

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
APRIL 8, 2025**

At 6:01pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2025, and in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees led the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Kern; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Polistina; Councilman Smith.

**Absent:** Councilwoman Carfagno, Council President Bucci, Mayor Chau\*

*\*Mayor Chau was not present when attendance was taken but joined the meeting via telephone at 6:03pm.*

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer DeBlasio, and Patrolman Gansert (on behalf of Chief of Police VonColln) were also present.

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees welcomed all announced the FAN basketball presentation and deferred to Councilwoman Kern.

**6pm Presentation:** Northfield Cardinals Girls Varsity Basketball, Cape Atlantic Junior Basketball League Girls Varsity Division Champions

Councilwoman Kern announced we were here to recognize the Cape Atlantic Junior Basketball League Girls Varsity Champions. Councilwoman Kern read the following into the record.

**“NORTHFIELD CARDINALS GIRLS  
VARSITY BASKETBALL**

**CAPE ATLANTIC JUNIOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE  
GIRLS VARSITY DIVISION CHAMPIONS**

In recognition of outstanding achievement during the 2024-2025 basketball season, the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Northfield, NJ would like to congratulate Coaches John DeRichie and Katie DeRichie, and the Northfield Cardinals Varsity Girls Basketball Team.

Tessa Camac  
Lila Clifford

Tess McLaughlin  
Remy Ponzio

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Giuliana DeRichie  
Dylin Eissler  
Madison Fitzgerald  
Juliana Geary  
Leah Hankins

Charlie Scullion  
Franchesca Shoemaker  
Audrey Steinberg  
Allison Turon  
Bella Zappala”

Councilwoman Kern introduced Coach John DeRichie.

Coach DeRichie highlighted the girls’ winning season and complimented the players and the referees.

*At 6:03pm Mayor Chau joined the meeting via telephone.*

Councilwoman Kern thanked everyone for taking time out of their schedules to attend and presented certificates to the players and coaches in attendance.

*At 6:06pm on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor a of brief recess.*

*At 6:11pm Council President Pro Tempore Dewees resumed the meeting.*

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees moved to committee reports.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Councilman Polistina** – Finance and Collections; Library; Municipal Alliance; Senior Citizens; Affordable Housing

Councilman Polistina announced for Finance that the budget was introduced at the last meeting. CFO Stollenwerk sent a letter to all department heads; he reiterated that anything any department can do to only spend on essential items will be greatly appreciated by this Council and our taxpayers. Council didn’t want to have to cut services, and six cents is a lot. For Seniors, they will have another meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Library.

**Councilwoman Kern** – Northfield Sports (FAN)

Councilwoman Kern thanked Council for recognizing the girls’ varsity basketball team, the girls were very excited. She saw the little league field for the first time and she thanked Engineer DeBlasio, she felt it was the nicest field in the County. She thanked Council as well.

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**Councilman Dewees** – Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields; Birch Grove Park, Bike Path, 1st Street Playground, Veterans Park; Public Works: Roads, Engineering

Councilman Dewees reported Public Works has been busy getting disc golf ready, at Birch Grove Park, there are nine holes complete with baskets. They have been clearing fishing trails for trout season, the State just stocked with 400 trout, the bathrooms were open and the bandstand looks awesome. The next step would be split rail fence. The Public Works vector truck has been out at Sutton Woods doing inlet work, new ‘no parking’ signs have been installed on Lake Avenue and on Ridgewood Court. Some catch basin inlet grates have been upgraded to new bicycle-safe grates, and the softball field light panel has been repaired. Public Works has also been working on getting fields ready and the complex looks awesome.

**Councilwoman Carfagno** - Fire Department / EMS; Technology / MRHS Channel; Cultural Committee / Veteran Liaison; Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Carfagno was absent, Councilman Dewees read the following report on her behalf:

“Mainland Regional HS– Next BOE meeting will be Monday April 14 at 6pm, Cultural Committee – May 3rd is the Flea Market held at the Community School. July 4th parade – we are still looking for Northfield’s 1st Baby for 2025, and nominations for Mr. or Ms. 4th of July as well as nominations for Northfield Citizen of the Year. Northfield Mothers’ League – March 27th was our annual Spaghetti Dinner. Thank you to the local businesses who helped to make the event successful. April 12th, at the Bandstand at Birch Grove Park. Northfield Mothers’ League will be hosting the annual Easter Egg hunt beginning at 12 noon, May 10th and they host Doreen’s Day wristband tickets for Castaway Cove, more information to follow.”

**Councilwoman Bucci** – Insurance and Safety; Planning Board; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilwoman Bucci was absent.

**Councilman Smith** - Central Municipal Court; Little League and Babe Ruth; Northfield Community School; Shared Services

Councilman Smith reported Northfield Little League baseball and softball was getting underway, he wished them success and thanked Public Works for getting the fields ready. The next Northfield Community School Board of Education meeting is scheduled for May 19th. Regarding disc golf, to Mr. Vitale and Supervisor Boyd, he expressed that the course designer was very complimentary and very excited to see the baskets in the ground. The course designer would like to come to Council and present an update; Councilman Smith told him we'd give him a date. It is really taking shape and will be quite an attraction for the City.

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Councilman Dewees asked Councilman Smith what was the plan going forward? Is the plan to wait until the Fall?

Councilman Smith noted they could still do work around the edges, a lot of volunteers are out there, he understood it may be difficult for Public Works to devote the time over the summer. The course designer will get together with Supervisor Boyd to review progress.

**Councilman Notaro** - Sewer Operations; Inspections, Housing/Zoning.

Councilman Notaro recognized Qwin Vitale, in attendance in the audience, and congratulated him on his retirement. He thanked him for his years of service, it was a tough job, and they are appreciated. Regarding the microplastics ordinance, he has some changes, he would forward to Solicitor Facenda and Council President Bucci for their review. He hoped to have on the agenda in next meeting or two.

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees moved to ad hoc committee reports.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

Electric Vehicles – *Councilmen Polistina and Notaro.*

Solicitor Facenda announced he is waiting for comments from the Committee.

Special Events Ordinance – *Councilwoman Bucci, Councilman Dewees.*

Councilman Dewees noted he'd wait for Councilwoman Bucci to return for an update.

Road Opening Ordinance / Remaining Proposed Amendments – *Councilmen Dewees and Notaro.*

Councilman Notaro noted he spoke with Engineer DeBlasio and they were defining what is or is not considered an opening.

**WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS**

There was no ongoing business.

**WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS**

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

There was no new business.

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**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees reviewed the agenda and made the assignments.

**PUBLIC SESSION / FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to comment on any subject, he asked that all persons state their name and city of residence for the record and observe the five-minute limit per speaker.

Pat and Margaret McGowan, Northfield – advised Council that, their son, Tommy would be graduating from West Point next month. Years ago, Councilwoman Kern had a program to honor veterans. They asked would the City, at the McGowan's expense, fly the American flag in Tommy's honor on his Graduation Day, May 24th, and then return the flag to the McGowans?

Councilwoman Kern thought that was a great idea, Tommy had been very involved in Northfield. She congratulated them, she can't believe four years had gone by.

Solicitor Facenda confirmed the request was just fly Tommy's flag and return it to them.

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees conducted a straw poll, all members present were in favor.

Sondra Russo, Northfield - asked what was the situation with the Veterans' Administration in Northfield, would there be restrictions? She also asked about the library and grants, was there a safety net for small towns, she was concerned about FEMA, and what about schools, who fills in the gaps in school funding?

Councilman Polistina responded; he said, as we've all experienced, the rising costs over the past 5 years, equate to about a 20% increase in prices over that period. As to the VA, they were using a facility in Northfield, they have chosen to move to a new facility in Linwood, but he does not know the status. The library is funded via tax collection and it is statutory.

Councilman Smith spoke regarding school funding, which is State funded and it is a tight year, the schools are facing a tough situation and it is due to the Governor's budget.

Joan Brennan, Northfield – advised that there was a spot around the museum where the split rail fence is in bad shape, Roy has tried to repair it, she asked could the City do anything.

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Councilman Dewees replied that he would take a look, he acknowledged it had been falling down for a while.

Joan Brennan added that she also did not think the steps going into the museum had been repaired. There is a grant system that was just posted on the County website for museums, she asked if maybe Clerk Canesi could look into that. They still have spaces left for the Flea Market, May 3<sup>rd</sup> with set up on May 2<sup>nd</sup>; everyone should come out. She thanked Council.

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

At 6:32pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk