

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
APRIL 9, 2024**

At 6:00pm 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 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Council President Pro Tempore Dewees.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Smith; Mayor Chau.

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Mauro, and Sergeant of Police Van Pelt were also present.

Council President Leeds moved to Committee Reports.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Dewees reported on a situation at Tilton Road and the Bike Path regarding the pedestrian signal; it needed repair. He was working with the County and would keep all updated. The roof at City Hall had been pushed back until likely next week. The bandstand and picnic area at Birch Grove were part of the block grant through the County, specifications were being finalized and we would be going out to bid soon. Oak Avenue had been paved; the paving company would be doing some local patch work on other roads.

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

Councilwoman Bucci did not have a report.

**Councilman Polistina** – Finance and Collections; Inspections, Housing/Zoning; Library; Municipal Alliance Senior Citizens

Councilman Polistina reported the Library would be hosting “Physics Rollercoaster” for grades 6 to 10 from 3-5pm on April 18th and the Book and Bake sale on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. He read the Library’s capital budget plan and announced that Coffee with a Cop would be held tomorrow at Wawa from 10am-noon.

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

Councilman Smith was absent.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno was absent.

**Councilman Notaro** - Inspections, Housing/Zoning; Sewer Operations; Northfield Sports (FAN)

Councilman Notaro did not have a report.

On behalf of Councilman Smith, Council President Leeds announced that Little League's Opening Day was today.

On behalf of Councilwoman Carfagno, Clerk Canesi provided the details for the Cultural Committee Flea Market for this Saturday from 8am-2pm.

**Council President Leeds** – Fire Department/EMS

Council President Leeds recently found out that on April 20, 1971, Northfield Fire Warden Frank Andrews was killed in the line of duty. He was previously unaware that we'd had a line of duty death in the Fire Department. He extended well wishes to members of the Galloway Township Police Department due to recent incident involving an officer injured on duty.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

Electric Vehicles – Councilmen Polistina and Notaro. There was no update.

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

Councilwoman Bucci reported she'd sent Council President Leeds and Councilman Dewees her draft copy of an ordinance.

Affordable Housing – *Councilwoman Carfagno, Councilman Polistina.*

Councilman Polistina announced the Ordinance addressing the overlay for the affordable housing on Dolphin Avenue was on the agenda for introduction. The committee must meet to address deadlines associated with the new law.

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Council President Leeds announced that he'd recently asked Councilwoman Bucci to join the Affordable Housing subcommittee to create a communication link with the Planning Board.

Insurance Requirements Review – *Councilman Polistina, Councilwoman Bucci.*

Clerk Canesi announced she was working with Solicitor Facenda on suitable wording.

Road Opening Ordinance – *Councilmen Dewees and Notaro.*

Councilman Dewees reported he and Councilman Notaro were in the process of setting up a meeting with the Engineer's Office and Superintendent Vitale.

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

- Potential Sale / Development of City Owned Properties: Block 66 Lot 11; Block 69 Lot 1.02

Clerk Canesi announced that our affordable housing attorney was working on a draft agreement between the City and Habitat.

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

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Councilman Dewees advised that Clerk Canesi attended a meeting for the CDBG and had suggested accessible bleachers at the recreation fields. He thanked Clerk Canesi for the idea.

On behalf of Mayor Chau, Councilman Dewees shared information regarding a LEAP Grant opportunity that would provide for the acquisition of a new bomb dog by the Sheriff's Department. There would be no costs to Northfield associated with the grant, and it was supported by Mayor Chau and Chief VonColln. Mayor Chau has asked for the support of Council in the form of a resolution.

Council President Leeds called for a voice vote; all members present were in favor.

Clerk Canesi announced the resolution would be on the agenda for the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- Request to County for Speed Limit Reduction on Tilton Road

Council President Leeds explained the crash data requested from the Chief for the speed limit reduction; Council President Leeds was in support of the proposal to send a letter to the County.

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Councilman Notaro felt it will be good for businesses.

Councilwoman Bucci noted that where our school children cross is where the speed limit increases to 40.

Councilman Dewees urged action soon because the traffic studies are only done in summer months.

Engineer Mauro cautioned that the Council should be aware that the County may not be able to lower it, based on DOT design standards.

Council President Leeds took a voice vote; all present agreed to send a letter.

Council President Leeds directed Clerk Canesi to work with Mayor Chau to draft a letter.

Councilwoman Bucci asked that she work with Clerk Canesi on the letter.

**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Leeds made the assignments.

**PUBLIC SESSION / FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

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

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

At 6:17pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk