Justice Program.

His professional certificates include: Basic Course for Police Officers and Firefighters 1 & 2.

He was previously employed with the Camden County Police Department. His experiences include: Patrol; Community Policing; Firearms Licensing; and Fleet Management.

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Council President Travagline welcomed Patrolman Griess to Northfield.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri – Fire Department/EMS, Insurance and Safety, Sewer Inter Local, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri stated that the Planning Board has an application for a C variance on October 1st. EMS negotiations are ongoing with terms extended by Shore Medical until 2016 under the current contract; a seniors luncheon is set for September 17th at 12pm at the Library, RSVP to Councilman Perri. The Sewer Department had manholes damaged by large trucks, they are working on the repairs. He extended condolences to former Councilman Tom Corona on the passing of his son.

Councilman O’Neill - Court/Violations, FAN, Library, Economic Development, Shared Services

Councilman O’Neill was absent.

Councilman Piergiovanni - Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance

Councilman Piergiovanni was absent.

Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Birch Grove, Public Works, Little League/Babe Ruth, Northfield School

Councilman Dewees stated there had been a situation on Swilkey Avenue with an abandoned property, there was about a 15x3 foot wide swath of trash. The ACUA took what they could. Municipal Clerk Canesi, Qwin Vitale from Public Works and Kathi Smith worked together to get the property cleaned up, the City ended up hiring a contractor to clean it up. He thanked these three employees for their efforts. Birch Grove Park is under a fire ban and the fire rings, used by campers, have been removed.

Council President Travagline asked for an update on flooding issues.

Councilman Dewees said they are working on it, will be a difficult repair. It looks like the conduit may be crushed, and may have to temporarily lower the level of the lake to make the repair.

Councilman Murray - Finance/Collections, Inspections/Engineering, Veterans Park, County/State

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Councilman Murray had nothing to report.

Councilman Lischin - Technology, Cultural Committee, Mainland Regional, Green Team

Councilman Lischin stated that the Edmunds WIPP program is up and running, he has spoken with a few local title companies that are using it. The City had the street unveiling for Joyce Pullan Way, which was wonderful. The first day of school was today for Mainland Regional High School and Northfield Community School. He announced a Veterans event at the Mainland vs. Ocean City home opener football game and read the details.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau read the Police Department report, noted that the City has agreed to participate in a gypsy moth survey, inspections to follow. This is not indicative of a problem, just an assessment tool. Several local videos have all been filmed for the website project and will be up soon, anyone visiting our site can view the videos. He thanked the community for the overwhelming level of support from local businesses who participated, there are still spots available. He then referred to the recent Planning Board meeting at which the Mazzeo business was granted certain variances. The public in attendance did express concerns about truck and other traffic and parking on Chestnut and Maple Avenues. He has asked the Police Department for their input and recommendations. These streets are quite narrow. An Ordinance change may be warranted, based upon the findings.

Councilman Dewees stated that he had a conversation with Jim Clark about some of the flags that need to be removed along Shore Road; asked Mayor Chau if he should proceed.

Mayor Chau recommended that all flags be removed. He announced to the public that the types of flags we have hanging are no longer permitted by Atlantic City Electric. Banner flags, however, are permitted. We fall under new policies and will only be allowed to place flags on the sidewalk side of the street. He is looking at other options.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilman Dewees to dispense with the reading of the minutes August 25, 2015. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

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Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill –absent; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline –yes Motion carries.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer Kwapinski gave his recommendation of award for Broad Street Phase III on the agenda. A.E. Stone was the lowest bidder.

Mayor Chau stated that he has received complaints about road openings on Bay Drive and issues with the restoration work.

Engineer Kwapinski said he was not familiar with the complaints but will look into it.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject.

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

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded for the adoption of Resolution 161-2015.

161-2015 New Jersey Department of Transportation, Division of Local Aid and Economic Development Recommendation of Award, State Aid Project, Reconstruction of Broad Street – Phase III

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill -absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries to adopt Resolution 161-2015.

ORDINANCE

16-2015 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 268 of the Code of the City of Northfield Governing Property Maintenance
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and announced the final publication date. This is the second reading and the matter will be considered for final adoption

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after the public hearing. Since introduction the full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies are 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.

Council President Travagline opened the public hearing.

Seeing no one wishing to speak the public hearing was closed.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill – absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries to adopt Ordinance 16-2015.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: \$781,310.31

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, for payment of bills.

Council President Travagline asked the Finance Chair, Councilman Murray, to meet with the CFO to identify the number of Police Officers we need to avoid overtime.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O’Neill – absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –absent; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries.

Councilman Murray noted that the date for the next Council meeting, as listed on the agenda, is incorrect, the meeting is the 29th.

Municipal Clerk Canesi confirmed this to be correct.

At 7:28pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk