

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**

At 7:12pm, 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.

**MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilman Piergiovanni, second by Councilman Lischin, all were in favor of approval of the minutes from August 29th without formal reading.

**2017 BEST PRACTICES INVENTORY**

Councilman Murray stated that all of Council previously received the City's Best Practice checklist from the Municipal Clerk. He then read the following statement:

The Best Practices Inventory is essentially a self-assessment that we are required to complete each year and submit to the Division of Local Government Services. Questions are designed to assess areas such as internal controls, personnel practices, general management, and procurement. Scores of less than 88% will result in a reduction in a municipality's state aid. For 2017, the City of Northfield scored an 88%. We will receive our full allotment of state aid. By having it on the agenda, Council formally acknowledges having reviewed it. The City Clerk distributed Northfield's completed Inventory to all of Council last week.

Councilman Murray asked if anyone from Council had any questions.

Councilman Perri asked for clarification on question 17 regarding health care coverage for part time and elected officials.

Clerk Canesi responded that we do exclude them from health care coverage.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

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Councilman Perri stated that Council may or may not have seen the new sewer crane truck that is now in service; it's a great piece of equipment and has a plow. The seniors meeting will be next week with attendance by rsvp, the Planning Board meeting was tentative.

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

Councilman O'Neill reported that the court has a new prosecutor in Mr. Bonchi, he was sure he would do a great job. He commended Chief Newman and staff for the recent drug bust.

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

Councilman Piergiovanni had no report.

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

Councilman Travagline had no report. He mentioned it was a somber day, a good friend of his who was a former Northfield resident, a strong member of the community and active volunteer, passed away 5 years ago today.

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

Councilman Murray reported there were 348 tax appeals filed for this year; we are on the same trajectory as in past years with regard to the impact on the ratable base. He did not have exact information.

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

Councilman Lischin did not have department reports at this meeting; thanked Riley for video services and announced air dates.

Councilman Travagline asked for the Fire Department call sheets, Councilman Lischin noted he would get them to him.

**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

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Council President Dewees reported that the City had to have 4 trees removed, two in an easement behind Pasadena Avenue, one on Mt. Vernon Avenue that was a public safety issue and the one on Rosedale Avenue that Council was voting on tonight as a cost share.

Councilman Perri felt like we should have a contract for tree removal, it's a big expense.

Council President Dewees advised that we did get quotes on each one.

Councilman Perri was glad to hear that.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau referred to a recent drug bust that was 2 months in the making, appreciated the Northfield Police Department and their efforts. He asked Chief Newman if they've gotten feedback about the helmet ice cream coupons.

Chief Newman replied yes, very positive feedback, and they used every single one of them.

Mayor Chau reminded all about the recycling cart contest. September's winner will be drawn at the next meeting. He asked Engineer Nassar if he followed up with South Jersey Gas about any issues.

Engineer Nassar replied that he has not needed to, they have been very responsible.

Councilman O'Neill had another eatery that was willing to donate giveaways for the bike helmets.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed updates to the Engineer's report as provided to Council. One thing that was not on the report was the New Jersey American Water water main replacement project, they had not applied for street opening permits yet and he would try to have better dates for the next meeting. He attended the preconstruction meeting along with Chief Newman. He announced that any closure in front of City Hall would be coordinated with the Clerk's Office. The contractor for the Bay Drive project will address the issue with the berm and drainage. The ACIA application was submitted August 30th. There had recently been a lot of leaks and emergency road openings; he contacted the gas company and was told that the sniffer trucks are in use and any incidents were investigated. He was still waiting for date on pavement restoration from SJ Gas. The Davis Avenue pump station plans will be available after tonight's meeting in the clerk's office for inspection; MGS will be submitting an

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application for their building permit, but will need to deposit the necessary funds. We have 35 days from the date of their deposit to put the project out to bid.

Councilman Piergiovanni asked if New Jersey American Water had a plan about where they were starting.

Engineer Nassar listed the streets, but said we didn't have specifics.

Mayor Chau asked for a status update on the Mill Road paving and sidewalk project.

Council President Dewees had asked for specifics for each property from the County as to how much right of way we needed.

Engineer Nassar advised that the paving for Mill Road would not happen until next spring as a result of the water company's work.

Councilman Perri added that Haddon Avenue was not draining positively now noting that New Jersey American Water and South Jersey Gas had both done work on the street.

Engineer Nassar met with the utilities to address this - one contractor should do the restoration work when more than one utility is on the same street.

Councilman Perri asked, regarding the Best Practices checklist, if it was the law to file a financial disclosure form.

Clerk Canesi replied yes, it was.

**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.

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On a motion of Councilman Perri, second of Councilman Murray, all were in favor of voting on Resolutions 179-2017 to 187-2017, by Consent Agenda.

- 179-2017** Award of Contract for Portable Generator Set
- 180-2017** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities - 8U Sand Sharks
- 181-2017** Recognizing Family Association of Northfield Volunteer Football and Cheerleading Coaches for 2017 Season
- 182-2017** Recognizing Members of the Board of Trustees for Family Association of Northfield
- 183-2017** Cancel Grant Balances
- 184-2017** Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a License a Cost Sharing Agreement
- 185-2017** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Sewer
- 186-2017** Decreasing Change Fund for Birch Grove Park
- 187-2017** Resolution Urging the State Legislature to Extend the 2% Cap on Police and Fire Arbitration Contract Awards

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded for the adoption of the consent agenda to consisting of Resolutions 179-2017 to 187-2017.

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.

**ORDINANCES**

Councilman Travagline motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded to introduce Ordinance 11-2017.

- 11-2017** Reserved Parking Spaces at the Northfield Municipal Building  
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 9/16/2017  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 9/26/2017*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and that there would be no public input on introduction. She announced the publication and public hearing dates. 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.

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.

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Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded to introduce Ordinance 12-2017.

**12-2017**        Amending Chapter 43 and Chapter A376 of the Code of the City of Northfield  
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 9/16/2017  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 9/26/2017*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and that there would be no public input on introduction. She announced the publication and public hearing dates. 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.

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: \$ 359,719.26**

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Murray 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 7:48pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk