

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 3, 2024**

At 6:43pm 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.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Chau led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Mauro, and Chief of Police VonColln were also present.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Councilman Polistina with a second by Councilwoman Carfagno, all members present, except for Councilman Notaro who abstained, were in favor of approving the minutes of August 13, 2024, without formal reading.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau read the Police Department report for August. He referred to and read a letter from County Executive Levinson and gave credit to Councilwoman Carfagno for initiating the concept, that the County would but putting a four-way stop at Oak and Zion.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Mauro had nothing to report. The slip lining project bid would be rejected.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Susan Simpson, Northfield, spoke regarding e-bikes and said someone was going to get hurt, they fly along, groups at a time, and they don't care about the pedestrians. They just go entirely too fast and do not stop at any of the stop signs. She has seen numerous near-misses in the vicinity of Jackson Avenue.

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

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.

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 Councilwoman Bucci, seconded by Councilman Notaro all members present, were in favor of voting on Resolutions 174-2024 through 183-2024, by Consent Agenda.

- 174-2024** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for the Project Known as Reconstruction of Wabash Avenue (FY2024 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program)
- 175-2024** Approval of Specifications and Authorization to Proceed with Public Bidding for the Project Known as Reconstruction of Ridgewood Drive (FY2023 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program)
- 176-2024** Authorization to Create Municipal Lien for Property Maintenance Costs
- 177-2024** Authorization to Create Municipal Lien for Property Maintenance Costs
- 178-2024** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities
- 179-2024** Authorization to Hire Substitute Adult School Crossing Guard
- 180-2024** Authorization to Hire Substitute Adult School Crossing Guard
- 181-2024** 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
- 182-2024** 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
- 183-2024** 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) and (8), Regarding Matters Relating to Attorney-Client Privilege and Personnel Matters

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

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$ 2,495,823.02

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

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

MEETING NOTICES

Council President Leeds read the meeting notices, he reminded everyone about the details for the upcoming Fire Department Parade.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Clerk Canesi explained there would be three Executive Session of Council this evening, she would make a statement before each one and the Solicitor will make a statement as well. Members of the public would need to exit Council Chambers and will be able to return at the end of each of the closed sessions.

181-2024 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

Clerk Canesi read the resolution by title and announced that it had just been adopted as part of the Consent Agenda. Clerk Canesi 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 deferred to the Solicitor for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed would an update from City's Special Counsel regarding affordable housing and other matters falling within the 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. Council will remain in Council Chambers and return to the public session when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement. It was not anticipated

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that action would be taken on this subject tonight.

*At 6:53pm Council entered Executive Session and remained in Council Chambers.
At 8:47pm 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 matters discussed were various COAH updates and spending plan issues. 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 is being taken.

183-2024 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) and (8), Regarding Matters Relating to Attorney-Client Privilege and Personnel Matters

Clerk Canesi read the resolution by title and announced that it had just been adopted as part of the Consent Agenda. Clerk Canesi 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 deferred to the Counsel for further explanation. She noted for the record Chief VonColln had been issued and signed a Rice notice.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed was a Memorandum of Agreement for the Chief of Police. 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 public session when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement. It is anticipated that official action may be taken after this executive session.

At 8:49pm Council entered Executive Session and remained in Council Chambers.

At 9:29pm 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 matters discussed were a Memorandum of Agreement for the Chief of Police. The minutes would be kept and made available when permitted and required by law. The timeframe for the release of those minutes is unknown. It is anticipated that official action may take place following the closure of this executive session.

184-2024 Approving Terms and Conditions of a Memorandum of Agreement between Mark VonColln, Chief of Police for the City of Northfield,

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Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilwoman Carfagno seconded, to adopt resolution 184-2024 as amended.

Labor Counsel Curio announced there was one amendment, it falls under transition upon retirement, the third sentence would read the City shall to the extent possible... adding the term **‘to the extent possible’** to that sentence.

Roll Call: Mrs. Bucci – yes; Mrs. Carfagno – yes; Mr. Dewees- yes; Mr. Notaro – yes; Mr. Polistina– yes; Mr. Smith – no; Mr. Leeds – yes; Motion carried.

182-2024 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

Clerk Canesi read the resolution by title and announced that it had been adopted as part of the Consent Agenda. Clerk Canesi 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 deferred to the Counsel for further explanation.

Solicitor Facenda announced that the matter to be discussed is the continued lease of public lands which falls within the attorney client privilege under the deliberation exception. 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 public session when the Executive Session is complete for a short statement.

At 9:33pm Council entered Executive Session and remained in Council Chambers.

At 9:48pm 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 matters discussed were the existing and extension of a lease of certain public lands. 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 is being taken.

At 9:49pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk