

CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION JUNE 17, 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

Mayor Chau led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

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

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

JULY 4TH PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

- *First Baby – Luke Andrew Flynn*
- *Ms July 4th – Olivia Carlton*
- *Citizen of the Year – Leslie Dabundo*

Council President Bucci turned the meeting over to Mayor Chau for the presentation of the July 4th Awards.

Mayor Chau asked Cultural Committee Member Joan Brennan to introduce the members of Cultural Committee.

Ms Brennan introduced Rob Patrick, Roy Clark and Eleanor Webb who were present in the audience.

Ms Brennan announced that the Cultural Committee would be giving out three awards this evening. She deferred to Rob Patrick who read the names of the recipients and biographies on each.

Mr. Patrick announced the First Baby as Luke Andrew Flynn and read the following: “His parents, Alicia, and Matt Flynn both grew up in the area and attended Mainland Regional High School. They bought their home in Northfield in 2016. Alicia is a second-grade teacher at Northfield Community School and Matt works as an insurance agent at Insurance Agencies Inc. in Northfield as well! They had their first child, Emma in October of 2018, and their middle son Cole in November of 2020. They knew their family wasn't complete until they had Luke in January of 2025. Emma and Cole have been the best older siblings giving Luke more love than they could ever imagine! Luke has been the sweetest final addition to their family. They couldn't have asked for a more go with the flow, happy go lucky, loving baby!”

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Ms Brennan presented flowers and awards to the parents.

Mr. Patrick then announced Miss July 4th as Olivia Carlton. Mr. Patrick read the following:

“Olivia Carlton is a rising Senior at Mainland Regional High School. Olivia and her family, including her maternal grandparents, are very proud to be lifelong Northfield residents.

As if being an A/B student with a high GPA in Honors classes isn't enough, Olivia is also a proud Mainland Varsity Cheerleader and dedicated Women's Varsity Rower for Mainland. Her Mainland Cheer began as a freshman and included all the duties of the game - and this season she plans to run for Captain! She has received the coveted "Spirit Stick" (an award given to a cheerleader, by her teammates) each season for her dedication to the team and for her kindness that she consistently demonstrates to teammates and coaches alike. During the winter and spring seasons, Olivia is a strong Varsity rower, which helped her boat qualify for Nationals in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Her recent rowing accomplishment is being recognized as "Queen of the Week" by her coaches for always being positive and wearing a smile! When she isn't studying, working, rowing or cheering -- Olivia works with a PEERS mentoring program helping special needs Mainland students.

Olivia's passion for giving back to her community started at a young age. It is very important to her that she helps out with the organizations and groups that have helped define who she is. She was a Girl Scout for several years and enjoyed working on completing community projects, she volunteers at Post Crashers where she cultivates a garden and helps to feed Veterans in transitional housing, she pitches in at St. Gianna's when her schedule allows, and she is beginning her fourth and final year as a Northfield Cardinals Junior Coach, after being a Cardinals cheerleader herself for seven years. Olivia has also been instrumental in resurrecting the "Support Our Troops" club at Mainland. This club is dedicated to helping and honoring local veterans.

Their latest endeavor was a trivia night with the Disabled American Veterans on Dolphin Ave. As much volunteering as she does, the highlight of Olivia 's year is being a "buddy" the evening of Tim Tebow's Night To Shine which is a prom for people with special needs. Between her job at Aunt Betty's in Ocean City where she has a lead position and her summer cheer practices, Olivia volunteers her time at the Ventnor Boat House and Lake Lenape teaching aspiring rowers proper technique and safety.

Olivia is heading into her Senior year of high school which will include the decision of which college to attend! She is currently being recruited by several colleges for rowing and is in the process of visiting each school and talking with the coaches. Her

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college aspirations include an acceptance into an Occupational Therapy program and someday plans on becoming an occupational therapist in a school.

Olivia is a wonderful candidate for this highly regarded title. She would look forward to representing the great, American hometown of Northfield and will represent her hometown with great pride and honor, whether you see her at St. Gianna's every week with her family, reading "In Flander's Field" at our Memorial Day service, or being a positive role model to the many kids that she mentors, Olivia is an all-American hometown girl and perfect for the job!"

Ms Brennan presented a sash and award to Olivia.

Ms Brennan announced the final recipient of the night was Citizen of the Year, Leslie Dabundo.

Mr. Patrick read the following:

"Leslie's has been a proud Northfield resident for most of her life. She and her husband Steve raised three beautiful children here. She has been involved with Northfield Girl Scouts, Boys Scouts and also been a member of the PTO and was also recording secretary in that organization. She has volunteered for Northfield All Sports Association and was the cheerleading coordinator for a few years, then she volunteered at the snack bars for baseball, softball, and football fields. Leslie is also member of St Bernadette's / St Gianna and served as a Eucharistic Minister as well as teaching CCD.

Leslie has also have been a past member of Northfield Mothers' League and has recently rejoined NML. She has also volunteered for FAN recently the last few years as her grandchildren have gone through programs there.

I am quoting her now" I love Northfield and love the community. My most favorite night of the year is the Santa Claus going around before Christmas, I have stood out on my porch, even alone to watch and wave!! I am truly honored to have been selected to be Northfield citizen of the year". Leslie is a true Northfieldian and with the best heart... Let us all congratulate Leslie Dabundo as this year's 2025 Citizen of the year!!"

Ms Brennan presented Mrs. Dabundo with flowers and an award.

Mr. Patrick announced that the Cultural Committee invites all to the Fire House for refreshments.

At 6:12pm, on motions properly made and seconded Council took a brief recess.

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At 6:18pm Council President Bucci resumed the meeting and moved to Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Polistina did not have a report.

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

Councilman Dewees announced the ‘Dogs must be leashed’ signs are up at Veterans Park, but they are not on the Bike Path yet.

Councilwoman Kern – Northfield Sports (FAN)

Councilwoman Kern reminded all that FAN final cheer sign ups end June 21st, there are no exceptions. The deadline for football is July 15th. She attended the library open house on June 5th, it was a very nice night. She also attended movie in the park on Friday; she thanked the Police Department and Alliance Coordinator Shannon Campbell for a great night, the kids had a lot of fun.

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

Councilman Smith advised that the municipal court was running smoothly, everything was going well. Northfield Little League and Babe Ruth are in their All-Star season, we wish them the best in their pursuit of regional championships. Lastly, Northfield Community School graduation is scheduled for Friday at 5pm.

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

Councilwoman Bucci did not have a report.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno announced the senior awards ceremony for Mainland is tomorrow, Graduation is the 19th, the next Board of Education meeting has been postponed for lack of a quorum, with the next meeting on July 21st at 6pm. The Hometown Hero banner program proofs are in progress. She read the Fire

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Department report for May. Our crew was still doing ladder training.

Councilman Notaro – Sanitary Sewer Operations; Inspections, Housing/Zoning.

Councilman Notaro did not have a report.

Council President Bucci moved to ad hoc committee reports.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

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

Councilwoman Bucci noted that she and Solicitor Facenda would be meeting to discuss the special events ordinance.

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

Councilman Dewees stated he and Councilman Notaro were working on some outstanding items.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

- Regulations re Keeping of Chickens

Council President Bucci announced that Council had taken a straw poll at the last Council meeting, and we have to fix our ordinances because they conflict. She asked for volunteers to work on a committee.

Councilwoman Carfagno and Councilman Notaro volunteered.

Council President Bucci asked them to please plan on meeting and having a report for the Council at the July 15th meeting.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

No new grant opportunities were mentioned.

Solicitor Facenda announced some procedural changes to this evening's agenda; he asked for a straw poll to add four resolutions to the consent agenda. He read each resolution number and explained each one briefly. He asked if all were ok with adding these to the consent agenda. He would also amend resolutions 158-2025 and 159-2025; they were already a part of the published agenda. He would read the resolutions and amendments into the record at the appropriate time.

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Council President Bucci conducted a straw poll, all members present were in favor of adding resolutions 161-2025 through 164-2025.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Bucci reviewed the agenda and made the assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION / FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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

Gianna Nolan, Northfield, voiced her concern about chickens and the number of chickens allowed. She believed the current number was 12 and believed that was appropriate but has heard the number may be higher. She lived near chickens now and there were health concerns, she asked how you were going to regulate them, vaccinate them, and about coop sizes and runs. Her neighbor's coop and run back right up to her yard and she can't smell her tomatoes and basil anymore, only chicken feces.

John Nolan, Northfield, added that he felt it was a quality-of-life issue.

Mrs. Nolan stated our taxes are high as it is, she was worried that quality of the neighborhood was declining.

Mayor Chau asked if the Nolan's neighbors have roosters?

Mrs. Nolan replied, yes, five of them.

Mayor Chau was told that roosters make sounds in the morning.

Mrs. Nolan replied yes, they do and invited Mayor Chau to come listen.

Jessica Caramma, Northfield, was concerned about the chickens, and the varying number that could be set; there are many areas where five, six, seven, and even eight backyards abut another yard. Even five chickens seemed like a lot. Her concern was that this could be a nuisance for a lot of people in this town. She hoped Council got this right.

Mayor Chau asked what does she mean by an area?

Ms Caramma, replied, we don't have acreage in Northfield.

Mayor Chau asked would she be against chickens?

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Ms Caramma believed the number had to be controlled; in one area on Mt. Vernon, a resident has a yard that abuts the backyards of eight other residents. If everyone had 10 chickens that's 80 chickens. She also asked how many eggs did one family need? She only has two neighbors; she added that she will have to field those the calls in the Construction Office and she feels for these people.

Councilman Polistina, to the Nolans, asked do the roosters make noise all day long?

Mr. Nolan replied, yes, all day.

Mrs. Nolan felt they were more active in the morning, but yes, throughout the day. In addition to the noises from the pigs.

Councilman Polistina and Council President Bucci thanked them for coming.

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

At 6:34pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk