

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 4, 2023**

At 7:02pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi, who welcomed the audience. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 7, 2023 and in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced that the internet connection at City Hall was down and therefore this meeting would be in-person only, as there was no ability to stream the meeting use Zoom without internet.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Council Pro Tempore Dewees.

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Council President Polistina

Absent: Mayor Chau*

**Mayor Chau was absent when attendance was called, but arrived at approximately 7:14pm.*

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Nassar, and Chief VonColln were also in attendance.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Councilwoman Bucci with a second by Councilman Leeds, all members present, were in favor of approving the minutes of March 21st, 2023, without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau was absent.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Nassar reviewed the Engineers Report as previously distributed to Council. He explained that New Jersey American Water would have to repave the entire section, and they seem to have agreed to the restoration requirements. The next court appearance was pending. There was a provision in the ordinance that would have provided for them to do the road opening legally, but they did not. Regarding slip lining there were no options to fix the liner, the contractor would have to remove and replace the slip line at their own cost. He had contacted NJDOT for an emergency road opening permit. The contractor would pay for all police overtime and other incurred costs. Regarding final restoration, the road must settle for 60 days, so we'll have to withhold payment to make sure they complete the project properly.

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PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Polistina opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to comment on any subject, he asked that they state their name and address for the record and observe the five-minute limit per speaker.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Council President Polistina closed the public comment portion of this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Council President Polistina read the following statement: “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.”

On motion of Councilman Leeds, seconded by Councilman Dewees, all members present were in favor of voting on 87-2023 through 90-2023 by Consent Agenda.

- 87-2023** Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 88-2023** To Authorize the Sale of Surplus Property No Longer Needed for Public Use on an Online Auction Website
- 89-2023** To Approve the Hiring of Patrick Baker, Jr. for the Position of Part Time Electrical Inspector
- 90-2023** 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(b)(7) – Matters Covered Under the Attorney Client Privilege

Councilman Leeds motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

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ORDINANCE

Council President Polistina called for a motion on Ordinance 7-2023.

There was none; he announced the ordinance would be discussed further.

7-2023 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 233, Article II, Section 233-5 of the Code of the City of Northfield Governing Use of Power Lawn Equipment

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 2,045,416.36

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Notaro seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Leeds – yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Motion carried.

MEETING NOTICES

Councilman Dewees read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

90-2023 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(b)(7) – Matters Covered Under the Attorney Client Privilege

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title. Clerk Canesi further stated that we are required to set forth as much information as possible as to the subject matter to be discussed as well as provide for the public the amount of time they can expect to elapse before the non-public portion of the minutes can be disclosed. She said she would defer to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Clerk Canesi announced to the members of the public who were in attendance in person that they would need to exit Council Chambers during the Executive Session. At the conclusion of the Executive Session of Council, the Council would resume the public session and welcoming the return of the in-person public. A public statement would be made for the record at that time.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed were matters requiring attorney client privilege specifically a Mt. Laurel update from our Mt. Laurel counsel. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown. Council will remain in Council Chambers and return to the general public when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement. No action was anticipated to be taken.

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**Mayor Chau arrived at approximately 7:14pm.*

At 7:14pm Council entered Executive Session, and remained in Council Chambers.

At 8:09pm the Executive Session of Council was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the Executive Session had concluded. The matter discussed was an update from Affordable Housing Counsel, Nancy Holm, and Planner, Tiffany Morrisey, regarding matters requiring attorney client privilege. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown. No official action will be taken tonight.

At approximately 8:10pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk