

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 11, 2024**

At 7:35pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 6, 2024, and in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

Mayor Chau led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilman Notaro.

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Mauro, and Lieutenant of Police Buccafurni were also present.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Councilwoman Carfagno with a second by Councilman Smith, all members present were in favor of approving the minutes of May 21, 2024, without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau read the Police Department report for May.

Council President Leeds thanked Lieutenant Buccafurni for the excellent arrest that was highlighted on social media. It was excellent police work.

Mayor Chau read a letter from the County regarding an upcoming infrastructure workshop. He asked for a volunteer to attend.

Councilman Dewees offered to attend.

Mayor Chau continued; he referred to a letter from a resident from Cedar Bridge Circle, regarding rats. The resident felt the County's response was unprofessional; they were told to remove food and bird feed. The resident did not feel they should have addressed a rat problem themselves. Mayor Chau advised that several years ago he had the Board of Health conduct a study about rats in Northfield. The study showed exposed trash cans, bird feed, etc. was drawing rats. It was suggested that garbage be tightly sealed and that bird feeders be eliminated. Residents did not want to stop feeding birds. It was also suggested the City hire an exterminator, he recalled our Solicitor cautioned that if the City did that, the City could be liable for any ill effects on a pet, person, or property. If a resident wanted to do that, they could. Mayor Chau agreed with the Board of Health and with comments made by the

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Solicitor at that time. The Veterans Day event was very well attended. He asked Clerk Canesi to have Public Works put up the graduation banner; it should be in the Public Works Department. He referred to a letter from County Executive Levinson that they will put the sign back up at the Oxford Circle Cemetery. Finally, after several years were able to acquire a pick-up truck for the Police Department, Mayor Chau thanked Sergeant DiMarco for loaning his truck all these years, but, also the new Police Department truck would be used for patrol. Several years ago, Mayor Chau suggested a solar car park in the parking lot, would Council like him to revisit?

Council President Leeds replied, it should have been considered before we paved. He had no interest at this time.

Mayor Chau announced he received a phone call yesterday about complaints of motor scooters on the bike path. The caller stated he was almost hit and reported no helmets being worn. He wanted to know why there was no enforcement. Mayor Chau noted as explained to him by Chief VonColln, there are three classes of electric vehicles, they all fall into one category and asked if we wished to pursue excluding these types of vehicles. If we do this then these vehicles would be forced onto the public streets. Mayor Chau did not intend to pursue it. He told the resident to come to a City Council meeting to present his facts.

Councilman Dewees suggested posting speed limit signs on the bike path.

Mayor Chau was concerned with enforcement, like the noise ordinance. The former Chief did not want the police to pursue these types of vehicles.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Mauro reviewed the engineer's report as previously distributed to Council. She announced the City was awarded \$63,000 for parking lot improvements under the Local Recreation Improvement Grant. Regarding the Transportation and Local Improvement grants, she met with Councilman Dewees and Superintendent Vitale, because of the scope of the award they would be doing one street for one grant and one for the other, involving Juniper and Forest. They also recommended resurfacing and restriping.

Clerk Canesi asked when it was anticipated that grant awards would be announced.

Ms Mauro replied usually within six months.

Clerk Canesi advised that these streets are heavily used for parking during school hours; the new road opening ordinance will require 4 months' notice to all residents in advance of their street being paved. She recommended those streets be paved during the summer and noted the need to watch the timing.

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PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Leeds opened this meeting for any member of the public to speak on any topic.

Joan Brennan - Northfield, spoke regarding rats. Last year on Dolphin they were due to uncovered dumpsters on County property and neighbors who have chickens. She felt rats were a big problem and enforcing action needed to be taken against the County.

Mayor Chau replied that he would talk to the County Administrator.

Ms Brennan added there are no lids on dumpsters even at restaurants.

Theresa Santon - Northfield, had a suggestion regarding food waste, keep it in the freezer in a plastic bag during the week, and take it out on trash day.

Seeing no one else one from the public wishing to speak, the public comment portion of this meeting was closed.

Council President Leeds asked Solicitor Facenda to read Resolution 134-2024 into the record.

Solicitor Facenda read the following:

**“CITY OF NORTHFIELD, NJ
RESOLUTION NO. 134-2024**

**AMENDING PROCEDURE FOR DISPATCH SERVICES
BY TOWNSHIP OF EGG HARBOR**

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, the Township of Egg Harbor provides dispatch services to the City of Northfield under the terms of an Interlocal Service Agreement (hereinafter ‘Agreement’) for the period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement, calls placed to 9-1-1 within the City of Northfield are answered by communications staff located in and employed by the Township of Egg Harbor; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Northfield desires to amend the procedure to change how 9-1-1 calls which require emergency medical services are handled by the Township of Egg Harbor.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

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For 9-1-1 calls placed within the City of Northfield, the communications staff located in and employed by the Township of Egg Harbor shall continue to answer said calls, determine if emergency medical services are required, and, if so, subsequently route said medical calls through a third-party entity, AtlantiCare's Public Safety Answering Point (currently Medcom).

Pursuant to the Agreement for Emergency Medical Services between City of Northfield and AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, AtlantiCare's Public Safety Answering Point (currently Medcom) shall dispatch the emergency medical services personnel for response and track all event times associated with the each and every dispatched call.

A certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the appropriate officials of the Township of Egg Harbor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this change shall be effective as of 7:00AM on 6/12/2024.

I, MARY CANESI, Municipal Clerk of the City of Northfield, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a Regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, held this 11th day of June 2024.

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk"

Council President Leeds asked if there were any questions from Council?

Councilman Polistina asked for clarification.

Council President Leeds explained; if you call 911 and need medical attention, Egg Harbor Township will transfer the call to Medcom. Egg Harbor Township will drop the call once they determine no police or fire are needed on the call. Medcom has requirements that superseded typical requirements for medical dispatching.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Leeds 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."

On motion of Councilman Polistina, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci all members present, were in favor of voting on Resolutions 121-2024 through 134-2024, by Consent Agenda.

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- 121-2024** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Engineering Services for the Project Known as Zion Pump Station Renovation
- 122-2024** Accumulated Absence Payout
- 123-2024** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2024 Budget
- 124-2024** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for the Project Known “Recreation Improvements at Birch Grove Park”, FY 2023 Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG)
- 125-2024** Authorizing the City of Northfield to Apply for a Grant from the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety
- 126-2024** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for the Year 2024-2025 (Ventura’s)
- 127-2024** Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, New Jersey, Authorizing Execution of an Inter-Local Shared Services Agreement Between Atlantic County Utilities Authority and City of Northfield for Street Sweeping
- 128-2024** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for the Year 2024-2025 (ACCC)
- 129-2024** Authorizing DeBlasio and Associates Consulting Engineers and Planners to Proceed with Stormwater Management Plan Updates
- 130-2024** Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract for the Provision of Electric Generation Supply Service for the South Jersey Power Cooperative
- 131-2024** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2024 Budget
- 132-2024** Resolution Opposing Offshore Wind Projects, Encouraging all Municipalities to Join the Opposition and Supporting the Atlantic County Executive and Board of Commissioners to Utilize its Various Powers, Including Legal Action to Protect the Future of Atlantic County
- 133-2024** To Authorize Liquor License Renewal for the Year 2024-2025 (Bootlegger’s)
- 134-2024** Amending Procedure For Dispatch Services By Township Of Egg Harbor

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilwoman Bucci seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

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

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ORDINANCES

Councilman Dewees motioned; Councilman Smith seconded to adopt Ordinance 5-2024.

5-2024 Bond Ordinance Appropriating One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) and Authorizing the Issuance of Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$950,000) in Bonds or Notes of the City of Northfield for Various Improvements or Purposes Authorized to be Undertaken by the City of Northfield, in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration
Published in the Press of AC, with Statement, 06/15/2024

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stating that this is the second reading and public hearing. After the public hearing, Council would consider the ordinance for final passage. Clerk Canesi announced the date of publication, noting the 20-day estoppel period if the ordinance is approved this evening. Since introduction, the Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the municipal website. Any member of the public who requested a copy of the ordinance would have been provided with one free of charge in the office of the Municipal Clerk during regular business hours.

Council President Leeds opened the public hearing for Ordinance 5-2024.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Council President Leeds closed the public hearing.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno motioned; Councilman Polistina seconded to introduce Ordinance 6-2024.

6-2024 Amending Chapter 330 of the Code of the City of Northfield, Article III, Traffic Control Standards for Construction and Road Repairs
Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 06/15/2024
2nd Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 06/25/2024

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication, public hearing, and final consideration dates. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$1,250,677.91

Councilwoman Bucci motioned, Councilman Smtih seconded, to approve payment of bills.

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

MEETING NOTICES

Council President Leeds read the meeting notices.

At 8:08pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk