

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

At 6:28pm, 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 Murray, second by Councilman O'Neill, all present were in favor of approval of the minutes from November 28th without formal reading.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Perri reported that the seniors would meet Thursday at the Library at noon for the Holiday Social. Mayor Chau, Clerk Canesi and Councilman Perri met with the ACUA this week for the annual budget meeting, we should end up with a credit of about \$38,000 and there are no rate increases for tipping fees or flows.

Councilman Lischin asked if flow rates had stabilized, referring to an increase last year.

Councilman Perri responded yes, noting there were many contributing factors, and they have been keeping an eye on this.

*NOTE: recording equipment was turned on at 6:37pm - it was not activated due to an oversight.*

Councilman Perri reported the ACUA was engaging in some significant capital improvements; the recycling, solid waste, and yard waste contract will go up 0.81% in accordance with the CPI, which was a considerable amount of money across the three contracts. There was a meeting scheduled for next week to discuss the billing for the 31 homes in Linwood that were on our sewer system.

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Councilman Travagline asked Councilman Perri for copies of the flow reports.

Councilman Perri advised that he would have Kathi Smith send them.

Councilman Travagline noted that previously we planned on inspecting our pipes, etc. and asked if that was still in the works.

Council President Dewees deferred to Engineer Nassar for comment, but added that there was a resolution on the agenda tonight to approve the NJEIT application.

Engineer Nassar advised that included an asset management plan.

Councilman Travagline stated that our sewer guys did a great job, and stressed that we needed to remain proactive to ensure that the system was maintained and in good repair.

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

Councilman O'Neill reported that in 2017 the court had more productivity than 2016; the Courts and Police Department now have an integrated system, he asked Chief Newman to confirm.

Chief Newman replied yes, the e-ticketing system. The Police Department had switched to the new CAD system and the application for e-ticketing was submitted today, hopefully we will have approval in 30 days.

Councilman O'Neill reported that Donna Clark and her staff will no longer have to manually enter the tickets. There would be less errors. The Court would also save money on paper tickets.

Councilman Lischin noted that he learned that there were quite a few other efficiencies associated with e-ticketing, including enhanced communication between the Court and Police Department. We should be looking at our Court to make sure that we are running efficiently.

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

Councilman Piergiovanni stated it was an honor to serve the citizens of Northfield, he was heartened to know that the City would be doing well with our newcomer; maybe he'll be here again, but wanted to thank everyone.

Councilman Perri thanked Councilman Piergiovanni for his service.

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Councilman Travagline commended Councilman Piergiovanni for continuing to serve, despite the serious health challenges in his family. We appreciated all that he has done.

Council President Dewees, Councilmen Murry and Lischin echoed the sentiments of the others, and thanked Councilman Piergiovanni for his service.

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

Councilman Murray had no report.

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

Councilman Lischin read the Building and Inspections Department report for November; the Building Department issued a total of 25 permits. Inspections included: 47 building, 39 electric, 8 fire, 20 plumbing, 2 CO/CCO, 24 resales, and 9 Rentals. Councilman Lischin had been chair of the Building Department for 2 years now, and wanted to say on the record that Jim Dickinson, who had been our TACO for 19 years and was well loved by co-workers and customers alike, was retiring. We appreciated his service. They are a wonderful Northfield family, Jim's daughter works here as well.

He then read the Fire Department calls for November, they included: 1 building fire, 8 hazardous condition calls, 8 false alarm calls, 4 good intent calls 7 EMS assist incidents and 2 mutual aid calls.

TriCare had a total of 122 dispatches, 121 call with patients, 70 transports, 10 mutual aid calls to EHT and did not administer any Narcan.

Councilman Perri asked if no one was interested in taking the sub code job.

Councilman Lischin advised that we reached out to Pleasantville, and Clerk Canesi also did a great job searching. We would continue to search, we were losing revenue.

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

Councilman Travagline had nothing to report.

**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 provided an update on Mill Road, he had a draft of the maps and they were being reviewed by the County staff. Once the maps were finalized he would work with Engineer Nassar and Solicitor Facenda to determine the next steps.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Chau attended the Elected Officials Seminar; cyber liability was discussed, including use of social media by public officials. It was a great program; he hoped all would learn something when they attend. Mayor Chau sent an email to the Council from a Northfield resident who wanted to donate solar panels to the snack bar at Birch Grove Park.

Council President Dewees advised they would have a conversation about it.

Mayor Chau added that he had not gotten any renewed interest in the open positions on the boards and committees that have vacant seats, noting that he had not heard anything at all from the members of the Economic Development Commission and asked Council if they wanted to reconsider that committee next year.

Council President Dewees felt there was value to it and should be re-explored.

Mayor Chau reported that the recent police grievance was denied, it was now up to them. He read the Police Department report for the month and asked Chief Newman to update Council on things happening in the Police Department.

Chief Newman advised that the new computer aided dispatch system, ProPhoenix, had come online, he already referred to e-ticketing, and said there was also a new system for the mugshot camera and digital fingerprint machines that had to be integrated into the new system.

Councilman Travagline asked about data transfer.

Chief Newman noted that will be done last.

Councilman Travagline asked why there were issues years ago with data transfer and now it's not an issue.

Chief Newman explained that we weren't looking at ProPhoenix; not all systems were compatible, this one was.

Councilman Travagline thanked Chief Newman.

Councilman Lischin asked that Chief Newman include Narcan administration in his report.

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Chief Newman replied that he would do so.

**CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT**

Engineer Nassar reviewed updates to the Engineer's report as provided to Council. He was still working on getting tax map information for the ACIA; this should take another few weeks and he would work with Councilman Lischin. South Jersey Gas paving has been completed with punch list items starting this week and should take a few weeks to complete. The punch list was still being updated with information reported by residents that had been previously unreported.

Engineer Nassar advised that Mr. Gurwicz posted the bond for the site improvements and has applied for the building improvements; he has to post the money for the pump station before a permit can be issued, and then we have 35 days to go out to bid. The dates for the Cresson Avenue paving bid opening will be in February.

Councilman Perri asked about a portion of Haddon Avenue that was paved with an incorrect pitch, resulting in puddling.

Engineer Nassar said he would address the issue.

Councilman Lischin commended Engineer Nassar for everything he had done to save the City money.

**PRESENTATION: MAYOR’S ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHT CONTEST**

Council President Dewees deferred to Mayor Chau for the presentation of the Holiday Light Contest Awards.

Mayor Chau thanked all the residents who participated, this year we had 25 homes, and local vendors contributed over 65 prizes. Mayor Chau thanked them all for their generosity. Some of our participants could not be in attendance, and he thanked those who were here tonight.

Mayor Chau nounced the following winners and distributed certificates and awards:

113 Davis Avenue	1st Griswold and Overall	The Ludwig Family
101 Jackson Avenue	1st Norman Rockwell	The DeRosa Family
105 Jackson Avenue	1st Themed	The Simpson Family
5 Ridgewood Drive	2nd Griswold	The Wineland Family
1122 First Street	2nd Norman Rockwell	The Dickinson Family
404 Chestnut	2nd Themed	The Marshall Family
7 Magnolia Court	3rd Griswold	The Kerrigan Family
12 Franklin Avenue	3rd Norman Rockwell	The Welsh Family
107 Jackson Avenue	3rd Themed	The Simpson Family

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211 Fairbanks Avenue	Honorable Mention	The Parker/Garman Family
1309 W. Mill Road	Honorable Mention	The Perri Family
1776 Burton Avenue	Honorable Mention	The Vergulti Family
321 Mt. Vernon Avenue	Honorable Mention	The Henry Family
311 W. Oakcrest	Honorable Mention	The Dreager Family
401 Mt. Vernon	Honorable Mention	The Schaffor Family
3 Ridgewood Drive	Honorable Mention	The Horwitz Family
321 W. Oakcrest	Honorable Mention	The Rinker Family
202 Davis Avenue	Honorable Mention	The Werber Family
617 Banning Avenue	Honorable Mention	The Dewees Family
27 Juniper Drive	Honorable Mention	The Dagen/Bakley Family
537 Ridgewood Drive	Honorable Mention	The Campeggio Family
2600 Swilkey	Honorable Mention	The Tomlinson Family

Mayor Chau asked Susan Korngut to pull the winner of the Recycling Toter Contest for December; the winner was Jeff Rinker of 321 Oakcrest Avenue.

All of Council thanked the Mayor for the contest; the town looks great.

Clerk Canesi stated that the list of participants was being promoted on Facebook as the Northfield Holiday Light Tour and encouraged all to print it and drive around.

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

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

Bill Garry, 202 St. James Place, said he felt the gas work that was done was mediocre, there was poor communication from start to finish, the repair work to the roads was horrendous, roads weren't always perfect but when torn up, what was put back was nowhere near what was there prior. He felt the job was substandard, and said he didn't care who paid for it. Some spots were ½ inch of asphalt and it comes right back up. He was very dissatisfied.

Engineer Nassar replied that the issues with Mr. Garry's property were on the punch list.

Councilman Travagline asked if the ordinance needed to be changed to make the residents happier.

Engineer Nassar explained the difficulty with that is you have to set a reasonable standard because whatever the utilities have to do for restoration, the resident who wants a gas line put in and has to restore the street has to do the same thing.

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Councilman Travagline asked how our ordinance compared to other towns.

Engineer Nassar responded that we were fair.

Council President Dewees asked about the base, as referred to by Mr. Garry.

Engineer Nassar replied that we had a 6" base; they had to put back what they took out.

Councilman Murray questioned now that the weather was getting colder, would people have to wait until spring.

Engineer Nassar replied that it depended on what needed to be done; if there were problems in the spring with what has already been fixed, the contractor was responsible.

Councilman Murray asked were they opening Shore Road from Mill to Oakcrest.

Engineer Nassar explained that this work was being done by the water company and it would be done in January. That is a County Road and we had no say.

Councilman Lischin thanked Mr. Garry for coming out. Engineer Nassar's hands were full; we appreciated him being our eyes.

Councilman Travagline asked Engineer Nassar to give us recommendations if the ordinances were inadequate.

Engineer Nassar felt they were fair; anything we make the utilities do, the residents have to do as well. Recently a resident had to put up a \$6,000 bond for restoration to have a gas line put in, and that was the current standard.

Alicia Garry, 202 St. James Place , voiced concerns to the Mayor about the last time she was here about feeling so intimidated.

Mayor Chau stated that we did get a podium, but we did not rearrange the tables tonight for it.

Mrs. Garry said she was glad that was taken care of. She stated that she would have liked to have been informed when the paving started; no one in her neighborhood received a notice. She also had brown water in her home.

Engineer Nassar explained that a contractor, without anyone knowing, was using the fire hydrant for water. When a resident reported it to the City Clerk, it was addressed with the contractor, but unfortunately they did do it again. They were not allowed to do that.

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Mrs. Garry asked who was responsible for animal control.

Clerk Canesi responded that we had a contract for certain services with Animal Control of South Jersey.

Mrs. Garry said she has a lot of cats in her neighborhood and asked were they permitted to run.

Clerk Canesi replied that no animal is permitted to be at-large; she suggested that Mrs. Garry call the Clerk's Office to discuss, it may be an animal control issue, or could be a code enforcement issue.

Mrs. Garry asked what had Council done since she was here last about private use of public property.

Council President Dewees asked Clerk Canesi to respond.

Clerk Canesi explained that no ordinance was written; she believed Solicitor Facenda had weighed in on this. The City did not need a law on the books to say that people can't put things on City property.

Council President Dewees responded it's our property.

Mrs. Garry asked, would you plant flowers in your neighbor's yard?

Council President Dewees replied they can't, it's not their property

Solicitor Facenda reiterated we didn't need an ordinance to say that, it's City property.

Mrs. Garry disagreed, it needed to be written.

Solicitor Facenda again explained that if it was municipal land, then private citizens didn't have the right to put things on private property.

Councilman Perri added that there were people who take it upon themselves to do what they want with private property, there didn't need to be an ordinance, there could be a resolution, other things like smoking and driving have been regulated and this could be regulated too.

Councilman Piergiovanni noted the people felt they had the right to put things on the bike path because they have a memorial bench, cemeteries have rules for these things; he felt there could be a compromise.

Mrs. Garry felt that nothing should impede being able to sit on a bench. People shouldn't be able to put anything permanent.

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Councilman Travagline felt that wreaths and annuals, other plants are fine, but nothing permanent.

Councilman Murray was not in favor of anything permanent. He had been on the bike path a lot, and has never seen anyone waiting to sit on a bench. He was generally ok with temporary items. He didn't want to list items, because something that was in good taste will have been omitted.

Mayor Chau had seen glass vases on the bike path at benches that had been broken and had become a safety concern. He felt rules should be in place. He gave a list to the Council for their review. He has had residents complain that we should not have plants, because the flowers attract bees.

Councilman Lischin expressed concern with who would police this; the Police, the Code Enforcement Officer? Property laws exist without the City further regulating it. You will use city resources to go out and remove things that are there that shouldn't be there? Lischin felt the bench was the memorial.

Mayor Chau stated that he and Councilman Perri were there when the memorial bench and tree programs were instituted, no adornments were allowed.

Councilman O'Neill suggested a straw poll.

Solicitor Facenda did not know if it's an issue of legislation, it's an issue of enforcement, what it comes down to is whether when public works cuts the lawn, that they are going to take it away.

Mayor Chau asked Clerk Canesi if the current process was to contact the Code Enforcement Officer and if it was something he couldn't handle it would go to Public Works.

Clerk Canesi responded that the issue specifically with benches was that occasionally there are things that Public Works can't work around, they would remove the item and store it at Public Works. She noted that she had never received a complaint from a resident. It is a very sensitive issue, people are told when they purchase the bench that they are not supposed to put adornments on the bench but they do. Most residents don't really seem to care. She agreed with Councilman Lischin that if this was something that Council wanted to do we needed to decide if we are going to enforce it. The only time that she recalled there being a Code Enforcement issue is when someone nailed something to a tree and Public Works did remove that.

Mrs. Garry recommended that it be enforced, no one should be allowed to put anything out there, not a memorial, and the bike path is not a cemetery. There would be nothing to clean up, if they aren't allowed to do it.

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Mayor Chau commented that there were people who will disregard the rules, no matter what was in effect.

Mrs. Garry felt Council should start with removing everything that was permanently in the ground.

Councilman Travagline noted that a lot of good points were brought up.

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

Mayor Chau thanked Deputy Clerk Shannon Campbell for her work on the Holiday Light Contest and the Recycling Contest.

**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.

On a motion of Councilman Lischin, second of Councilman Travagline, all present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 218-2017 to 223-2017, by Consent Agenda.

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|-----------------|---|
| <b>218-2017</b> | Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes  |
| <b>219-2017</b> | Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for Reconstruction of Cresson Avenue, FY2017 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program  |
| <b>220-2017</b> | Authorizing the Submission of All Applications and other Required Documents for Financing Under the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Financing Program for Various Sanitary Sewer Projects in and by the City Of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey |
| <b>221-2017</b> | Award of a One-Year Contract to Trinity Code Inspections, LLC, to Perform Private On-Site Plumbing Sub-Code Inspections   |
| <b>222-2017</b> | Authorizing an Amended Agreement for Shared Municipal Court for the Municipalities of the City of Northfield and the City of Linwood  |
| <b>223-2017</b> | To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities – Jersey Shore Baseball   |

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded for the adoption of the consent agenda.

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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 Perri motioned, Councilman Lischin seconded for the adoption of Ordinance 17-2017.

**17-2017**      An Ordinance Repealing City of Northfield Ordinance 15-2017  
Implementing the City’s Affordable Housing Development Fee  
Ordinance  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration*  
*Published in the Press of Atlantic City December 16, 2017*

Council President Dewees opened the public hearing. Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that the public hearing had just been held, and the matter would now 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 between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requested 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:** \$ 1,720,628.92

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman O’Neill 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 8:05pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk