

CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 16, 2025

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 11, 2025, and in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

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.

Council President Bucci announced the band recognition event.

6PM – MRHS MARCHING BAND GROUP 1A STATE CHAMPIONS

Councilwoman Carfagno stated this was a very special presentation for the Mainland Regional High School Marching Band for winning the Group 1A State Championship. She read from the certificate that was presented to members of the band who were present, as follows:

“In recognition of outstanding achievement during the Mainland Regional High School Marching Band 2025 Season. Group 1A State Championships, Best Music, and Best Overall Effect, and taking Second Place in both Color Guard and Percussion under the direction of Band Director Kevin Flaherty and Color Guard Director Bobbi Jo Baldwin.”

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| Estrella Chavez | Alexa Steedle | Yuening Hong |
| Jayda Graves | Zachary Tafeen | Rafael Chavez |
| Risley Fehr | Olivia Hartt | Bella Baldwin |
| Aidan Chan | Madelyn Tighe | Ella Barnett |
| Emily Kyle | Janessa Perez | Kiera Donohoe |
| Valery Wilches | Ombika Talukder | Emer Donohoe |
| Lyla Klueg | Marianella Arroyo | Mars Tran |
| Ryan Moceus | Anthonella Arroyo Andrade | Jessica Cipkins |
| Eric Ekstrom | Milla Rubinfine | Amy Stefanowicz |
| Christian Fowler | Nick Barbaccio | Tyler Nuttall |
| John Plamantorus | Sky Simmerman | Aniya McCabe |
| Manny Cartagena | Amber Baldwin | Melany Lino-Melo |
| Evenly Smith | | |

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Councilwoman Carfagno called all band members present to come forward and she presented them with the certificate. In attendance were Band Director Kevin Flaherty: Estrella Chavez, Risley Fehr, Emily Kyle, Lyla Kleug, Eric Ekstrom, Manny Cartagena, Evelyn Smith, Alexa Steedle, Zachary Tafeen, Marianella Arroyo, Anthonella Arroyo Andrade, Milla Rubinfine, Nick Baraccio, Amber Baldwin, Yuening Hong, Rafael Chavez, Bella Baldwin, Kiera Donohoe and Emer Donohoe.

Mayor Chau added that Mainland has had a long history as having one of the best bands in Atlantic County. He offered congratulations and was looking forward to seeing them win more awards.

At 6:08pm, on motions properly made and seconded, Council President Bucci called for a short recess.

At 6:13pm the work session resumed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Polistina reported that he attended the library meeting and the new director, had presented their budget. He announced statistics including circulation numbers and programming attendance.

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 had no report.

Councilwoman Kern – Northfield Sports (FAN)

Councilwoman Kern attended the tree lighting, it was a great event, she thanked the Fire Department, Northfield Mothers' League, the Ladies Auxiliary, the Show Choir and Santa Claus. She attended the 250th committee meeting, which Councilwoman Carfagno would report on. All FAN football levels made the championships. JV fell short losing 12-8, but Peewee won 13-6, and Varsity as well 20-6. She congratulated all. She spoke with Council President Bucci and we would be inviting the Cardinals to the 2nd meeting in January, it was probably 60 kids including coaches and cheerleaders. She noted that all of the houses and businesses look so beautiful, she wished all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year.

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

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Councilwoman Bucci had no report.

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

Councilman Smith attended the meeting at the Canale Center regarding County dispatch, there were representatives from all over the County. The Board of Commissioners and County Executive Levinson presented a proposal regarding countywide dispatch. It was meant to be an informative presentation and it was, it was not intended to propose anything. It was a packed meeting. A grant funded study had been done, there was no plan in place at this time, but the County wanted to alert municipal officials that they (the County) would pursue this if the municipalities want to go in that direction. Councilman Smith would be in favor of pursuing it, we were the only County in New Jersey that did not have countywide dispatch. The County did say it could take up to ten years. This was not a decision for tonight, or even next year. He was hoping to make some contacts with other municipalities.

BA/Clerk Canesi asked if the County personnel had given any indication as to when or how they would like to see our support.

Councilman Smith replied, they did not, but he believed we should do something, a resolution perhaps, in the new year.

Councilwoman Kern added that she read something that led her to believe home rule may make this difficult.

Mayor Chau reiterated that the County was not looking for anything right now, ultimately it will be the Mayors and Councils that decide, not any public safety department. Mayor Chau's suggestion was to hold off and wait for the County.

Councilman Smith believed the County was waiting for municipalities, he saw no harm in us doing it.

Mayor Chau added that if County dispatch happened, all municipalities would pay whether they join or not.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno echoed Councilwoman Kern's comments regarding the tree lighting and offered kudos to Council President Bucci for announcing Santa's arrival. She thanked the Fire Department for driving around town with Santa. The event at Atlantic City Country Club event was great, it was very cold, but she hoped they would do it annually. The Fire Department had 100 more calls than last year as of today, with half of the month to go. She congratulated William Kern and the MRHS

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mock trial team for winning the 2025 State Mock Trial Championships. She announced a special meeting on December 22 via zoom regarding the MREA contract for 2025-2030. The link to access the meeting is available on the Board of Education site. The 250th committee met and they are still seeking committee members, they have a lot of great ideas and they need to get moving to be able to bring them to fruition. She was waiting for responses from some Council members, she asked all to please check their emails.

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

Councilman Notaro reported that in the Public Works Department they had been inventorying City assets using pen and paper. Last week the Superintendent invited Councilman Notaro to a presentation by a company called Vialitics that has a system to track all assets and records. He explained that you put a camera in a car and it will give you an AI recommendation of what needs to be done, with a road for example. He felt it would definitely help our Public Works department.

Superintendent Boyd added that it was a German company that came to the US in 2022 and used video technology, it was a work order software, he gave example of using it to create work orders for sewer calls. It could be used to track to see where problems were, it could be used for code enforcement, for signs. It could be used for anything for buildings and grounds, it was the cheapest work order program out there.

Councilman Notaro noted they could set us up with a free, no risk trial, now, and if at budget time we don't have the money. He asked Superintendent Boyd if it was in the budget.

Superintendent Boyd replied, it is not.

Councilman Notaro asks if Council would be in favor of allowing Superintendent Boyd to set this up now?

Mayor Chau asked if it was expensive.

Superintendent Boyd replied, no, and it's based on mileage of roads; it was in the low 5 figures.

Councilwoman Kern asked were any other towns using it?

Superintendent Boyd replied, Egg Harbor Township is starting to use it for their Parks and Recreation department. Absecon's engineering department was using it. It's a no brainer because we are using 1975 sewer maps that we are hand-drawing on. It would be useful for reporting to the state as well.

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Councilman Dewees asked do we have to upgrade computers.

Superintendent Boyd stated no, everything was done on the phone.

Councilman Smith noted their website says used by 1,000 companies and various countries.

Councilman Notaro asked when does free trial offer end?

Superintendent Boyd replied, any time from now until when the budget is adopted.

BA/Clerk Canesi suggested, based on the cost, which was described as low five figures, that Superintendent Boyd may need quotes.

Councilman Notaro, to BA/Clerk Canesi, do we need quotes to accept a free trial?

BA/Clerk Canesi deferred to Solicitor Facenda, but said we'd need to see something in writing.

Solicitor Facenda offered to look at their contract and see.

Councilwoman Carfagno announced she went for walk on the bike path after the snowstorm and the bike path was clear, but at the Linwood border it was a sheet of ice, and not clear.

Superintendent Boyd stated, they did not plow much, but they did plow the bike path.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Regulations regarding Keeping of Chickens – Councilwoman Carfagno, Councilman Notaro

Council President Bucci announced we were skipping ad hoc committees. The tax map revisions were pending, the road opening would be next year, she asked Councilman Notaro to speak regarding bulk waste.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

- Future Amendment to Bulk Waste Collection Rules – *Councilman Notaro*

Councilman Notaro explained Council needed to change bulk waste collection, our current rules allow three items per week every week, Councilman Notaro suggested two items once a month.

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Councilman Polistina noted that our generous collection standards come up every year during the ACUA budget meeting.

Council President Bucci conducted a straw poll – all present in were in favor.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Bucci reviewed the agenda and made the assignments.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Engineer Mauro regarding grant opportunities, the City applies every year for the DCA LRIG, it's the time of year to think about projects for 2026, the application was due February 13, 2026. We did submit an application in 2025 that was not selected, but that was because we had an outstanding project. She recommended resubmitting that project for 2026.

Mayor Chau asked did she know of any grants to widen the bike path?

Engineer Mauro replied that the DOT Municipal Aid projects did have grants for bike paths, she suggested Council should look at that for next year.

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.

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

At 6:54pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk