

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

At 6:32pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 13, 2018, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau, followed by a moment of silence in honor of those in our Armed Forces, particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

ROLL CALL

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

** Councilman Travagline arrived during a recess, between 7:13pm and 7:26pm*

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion of Councilman Lischin, second of Councilman Perri, all present were in favor of approving the minutes of the meetings of October 23, 2018, without formal reading. They were posted, distributed to Council, and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Councilman Murray announced that we would go out of order on the agenda; the ceremony for Little League was not scheduled until 7pm, and as it is early, we will start with committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Perri reported that the sewer committee met as discussed during the work session. Funds for other projects such as slip lining were reviewed. The seniors will meet this week by RSVP to Councilman Perri and the Planning Board has one minor subdivision coming up.

Councilman O'Neill - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Court/Violations, Chamber of Commerce, Little League/Babe Ruth, Traffic Safety, Green Team Advisory Board

Councilman O'Neill was absent.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

Councilwoman Korngut – Library, Municipal Alliance, Economic Development, Shared Services

Councilwoman Korngut reported that the Library meeting was rescheduled due to a lack of a quorum, and will be held this Thursday evening. She did, however, speak with library representatives and some prior issues had been resolved. Some, such as parking lot striping will be part of a larger project. The library board did understand that some things they want to do are not considered maintenance and would be funded by the library's capital fund. The library agreement was on the agenda to be voted on tonight. She would report after board meeting, at the next council meeting.

Councilman Travagline – Insurance and Safety, Northfield School, FAN; Shared Services

Councilman Travagline was absent during committee reports.

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

Councilman Murray read the following statement into the record regarding the Best Practices checklist:

“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 74% will result in a reduction in a municipality’s state aid. For 2018, the City of Northfield scored a 97%. We will receive our full allotment of state aid. By having it on the agenda, Council formally acknowledges having reviewed it. The Chief Financial Officer distributed Northfield’s completed Inventory to all of Council on November 1st.”

Councilman Murray suggested that anyone with questions may direct them to CFO Stollenwerk, Clerk Canesi or himself.

Council President Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans’ Park, 1st Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering

Council President Dewees was absent.

Councilman Lischin – Fire Department/EMS, Technology/MRHS Channel 2, Cultural Committee, Green Team Advisory

Councilman Lischin read the following reports: Fire Department calls for October included 4 total fire incidents, 6 false alarm calls, 4 good intent calls, 3 hazardous condition calls, 2 service call incidents, 9 EMS 1st responder incidents and 3 mutual

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

aid calls, for a total of 28 dispatched incidents.

TriCare had a total of 147 dispatches, including 151 calls with patients, 106 transports, 13 mutual aid calls to Egg Harbor Township, and did not administer any Narcan.

Councilman Lischin announced that the Cultural Committee would be having its annual flea market this week at the Northfield Community School. He also announced the air dates for the video of tonight's meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau reported that he received a letter from Congressman LoBiondo; his Washington D.C. office will be closed as of this Friday but the office in Mays Landing would remain open. There was no Narcan deployment by the Police Department for the month of October. He recognized several officers for participating in the Trunk or Treat Event in Linwood; Patrolman Czaplinski and Patrolman Van Pelt. He also recognized officers who participated in Trunk or Treat at Jeffries and Keates, but did not recall their names. On October 5th Sergeants Pollak and Dever were in attendance for the Honor Flight for veterans. This November we would have a missing person drill involving the Fire Department and Police Department. He also wanted to recognize the utilization of our Class II Officer; he is scheduled at the school as well as athletic events. He read the Police Department report for November: 27 arrests, 279 citations, 457 motor vehicle stops and 843 property checks. He also read the Police Department fleet management report: we have 6 vehicles that have over 80,000 miles, one that is over 100,000 and another that is over 103,000. Mayor Chau wanted to keep Council informed as to the state of the fleet and the replacement program. The new vehicles, funded by capital this year, should be delivered soon. There was a delay to some required equipment.

Mayor Chau said he also attended the Veterans breakfast at Mainland Regional High School. He was very proud that he and Councilwoman Korngut attended and was very impressed with her speech to the veterans. The annual Holiday Tree Lighting will be December 7th at 7pm. On September 19th of this year, the JIF authorized a dividend of over \$300,000, with Northfield's share being \$56,113.00; this is an upfront savings and the JIF has provided excellent coverage for many years. The trailer in the back of City Hall is an OEM trailer and would be used to store equipment. He was waiting for next year's budget to determine available funding for paint, decals, etc. He announced the annual Mayor's Holiday Lighting Contest, and said winners would be announced at the December Council meeting. Mayor Chau also recognized the many businesses in Northfield who contribute prizes. Details to follow. Nominations are due no later than Thursday, December 6th at 4pm.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the engineer's report as previously provided to Council.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

He reported that the Cresson Avenue drainage project had been completed and we were finalizing the punch list items. A change order was needed due to utility conflicts. The contractor would be starting the concrete work on Cresson Avenue paving on Monday, and the Gurwicz curbing had been done. The Davis Avenue Pump Station should start on November 30th; there were a few issues with water service to area businesses, and as a result the work will be done at night.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Councilman Murray opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any subject.

Seeing no one wishing to speak Councilman Murray closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Murray 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.

On a motion of Councilman Perri, second of Councilwoman Korngut, all present were in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 197-2018 through 203-2018.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 197-2018 | Authorizing the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company to Apply for a Grant from the South Jersey Gas First Responders Grant Program |
| 198-2018 | To Authorize an Agreement Between the City of Northfield and the Trustees of the Free Public Library of Northfield, t/a The Otto Bruyns Public Library |
| 199-2018 | Transfer of Funds |
| 200-2018 | Resolution Directing the Distribution of the City of Northfield's Net Returned Surplus Funds Held in Trust by the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund |
| 201-2018 | End of Seasonal Employment Birch Grove Park Employee |
| 202-2018 | End of Seasonal Employment Birch Grove Park Employee |
| 203-2018 | Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes |

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded, to adopt Resolutions 197-2018 through 203-2018.

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

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

ORDINANCES

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilwoman Korngut seconded for the adoption of Ordinance 11-2018, to be read by title only.

11-2018 Authorizing the Sale of City Owned Land
 2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration
 Published in the Press of AC 11/20/2018

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 and amendment, 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 to any member of the public who requested same.

Councilman Murray opened the public hearing on Ordinance 11-2018. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 1,281,336.95

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, for payment of bills.

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

At 6:55pm Councilman Murray announced a 5-10-minute recess.

At 7:05pm Councilman Murray called the meeting back to order.

7:00PM AWARD CEREMONY:

NORTHFIELD LITTLE LEAGUE 12U DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

Mayor Chau welcomed all, and told the team they were a credit to their families, and to our City. Mayor Chau was especially proud of the achievements of our youth. He asked the coaches to come forward to give a history of the team and their accomplishments.

Jason Barretta, Manager of the 12-year-old district team, thanked Council, as well as Coaches Mike Camac and Joe Russo. Northfield had won numerous titles over the

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

years, and this age group has not won since 2010. The team put in a lot of hard work. He noted that Little League had taken a hit over travel teams, adding that it shows not just in Northfield but all over. This team did everything that was asked of them, it was a privilege and an honor to coach them.

Mayor Chau issued each child a Certificate of Achievement; he asked the boys to all remain up front for a photo that would be displayed at City Hall. Players included: Rocco Barbella, Brady Blum, Matt Bonczek, Luca Bruno, Chase Camac, Charlie Connolly, Brandon Dearborn, Finn Haines, Jack Haines, Liam Michael, Bryan Perez, and Joey Russo. He also recognized team Manager, Jason Barretta, Assistant Coach, Mike Camac and Assistant Coach, Joe Russo.

Chuck Hackett, Northfield Little League President, congratulated the boys on an historic run, and told them not to stop playing baseball. He presented them with the District banner.

At 7:13pm Councilman Murray announced a 5-minute recess.

At 7:26pm Councilman Murray called the meeting back to order. Councilman Travagline arrived during the recess.

7:30PM PUBLIC HEARING

- Street Opening Moratorium Hardship Exception Request, Block 109, Lot 23.01, 416 Mt. Vernon Avenue

Solicitor Facenda explained that Council would consider a street opening hardship waiver request for 416 Mt. Vernon Avenue. The request was submitted by Mr. Mason, who was here tonight. He explained the procedure as follows: the applicant would come forward, be sworn to provide truthful testimony, and identify the property and the reason for the request. Solicitor Facenda explained that financial reasons would not be considered. Council would have the opportunity to ask questions, Engineer Nassar would explain the restoration requirement and the public hearing would be held.

John Mason, 414 Mt. Vernon Avenue, accepted the oath administered by Solicitor Facenda. He explained that he had a subdivided lot, Block 109 Lot 23.01. The other half of the lot has a small 520 square foot bungalow which would not be habitable for a long period of time. He was not sure if the whole street had been recently paved or if it was just in front of his house. He worked for the electric company and had a good understanding of utility installation and restoration requirements. Moving forward he would ask Council for consideration for the hardship.

Solicitor Facenda asked the purpose of the opening and the size.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

Mr. Mason replied that the opening was for City sewer and water, the gas service was not an issue. He has had conversations with the water company about coordinating water and sewer at the same time, to minimize the disruption to the street. He didn't know if it could be done the same day, but hoped to be able to do it within a day or two.

Councilman Lischin noted that the gas company did the high-pressure lines on Mt. Vernon Avenue over the last year. He asked Mr. Mason when he purchased the property.

Mr. Mason replied that he had purchased the property in November of last year, and the subdivision was in April or May. He did not see the gas work being done, but the gas was on his side of the sidewalk.

Councilman Lischin asked Engineer Nassar about the sewer.

Engineer Nassar advised that when the utility installs their services they put in black top. When the water company does their opening, which is usually 4'x4', they wait 60 days, and then must perform ½ width restoration. The length of the property would be required.

Mr. Mason stated that he understood the bonding requirements, and that he was confident that the repairs would be done and the money refunded.

Engineer Nassar stated that the amount of the bond required was \$3,125.00.

Mr. Mason and Engineer Nassar discussed the paving requirements; Mr. Mason fully understood.

Councilman Murray opened public hearing for block 109 lot 23.01 416 Mt. Vernon Avenue Street Opening Hardship waiver. Seeing no one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

Councilman Lischin said he recalled the last hardship waiver approved by Council, which was to help the resident who was living in the home. We've done a lot of work on our roads, but we also wanted to help the residents. If Mr. Mason were expanding the existing home, he would have the connections now.

Mr. Mason responded that the request was not solely financial. If it was, he'd sell the lot and move on. He wanted to make the money from the sale of the 2nd home to improve the home on the smaller lot. He wanted to make the neighborhood better, he wanted to live there, he had lived in this area all of his life. He did not feel it was solely financial.

Councilman Lischin replied that it was nice to hear that Mr. Mason was willing to stay.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

Mr. Mason felt that if he had to live with it, he would, but wanted to make it a nicer home.

Solicitor Facenda explained that there were 5 voting members. This Council typically had 7 members. In a land-use context, he offered the option to Mr. Mason to defer to another meeting when the full membership is here to vote. He also offered to have the 2 absent members listen to the tape.

Mr. Mason appreciated offer, but said he was willing to proceed this evening. He would live with whatever the decision was, but it just may take a little longer.

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded, to adopt Resolution 196-2018.

196-2018 A Resolution Ruling on a Request for a Hardship Exception from Road Opening Moratorium for Block 115, Lot 5 Located At 146 Mt Vernon Avenue

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

Councilman Murray read the meeting notices.

At 7:44pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk