

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2016**

At 7:10pm, this meeting was called to order by Shannon Campbell, Deputy 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:** Dewees, Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Mayor Chau, Municipal Clerk Canesi, Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Kwapinski and Chief Newman were also present.

**7PM PRESENTATION:**

American Legion Post 295 Awarded Patrolman of the Year: William Geiger

Council President Travagline introduced Mark Doherty, Commander, American Legion Post 295.

Chief Newman came forward and explained that he was approached by the American Legion to nominate a member of the Police Department for officer of the year. Chief Neman explained the criteria that went into his decision to choose Officer Geiger. He then went over Officer Geiger's 2015 accomplishments, including letters from residents thanking Officer Geiger for his services and outstanding work. The Police Department is happy to have Officer Geiger.

Mark Doherty explained that the American Legion had a program that recognized an officer for outstanding service, they were proud to bring back this program to Northfield. Mr. Doherty presented Officer Geiger with a plaque and gift card.

Retired Sgt. Webb stated that he would have been proud to have Officer Geiger serve beside him.

Mayor Chau read the following proclamation:

**WHEREAS**, it is one of the responsibilities of the Mayor of the City Northfield to give recognition to individuals for their hard work, dedication, and achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, Patrolman William Geiger has been a police officer for the City of Northfield since May 2, 2005; and

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**WHEREAS**, William Geiger has proven to be a well-rounded officer who has exceeded above and beyond the duty of his position; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Erland V.L. Chau, Mayor of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey, do hereby recognize for being selected as American Legion Post 295 recipient of the 2015 Police Officer of the Year William Geiger.

Mayor Chau presented the proclamation and Mayor's Coin on behalf of City Council. He thanked him for a job well done.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Murray, seconded by Councilman Lischin to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 13, 2016. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Perri reported there was a preconstruction meeting for the Rosedale Pump Station; deferred to the Engineer for further information. Recommendations from the Police Department and Sewer Department were helpful. The project would move forward, still waiting for word from NJDOT regarding the Bay Drive project. Councilman Perri informed Council that he was still waiting to hear from Linwood regarding the interlocal. The Planning Board meeting for October 6th had been canceled. The next seniors meeting would be the 29th at Noon - Sandy Santoro from the County will be speaking regarding federal insurance for seniors.

Council President Travagline asked Councilman Perri to please bring pedestrian study to the Planning Board, the County and State had done a lot of work; the committee was waiting for the Planning Board's recommendation.

Councilman Perri thought the Planning Board had responded; he would follow-up with the Planning Board Secretary.

**Councilman O'Neill** - *Court/Violations, FAN, Library, Shared Services*

Councilman O'Neill had nothing to report.

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

Councilman Piergiovanni had nothing to report.

**Councilman Dewees** - *Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans' Park, 1st Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Little League/Babe Ruth, Sign Sub Committee*

Councilman Dewees reported that the work at the Veterans Park was progressing. Deferred to Engineer Kwapinski regarding the paving.

Engineer Kwapinski reported that a piece of machinery that was to be used broke down, work should resume shortly.

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

Councilman Murray was in the process of obtaining information regarding tax appeals and ratables and would report at the next meeting.

**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 the Fire Department was applying for a grant, they were denied the grant last year, reapplying this year. He thanked AJ from Mainland for recording tonight's meeting and informed of rebroadcast times. The Cultural Committee met regarding the summer events, they are having flea market Nov. 9th, would have more information at the next meeting.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau recognized Councilman Perri as the liaison for the seniors, he was impressed by the number of participants and information that was presented at the meeting he had attended. He asked Council to consider increasing the budget line next year. The fire arbitration that was scheduled October 4th, had been postponed, they would still meet to discuss other issues. Mayor Chau asked Councilman Piergiovanni if he had an update on the bus shelter from the NCS school board.

Councilman Piergiovanni stated that he had not received a reply and the he would reach out to the Board President.

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Mayor Chau noted that he attended Captain Mitchell's retirement party; he thanked Councilman O'Neill for attending on behalf of Council. Mayor Chau had not heard back from EHT regarding the dispatch renewal. Police promotions would be held in April. He was informed by Chief Newman that the Department would be hosting "Coffee with a Cop" in October and a movie night at Birch Grove Park October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Kwapinski reviewed the engineers report noting that the Veterans Park project was delayed due to equipment repair and weather. The Rosedale Pump project was scheduled to start mid-December.

Councilman Dewees questioned the curb repairs for the 2015 paving project.

Engineer Kwapinski explained that there were areas where the curb had deteriorated and was covered by grass. Spot repairs were necessary.

Councilman Dewees asked what was the next step for the Cresson drainage project.

Clerk Canesi replied that the money would need to be encumbered for engineering fees.

Council President Travagline questioned P8 on the report regarding Sutton Avenue.

Engineer Kwapinski explained that SJ Gas would be replacing low pressure gas mains with high pressure mains. Traffic may be delayed in the area.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public to speak on any subject.

Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public session.

**RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA**

Council President Travagline 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

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record after the executive session has concluded. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

- 173-2016**      Confirming Dates that Northfield Mothers' League is Permitted to Use City Council Chambers for Monthly Meetings
  
- 174-2016**      A Resolution Authorizing the Northfield Fire Department to Apply for and Obtain a Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
  
- 175-2016**      A Resolution Approving Specifications for a Request for Proposal/Qualifications for a Management Contract for Birch Grove Park
  
- 176-2016**      A Resolution Proclaiming October 10, 2016 as Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day
  
- 177-2016**      Authorizing Secondary Position for Adult School Crossing Guard to Work in the Capacity of Temporary Part Time Clerical Staff for the Construction Department
  
- 178-2016**      Resolution Updating the Personnel Policies and Procedures for the City of Northfield
  
- 179-2016**      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 Regarding Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilman Perri seconded for Resolutions 173-2016 to 179-2016, to be voted on by Consent Agenda.

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 carried to vote the consent agenda.

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilman Perri seconded for Resolutions 173-2016 through 179-2016, to be adopted on by Consent Agenda.

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 carried to adopt the consent agenda.

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**PAYMENT OF BILLS** \$ 1,818,489.42

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

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

Council President Travagline read the meeting notices.

President Travagline announced an Executive Session for Resolution 179-2016.

179-2016 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 Regarding Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality

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

Solicitor Facenda stated that the Executive Session was in regard to discussing continued litigation and matters falling within the attorney client privilege. Minutes would be kept and be made available when provided by law.

Deputy Municipal Clerk Campbell announced that Council would move to the Mayor's office; and would come back in public session. The solicitor would make a statement for the record.

*At 7:46pm Council moved to the Mayor’s Office for the Executive Session.*

*At 8:12pm Council returned from Executive Session and the Regular Meeting of Council resumed.*

At 8:13pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Campbell, Deputy Municipal Clerk