

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 17, 2017**

At 6:36pm, 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: Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline, Dewees

Absent: Lischin, Piergiovanni

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

**MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilman Perri, second by Councilman Travagline, all were in favor of approval of the minutes from September 26th without formal reading.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Perri advised Council that the next seniors meeting will be this Thursday at noon at the Library. Atlantic County will have representatives there to explain new federal insurance programs; on the 26th they will have their annual hayride at 12:30pm at Birch Grove Park. He advised Council that there were packets available for any senior who was not able to make the meeting. There was no Planning Board meeting this month. Councilman Perri reported that the Government Workers Union negotiations have been ongoing.

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

Councilman O'Neill had no report.

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

Councilman Piergiovanni was absent.

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

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Councilman Travagline had no report.

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

Councilman Murray reported that the ratable base was still being eroded at the same level it had been for the past 4-5 years; there has been no decrease in amount of appeals.

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

Councilman Lischin was absent at the time of his report.  
(*Councilman Lischin arrived around 6:50pm.*)

**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 thanked Qwin Vitale and the Public Works Department for doing the prep work at the park for the hayrides; he thanked volunteers, Councilmen and others who gave their time. He gave a special thanks to Shannon Campbell who had been an absolute rock out there. Council President Dewees thanked the Police Department for a very successful movie night. He advised that he spoke with a FAN member about a few trees at the football field that may be dead; they are near the practice field. He noted that he would have someone evaluate the trees and if they needed to be removed he would get estimates. He would also look at a few other trees in the area.

Council President Dewees asked if anyone knew what the white building by the scoreboard was.

No one on Council knew.

Darren Boyd, in audience, stated possibly a well.

Clerk Canesi suggested that if it was a well, Qwin Vitale would know.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau read the following report on behalf of Councilman Lischin:

The Building Department issued a total of 36 permits. Inspections included: 40 building, 31 electric, 11 fire, 17 plumbing, 2 CO/CCO, 21 resales, and 11 Rentals.

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Fire Department calls for September included: 1 brush fire, 5 hazardous condition calls, 8 false alarm calls, 1 animal rescue, 3 good intent calls and 5 EMS assist incidents.

TriCare had a total of 130 dispatches, 133 call with patients, 93 transports, 15 mutual aid calls to EHT and did not administer any Narcan.

Mayor Chau read the Police Department report for the month of September noting there were 979 calls for service, 32 investigations and 17 criminal arrests. Mayor Chau commented that there had been numerous arrests for illegal substances and commended the Police Department for being vigilant. The Police Department had initiated training for the pro-phoenix system. Training would involve some overtime expenses. He believed Clerk Canesi extended a welcome to the Council who may be interested in attending a meeting with representatives of Somers Point and Linwood to discuss economic development; it will be held at 5:30 on the 24th. He urged anyone who wanted to go, to do so. Mayor Chau reminded all that there would be a meeting of the Atlantic County League of Municipalities and that the guest speakers would be representatives from the Board of Elections and Superintendent of Elections. He also received a communication from someone who wanted to provide the City with grant opportunities.

Council President Dewees asked Mayor Chau to forward the information to him for review.

Councilman Perri asked for a traffic enforcement campaign and asked if he should he go to the Mayor or through the Chief of Police?

Mayor Chau responded that Perri could go directly to the Chief; Chief Newman would report back to Mayor Chau.

Councilman O'Neill reported that he had a request from three residents of Dolphin Avenue who wanted a street light.

Mayor Chau advised that the recommendation would have to come through the Police Department.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed updates to the Engineer's report as provided to Council. The Rosedale Pump Station was complete and approved for final payment. He explained the resolutions on the agenda tonight for a bike path grant application as well as for State aid grant for Walnut Avenue paving. The City had also applied to the ACIA for a grant for the museum. The museum personnel had approved the final plans and we could go out to bid.

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Engineer Nassar advised that he was contacted by South State, and we had determined that we will do a full width restoration on Parker Avenue, Littlefield Avenue and portions of First Street. The work will begin next Wednesday; it is anticipated to be completed before Thanksgiving. The Davis Avenue pump station plans were complete. The draft plans for the reconstruction of Cresson Avenue and drainage for Burton and Aster were available in the Clerk's Office. He had hoped to be ready to go out to bid soon.

Councilman Perri asked about Shore Road.

Engineer Nassar advised that South State was doing the work for South Jersey Gas Company but they were trying to work out a few issues.

Councilman Perri noted that he was getting complaints that the condition of the road is shaking homes when buses go by. He also asked about Broad Street.

Engineer Nassar explained that anywhere that was torn up will be saw-cut and full width restoration would be done by South State.

Councilman Travagline asked Engineer Nassar if he had any other information about Mill Road, particularly when would the work be finalized.

Engineer Nassar replied that at the preconstruction meeting, they said it would be the last week of October, but we were not involved.

Clerk Canesi noted that according to the County's website, tonight was the last night of the work on Mill, from 7pm-6am.

Engineer Nassar would try to find out from the water company.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

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

Peter Brophy, 11 Twelve Oaks Court – asked Engineer Nassar when work on Shore Road would be complete.

Engineer Nassar replied that the work was supposed to start today, but he received word earlier today that they would be starting the local streets next week. He did not know about Shore Road.

Mr. Brophy suggested the Engineer apply pressure on the County.

Council President Dewees explained that neither the Engineer nor the Council can pressure the County to take action.

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Gerry McGee, 1620 Zion Road - commented on the number of signs at Mayor Chau's home. He asked about Mayor Chau's meeting with Somers Point and asked if it was the first meeting.

Mayor Chau replied that he met with Mayor Glasser previously about the potential of Linwood, Somers Point and Northfield to promote our businesses.

Mr. McGee said it seems like Somers Point had done a good job, and asked if Council had any plans to try and stabilize the tax base, or at least slow it down? He also asked if there were plans on the books to stabilize the falling ratables? At what point does it become crucial and did we have the same budgets every year? Mr. McGee wanted Council to be aware that there are taxpayers paying taxes on homes that are depreciating.

Mayor Chau advised that we have 300-400 tax appeals each year.

Council President Dewees replied that the City had applied for a redevelopment grant through the County, and asked Engineer Nassar to explain.

In response, Engineer Nassar said that the grant would entice developers to commercial areas by providing assistance for future development, such as zoning relief and tax incentives. Commercial developments do not add to the schools. This should help to attract businesses.

Mr. McGee suggested that Council should go to the County and State to see what they're going to do. We needed to be aggressive and bring more people to the town. Mr. McGee stated that he had paid \$480,000 in taxes in the past 10 years; he felt Council should explore options and pay some attention to it.

Seeing no one else 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.

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Solicitor Facenda reminded Council that Resolution 202-2017 would be added to the consent agenda as requested by Councilman Murray. Solicitor Facenda read the following resolution into the record:

202-2017        RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION AND REFUND OF TAXES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 & N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 ON PROPERTY KNOWN AS Block 131 Lot 32 (326 FAIRBANKS AVENUE)

WHEREAS, it has been brought to the attention of the City of Northfield that there are taxes assessed on Block 131 Lot 32 (326 Fairbanks Avenue) for 2017 which should be cancelled pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30(a); and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City to adjust the records of the Tax Collector in accordance therewith, which is the purpose of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, Brumett, Donald Scott took title to Block 131 Lot 32 (326 Fairbanks Avenue) on June 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Brumett, Donald Scott is qualified to receive a permanent and totally disabled veteran's property tax exemption, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30(b);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by City Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1.        The Tax Collector, pursuant to the exemption under N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30(a), is hereby authorized to cancel taxes on Block 131 Lot 32 (326 Fairbanks Avenue) as follows due to the fact that said property is exempt:

\$2,972.42 for the year of 2017

2.        The City Treasurer and other appropriate officials, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30(b) and N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32, are hereby authorized to refund taxes Brumett, Donald Block 131 Lot 32 326 Fairbanks Avenue, NJ 08225:

\$1,382.83 for the year of 2017

*(End of Resolution)*

On a motion of Councilman Murray, second of Councilman O'Neill, all were in favor of voting on Resolutions 195-2017 to 202-2017, by Consent Agenda.

**195-2017**        A Resolution for Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Project Known as Bike-2018-Birch Grove Park Bike Path - 00053

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- 196-2017** A Resolution for Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Project Known as MA-2018 Reconstruction of Walnut Avenue and Portion of Maple Avenue - 00609
- 197-2017** Resolution of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey Expressing Opposition to Legislative Proposals Regarding the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act
- 198-2017** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2017 Budget – Body Armor Grant
- 199-2017** Recognizing Family Association of Northfield Travel Basketball Coaches for the 2017-2018 Season
- 200-2017** Appoint Trinity Code Inspections, LLC on a Temporary Basis to Perform Private On-Site Plumbing Sub Code Inspections
- 201-2017** 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 Regarding Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality
- 202-2017** Resolution Authorizing Cancellation And Refund Of Taxes Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 & N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.32 On Property Known As Block 131 Lot 32 (326 Fairbanks Avenue)

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded for the adoption of the consent agenda consisting of Resolutions 195-2017 to 202-2017.

Roll call: Mr. Lischin – yes; Mr. Murray – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – absent; Mr. Travagline – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried to adopt the consent agenda.

**ORDINANCES**

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded to adopt Ordinance 13-2017.

- 13-2017** An Ordinance Appropriating \$25,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Purchase and Installation of Body Cameras and Related Equipment for the City of Northfield Police Department, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey  
*2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration  
Published in the Press of Atlantic City October 21, 2017*

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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 – absent; Mr. Travagline – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried.

Councilman Murray motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded to adopt Ordinance 14-2017.

**14-2017** Amending Fees Under Chapter 128 of the Code of the City of Northfield, Entitled Construction Codes, Uniform  
*2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration*  
*Published in the Press of Atlantic City October 21, 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 session, seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public session.

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

Councilman Travagline motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to adopt Ordinance 15-2017.

**15-2017** An Ordinance of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Implementing the City’s Affordable Housing Development Fee Ordinance  
*2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration*  
*Published in the Press of Atlantic City October 21, 2017*

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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 session, seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public session.

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

**PAYMENT OF BILLS: \$ 1,280,318.47**

Councilman Travagline 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 – absent; Mr. Travagline – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Dewees read the meeting notices.

**MAYOR CHAU’S FALL RECYCLING CART CONTEST**

Mayor Chau asked Engineer Nassar to draw the winning name for the Recycling Cart Contest. The winner was Peggyann Boyd.

Council President Dewees announced the executive session for Resolution 201-2017.

**201-2017** 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 Regarding Litigation and Matters Falling within the Attorney Client Privilege Requiring Confidentiality

Clerk Canesi read Resolution 201-2017 by title and announced that it was adopted earlier in the evening under the consent agenda.

Solicitor Facenda explained that the Executive Session was in regard to an affordable housing compliance update from the COAH attorney. Minutes of the executive session would be kept as required by law which will be approved by Council then promptly available for public inspection when required and permitted by law; since the matter involves litigation, the timeframe for release remains unknown.

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At 7:27pm Council moved to the Mayor's Office for the Executive Session.

At 8:12pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

Solicitor Facenda announced the Executive Session had concluded. Council received an update from the Mt. Laurel attorney concerning open and active litigation concerning Mt. Laurel compliance and the status of certain litigation and the status of certain properties in the Mt. Laurel plan. No formal action was taken by the Council; minutes were taken and would be available when required and permitted by law. Timeframe for release was unknown as litigation as ongoing.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk