

CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JULY 15, 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, Jacob Wright for Engineer Mauro and Chief VonColln were also present.

6PM – RENEWAL PRESENTATION, ACMJIF

Council President Bucci introduced Kamini Patel to give a renewal presentation for the ACMJIF (Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund).

Ms Patel referred to a presentation packet that had been distributed and encouraged all to follow along. She explained conditions affecting insurance rates locally and nationwide. She continued explaining various programs that were available to mitigate risk; she noted increases in premiums and regulatory and statutory changes and increases in worker's compensation costs. The Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) offered many training options, much of which is required by the state for various positions - this is offered at no cost by the MEL (Municipal Excess Liability) system. She noted the elected officials training offers a financial incentive for attendance; they also assist with inspections and safety bulletins to assist with PEOSHA compliance. She explained the EPL/POL (Employment Practices Liability/Public Officials Liability) Risk Management Program that provided for reduced deductible in the event of a claim if all standards were met. The JIF is member driven and decisions come out of subcommittees which are made up of JIF members. She noted participation in the recently formed E-JIF, which provides coverage for environmental liability, and CYBER coverage which included training and vulnerability assessments. She explained the value of transitional duty when employees were injured, in terms of claim costs and employee well-being. She reviewed the JIF's financial position, and dividend return in 2024 and over the life of Northfield's membership. She asked the governing body to support employees as they participate in these programs. She thanked Council for their time and offered to answer questions.

Councilman Polistina asked about the designation as a coastal community.

Ms Patel stated that most insurers list properties east of the parkway.

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Seeing no further questions, Council President Bucci moved to committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Polistina announced National Night Out would be held on August 7th, registration forms were available on the website, he hoped for a great turnout. The Bike Rodeo was planned for September and Trunk or Treat in October. The library had completed their upgrades including painting and new furniture, as well as a reading garden donated by the family of a recently deceased employee. He offered condolences to Clerk Canesi on loss of father and thanked her for her dedication.

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 reported that Public Works had a PEOSHA inspection and Supervisor Boyd was working to make corrections, he believed the Business Administrator's office was assisting.

Councilwoman Kern – Northfield Sports (FAN)

Councilwoman Kern announced today was last day to register for football and cheer was last week. Regarding the young man who wanted to do a benefit for a local resident who had cancer, the event was being done through FAN on July 24th, she congratulated Andrew Gillman for his success in organizing this event.

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

Councilwoman Bucci noted that Ms Patel mentioned the elected officials training, we did not get our full premium credit this year for elected officials training, she encouraged all to do better next year. The EDC had a meeting today to discuss a beautification program for Tilton Road, they were working to find grant funding; she stated that Tilton Road is the most traveled road in Atlantic County. The EDC had an outreach program that provides free services to businesses and they are working on that.

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

Councilman Smith offered condolences to Clerk Canesi. The court was running smoothly, the next NCS Board of Education meeting was scheduled for July 28th. He

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asked Jason Yard (Little League President, who was in attendance in the audience) if there were any updates.

Mr. Yard offered that they played hard.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno announced the next Mainland Regional High School Board of Education meeting was scheduled for July 26th. She thanked all who participated in the Connolly Mile and 4th of July parade, there was an amazing turnout, she thanked David Goldstein and Jay Hurley, she would be having a meeting this week to discuss the 250th anniversary celebration, including members of the Cultural Committee. Hometown Hero banners have arrived and six of them would be going up, she would work with sponsors to ensure they can be there to take pictures if desired. She read the Fire Department and EMS reports for the month of June. This month members of the Fire Department did CPR and AED training, she thanked AtlantiCare for providing the training.

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

Councilman Notaro offers condolences to Clerk Canesi. He also noted passing of Ronnie Rodeo, he was a big fixture in our community. The Connolly mile had gone from 300 runners to over 800 in just a few years. The fee used to be \$5 and now it's \$10, it's inexpensive and is a great community event. He reported there were many delays involved in the Zion Road pump station repair but it looks like it should be wrapped up in early August.

Council President Bucci moved to ad hoc committee reports.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

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

Solicitor Facenda announced he would have the ordinance for the next meeting.

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

Councilman Dewees stated he and Councilman Notaro were working on one outstanding issue and he should have the ordinance for the next meeting.

Regulations regarding Keeping of Chickens – *Councilwoman Carfagno and Councilman Notaro.*

Councilwoman Carfagno reported the committee met regarding chickens and they have a draft proposal that would be presented at the next meeting.

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WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

There were none.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

No new grant opportunities were mentioned.

- Title Search re Probable Utility Easement / Mimi Court and Wabash Avenue
– *Solicitor Facenda*

Solicitor Facenda referred to the second page of the agenda and a 25' access easement on the tax maps. Public Works had confirmed that we do have infrastructure there.

Supervisor Boyd, in the audience, announced sanitary and storm.

Solicitor Facenda suggested polling Council to authorize the expense for a title search on the easement, the cost would be around \$1,500.00.

Council President Bucci took a straw poll vote.

Clerk Canesi called roll; all members present were in favor of authorizing the expense.

- LEAP Grant Awards – *Req by Council President Bucci*

Council President Bucci reviewed the history of LEAP Grants.

At the request of the Council President, Clerk Canesi reviewed the four grants that City recently received: highway digital message boards, speed feedback signs, a GIS tool for use by the Tax Assessor, and funding for a shared service agreement to upgrade the municipal website.

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.

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Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Council President Bucci 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