

# The Village of Northfield

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

April 24, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nehez at 7:30 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Nehez.

**ROLL CALL** was read by Tricia Ingrassia. The following officials were present: Councilpersons Nick Magistrelli, Keith Czerr, Jenn Domzalski, Renell Noack, and Gary Vojtush. Also present for the meeting were Law Director Brad Bryan and Fire Chief Jason Buss.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2019 Council Meeting was made by Ms. Noack and seconded by Mr. Vojtush. The Minutes of April 10, 2019 were approved with five yes votes and Mr. Hipps abstaining.

Mayor Nehez introduced Joe Clark, the Superintendent of Nordonia Hills City School District. Mr. Clark thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to speak tonight. Mr. Clark extended his gratitude to the Mayor and the Councilmembers that endorsed Issue 3, a 6.98 mil school levy on the May 7, 2019 ballot. Mr. Clark stated Northfield Village has been extremely gracious to the schools over the past several years, and the schools have received valuable assistance from all the Village Departments. Mr. Clark stated the schools are on the precipice of disaster should this levy fail, but they are also on the precipice of greatness should the levy pass.

### **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, AND REMONSTRANCES:**

Randy Miller of 89 Magnolia Drive expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of beautification that has occurred in the Village. Mr. Miller stated the parks in the Village are shameful, and he won't take his children there. Mr. Miller said he grew up in this community, and the parks look similar to how they looked when he was a child. Mr. Miller stated he is unsure why he pays a sewer bill to the Village and another sewer bill to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. Mr. Miller related he asked why the residents couldn't have curbside recycling and was told by Mr. Hipps that the cost for curbside recycling was \$38.00 to \$40.00 per quarter. Mr. Miller continued if the Village picked up the tab for the sewer maintenance, maybe people could afford to pay for the curbside recycling. Mr. Miller stated this community is a great community, but the Village does not have high enough standards. Mr. Miller said he would like to see more progress being made than what has occurred.

Jim Daugherty of 214 Magnolia Drive expressed his dissatisfaction with how the Village is being run. Mr. Daugherty stated this Village should be run like a corporation with the sizable budget it has. Mr. Daugherty stated he didn't understand why it takes three weeks to complete three sets of Council Meeting Minutes when there is now an assistant in the Finance Department that we are paying \$40,000.00 annually. Mr. Daugherty was advised the assistant makes around \$25,000 per year not \$40,000. Ms. Ingrassia stated you have to allow time to train a new employee as the assistant did not have experience in public accounting. Mr. Vojtush said he thought the assistant was hired from the finance officer's website. Ms. Ingrassia stated the job was advertised on the website, but there was not sufficient response to the ad from the advertisement. Mr. Daugherty stated his friend tried to speak to the Clerk of Court today, but she did not answer his

many phone calls. Mr. Daugherty then said he tried calling himself four times, and no one answered the phone. Mr. Daugherty stated the next time a resignation is handed out from an employee, it should be accepted. Mr. Daugherty then asked Mr. Czerr how he could sit as a member of Council and declare he is a sovereign citizen. Mr. Czerr asserted he never said he was a sovereign citizen. Mr. Daugherty continued Mr. Czerr has stated this Council is violating all of the Village residents' civil rights by passing legislation. Mr. Czerr asked Mr. Daugherty if he was carrying a firearm. Mr. Daugherty said he was not. Mr. Daugherty then told Mayor Nehez he is doing a good job and sees the beautification in the Village with the flowers, the banners, and the roads. Regarding Mr. Daugherty's comment about the new Finance assistant, Chief Buss stated there has been a marked improvement in the turnover of purchase orders and payments are almost instantaneous.

Ben Rabenault of 242 Steeple Chase Run asked why the hours for recycling drop off have been changed to Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 3:00pm. Mayor Nehez stated the hours changed due to the improper items being dropped off in the yard at the Service Department, i.e. couches, beds, hazardous materials, and the like. Mr. Rabenault asked if that sign has helped as he noticed the gates are still open after hours. Mr. Rabenault added that for a person that works during the day, the hours are inconvenient. Mr. Bryan stated the hours were listed as such because there are always employees around during that time to insure that proper items are being dropped off. Mayor Nehez added if Mr. Rabenault had any suggestions on how to avoid the drop off of items that are not recyclable, he can email him the suggestions. Mr. Bryan added the Service Department is accommodating when it comes to drop offs for working residents. Mr. Vojtush suggested the Village look into a camera system at the Houghton Service Garage. Mr. Rabenault stated the Village has a "No Concealed Carry" sign on the Service Department exterior fence. He stated he understands people cannot bring weapons into the building but they are allowed to have them in outdoor areas. He noted that the sign is improper.

#### **REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS:**

**Mayor Jesse Nehez** – No report.

**Finance Director, Tricia Ingrassia** – No report.

**Engineer, Rich Wasosky** – Mr. Wasosky will be present at the next Regular Council Meeting.

**Law Director, Brad Bryan** – Mr. Bryan read the Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursal Report for March 2019 (report attached). A motion for acceptance of the February 2019 Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursal Report was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of acceptance of the report; none were opposed. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Bryan discussed the updating of the liquor license for MGM, as a letter was received by the Village from the State of Ohio Department of Liquor Control asking whether the Village wanted to request a hearing on the renewal of the license. Mr. Bryan stated unless anyone on Council feels otherwise, he will indicate the Village is not requesting a hearing.

Mr. Bryan also stated the Regional Income Tax Agency asked if the Village would like to participate in the Subpoena Program for this year for non-filing taxpayers. A motion to authorize the Village to participate in the Subpoena Program was made by Ms. Noack and seconded by Mr. Higgs. All were in favor of the motion; none were opposed. The motion was adopted.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**Police Department, Chief Zolcus** – Chief Zolcus or his designee will be present at the next Council Meeting.

**Fire Department, Chief Jason Buss** – Report attached. Chief Buss stated the new ambulance for the Racetrack will be delivered the first week of May.

**Service Department, Jason Walters** – Mr. Walters will be present at the next Regular Council Meeting. Mr. Bryan asked Mayor Nehez if the Village intended to waive the residential permit fees for the month of May. A motion to waive the residential permit fees for the month of May was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of the motion; none were opposed. The motion was adopted.

**REPORTS OF THE MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

**Planning Commission, Mr. Hipps:** – No report.

**Recreation Board, Mayor Nehez** – Mayor Nehez stated he is requesting a motion from Council to waive the garage sale permit fees for residents for May 30th and May 31st. A motion to waive the residential garage sale permit fees for the Community Garage Sale was made by Mr. Vojtush, and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of waiving the residential garage sale permit fees for the Community Garage Sale event; none were opposed. The motion was adopted.

Mayor Nehez stated the Recreation Board discussed having an Adult Easter Egg Hunt next year and the movie in the park this summer. Mayor Nehez stated since so many things were discussed at the last Recreation Board Meeting, he didn't see a need for a meeting in May.

**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Finance Committee, Mr. Magistrelli** – Mr. Magistrelli thanked his Committee for meeting to review the payments made for March and April.

**Roads/Public Works, Ms. Domzalski** – No report.

**Health and Welfare, Mr. Czerr** – Mr. Czerr thanked the Mayor and Service Department for repairing the sidewalk by Peggy's Lunchbox.

**Wages and Working Conditions, Mr. Vojtush** – No Report.

**Fire and Safety, Ms. Noack** – No report.

**Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Hipps** – Mr. Hipps stated he is aware from the last meeting a discussion was had regarding the Village parks and that a meeting was requested. Mr. Hipps stated the parks fall under this Committee. Mr. Hipps stated if anyone wants to schedule a meeting on the parks, they should contact him so that it can be scheduled. Mr. Czerr stated he would like to have a Work Session as soon as possible. Mr. Hipps asked Mr. Czerr to contact him to coordinate scheduling a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting for that purpose.

**LEGISLATION:**

**2019-20** – An Emergency Resolution Setting Forth the Salary of the Mayor (Third Reading). A motion for passage was made by Mr. Magistrelli and seconded by Ms. Noack. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Czerr: No; Ms. Noack: Yes; Mr. Vojtush: No; Mr. Magistrelli: Yes; Mr. Hipps: Yes; Ms. Domzalski: Yes. The Resolution was adopted 4 votes to 2.

Mr. Vojtush asked what happened to 2019-21, the Resolution for Council's Salary. Mr. Bryan stated he was advised to remove it from the agenda because the Council President was given reason to believe that there were not sufficient votes to pass the measure.

**2019-26** – An Emergency Resolution Confirming the Mayor/Director of Public Safety's Appointment of Desiree Dlugokecki as a Part-Time Firefighter/Paramedic (First Reading). A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Mr. Magistrelli and seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor of suspending the three reading rule; none were opposed. Mr. Vojtush asked if Chief Buss had any background on Ms. Dlugokecki. Chief Buss stated she is a Kent Emergency Room Paramedic, and she also works for another community. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of passage; none were opposed. The Resolution was adopted.

**2019-27** – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a 2019 Ford F350 XL Crew Truck Along with the Necessary Equipment to Outfit the Vehicle for Service Department Use (First Reading). A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of suspending the three reading rule; none were opposed. A motion for passage was made by Ms. Noack and seconded by Mr. Vojtush. All were in favor of passage; none were opposed. The Resolution was adopted.

**2019-28** – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase an ALC17-17 Cubic Yard Leaf Collector from American Road Machinery (First Reading). A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of suspending the three reading rule; none were opposed. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor of passage; none were opposed. The Resolution was adopted.

**2019-29** – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Ferris IS3200 and Ferris SRSZ3 Lawn Mowers from Northfield Power Equipment (First Reading). A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Hipps. All were in favor of suspending the three reading rule; none were opposed. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Ms. Noack. All were in favor of passage; none were opposed. The Resolution was adopted.

**2019-30** – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into an Agreement with Mid-Ohio Asphalt & Concrete, Inc. for the Paving of the Parking Area at the Corner of Heights Avenue and Elm Street (First Reading). A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Mr. Hipps and seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor of suspending the three reading rule; none were opposed. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Hipps and seconded by Mr. Vojtush. All were in favor of passage; none were opposed. The Resolution was adopted.

**OLD BUSINESS; NEW BUSINESS; ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mr. Czerr stated he had several residents come to him regarding things happening at Huntington Park. Mr. Czerr stated there have been more needle sightings in the park and harassment of children. Mr. Czerr asked if anything further had been done about getting a camera system at the park. Mayor Nehez stated Mr. Walters is looking into the camera system.

Mr. Vojtush thanked NordoniaHills.news for writing an article about his family's fourth annual fundraiser for Autism. Mr. Vojtush shared that his fourth annual fundraiser for Autism would be this upcoming weekend (May 4, 2019).

Mr. Hipps discussed the Route 8 corridor and its beautification. Mr. Hipps continued most of the properties on Route 8 are privately owned businesses and the Village cannot enforce anything other than the ordinances that are presently in place on those businesses. The Village cannot require the businesses to beautify their properties. Mr. Hipps stated looking at redeveloping Route 8 is a long term project. Mr. Bryan added the public right-of-way area on Route 8 is extremely limited, which makes it difficult for the Village to make improvements in those areas, especially with the sidewalks and utilities having to be crammed into that space. Ms. Noack added she is in the beginning stages of offering Veteran banners to be displayed on the poles during the summer months. Mr. Magistrelli stated he and the Mayor have been working feverishly to implement changes and beautify the Village. Mr. Magistrelli stated the community is over 50 years old and worked on a very limited budget until 2014, when the racino came to the Village. Mr. Magistrelli stressed it is difficult to improve the aesthetics of an over 50 year old community in five years, especially when the infrastructure was in such desperate need of improvements.

Mr. Czerr stated he didn't feel that adding flowers around an entrance sign would be costly. Mr. Hipps pointed to the implementation of the commercial overlay district ordinance and recent changes to the sign ordinance as examples of actions aimed at improving the Route 8 corridor. Mr. Czerr stated he talked to many business owners, and they are not happy with those ordinances. Mr. Hipps questioned why the businesses would object to an overlay ordinance that gave them more options and made their properties more valuable. Mr. Hipps asked if what Mr. Czerr said was true, why those people did not come to the public meetings to express their displeasure with the ordinances. Mr. Czerr stated the business owners were afraid Council would retaliate against them if they came to meetings to complain. Ms. Domzalski accused Mr. Czerr of making things up and slandering the rest of Council with such an accusation. She stated her fellow Councilmembers have never taken any action against anyone for expressing an opinion, nor do they have the power to do so.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of adjournment; none were opposed. The Meeting adjourned at 8:24.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Tricia Ingrassia, Clerk of Council



# The Village of Northfield

## Clerk of Court

Clerk of Court  
Lisa Thellmann

Mayor  
Jesse J. Nehez

April 24, 2019

To: Mayor Nehez

**Northfield Village Mayors Court  
Monthly Disbursal  
March - 2019**

**Total to be disbursed: \$14,786.29**

**Total due to the State: \$1,641.50**

**Total due to Stow Municipal Court: \$50.00**

**Total due to the City of Stow: \$45.50**

**Total disbursed for restitution: \$20.00**

**Total due to the Village: \$13,028.29**

**CC: Brad Bryan  
Trish Ingrassia  
Nick Magistrelli  
Gary Vojtush  
Alan Hipps  
Jenn Domzalski  
Renell Noack  
Keith Czerr**

*Voj/Mag*



# NORTHFIELD VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Council Report  
April 24, 2019

Report is for the month of March 2019

- Officer Paul Gramlich and K9 Pseudo completed their recertification
- New Chevy Tahoe was ordered from Tim Lally Chevrolet
- Detective Bureau starting background checks for part time Officers
- Total calls for service for March was 744

Respectfully submitted by Chief John Zolgus



# *The Village of Northfield Fire Department*

10271 Northfield Road • Northfield, OH 44067

330-467-7139 ext 22 • 330-467-7152 FAX

Fire Chief Jason L. Buss

330-523-9422 Business Cell

firechief@northfieldvillage-oh.gov

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April 24, 2019

## **Activity Report**

- A detailed copy of any fire department activity is available upon request.
- **Call Statistics** - As of *April 24, 2019* responded to a total of **272** incidents in 2019 (+5% over last year at this time). Of NVFD's total responses, **207 (76%)** of those incidents were EMS related and **65 (24%)** incidents were FIRE related.
- **Mutual Aid Report** - In 2019, NVFD provided mutual aid for **17** incidents, provided automatic aid **11** times, and received mutual aid for **8** incidents and automatic aid for **3** incidents. (*Total MA received in 2013 was 13, 2014 was 15, 2015 was 22, 2016 was 28, 2017 was 26, 2018 was 29*)
- **NVFD's Average Response Time** from time of call till time on scene is **3:36**
- **MGM & NVRC Stats** – NVFD responded to 54 medical / 0 fire incidents at MGM/NPRT and 26 medical / 1 fire incidents at NVRC in 2019

## **Fire Inspector / Prevention Report (April 24, 2019)**

- 31 Annual Fire Inspections have been completed
- 7 Hood/Duct/Alarm/Sprinkler Tests have been completed
- 23 Standby Events at Hard Rock Rocksino
- 2017 OFC Radio Compliance Test Due at Hard Rock on 7/2019

## **Department News / Upcoming Events**

**Fire Station Remodel** – Request for Qualifications have been made available and sent out to numerous agencies. RFQs are due May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Hydrant Flushing** - Hydrant flushing will run this year from May 6<sup>th</sup> – May 24<sup>st</sup>. If your residents experience a change in water color, let them know to run their cold water to clear.

**Touch-A-Truck** – We will again be hosting our “Touch-A-Truck” event on June 8<sup>th</sup> from 11AM-2PM. The event went over very well last year and we invite all departments to again participate this year.

**New Ambulance** – The new ambulance is expected to be delivered in the week of May

**Questions - ?**

*“Our Family Protecting Yours”*