

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JANUARY 17, 2022**

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 7, 2023, and in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Nassar, and Police Chief VonColln were also in attendance.

6PM PRESENTATION:

Retired Chief of Police Paul Newman, in Recognition of 28 Years of Service

Mayor Chau called forward Chief Newman and his family. Chief Newman introduced his sons, Jack and Patrick, his wife Kim, his parents, two sisters, brother and brother-in-law who were in the audience.

Mayor Chau presented a clock to Chief Newman and read the following inscription:

“Paul Newman, Northfield Police Department, 1994-2022, With sincerest appreciation and gratitude for 28 years of dedicated service to the City of Northfield and its residents.”

Mayor Chau then presented Chief Newman with a proclamation and read the following:

“WHEREAS, it is one of the responsibilities of the Mayor of the City Northfield to give recognition to individuals and organizations for their hard work, dedication, and contribution to the community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield Police Department was launched in 1925; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Northfield Police protect our lives, our families, and our community, often at great personal sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, Paul Newman joined the Northfield Police Department in August of 1994, and has tirelessly served this community and its residents for over 28 years; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Newman was promoted to Sergeant in May of 2003 after serving in the Detective Bureau. He was appointed Acting Lieutenant in 2013, Acting Captain in 2014, and Acting Chief in 2015.

WHEREAS, Paul Newman was promoted to Chief of the Northfield Police Department in 2016, where he served until his retirement on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Northfield wishes to recognize Paul Newman for his 28 years of service and for the extraordinary contribution he has made to our community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Erland V. L. Chau, Mayor of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, do hereby wish to acknowledge and congratulate Paul Newman, on this 17th day of January, 2023.”

Mayor Chau added that retired Chief Newman was a product of Northfield; he attended Mill Road School as well as Mainland Regional High School. He thanked Mr. Newman for stepping forward when full-time consistency was needed, a lot of people may not know this, but a lot of what Mr. Newman did, got us where we are today. He gave the example of consistency in the fleet, and upgraded weaponry at a cost savings. He was involved in the consolidation of a centralized court, and with the shared 911 system with Egg Harbor Township and other communities. The list was endless. Mayor Chau was eternally grateful.

Retired Chief Newman said he was speaking sincerely, from the bottom of his heart. He thanked his family, and Mayor Chau and City Council for their dedication to the police officers for the City of Northfield.

Council President Polistina moved to Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Leeds – Fire Department/EMS; Planning Board

Councilman Leeds reported that he attended his first Planning Board meeting. He felt we should look at reducing the number of Board Members; the Board was very crowded. He was disheartened that Chair discussed items not on the agenda. We should look at this. He read the EMS report for December: there were 44 mutual aid-out calls and 15 mutual aid-in. The Fire Department responded to 72 calls; 40 were EMS calls with the additional daytime fire fighter. The average response time was under two minutes in the first few days, he brought two people back to life. The Fire Department responded to a structure fire, for one of our own. He thanked the Fire Department for their actions and dedication, in the bitter cold, and for saving the three dogs as well. He thanked retired Chief Newman, Chief VonColln, Captain Steinecke and the staff from Public Works for their actions in time of need. Our

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ladder truck has been out of service for a few months; they can't get an estimate so can't get a purchase order to have it fixed. This should be looked at.

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

Councilman Dewees did not have a report.

Councilwoman Bucci – Insurance and Safety; Municipal Alliance; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilwoman Bucci reported that the Municipal Alliance will be hosting 'Coffee with a Cop' on February 25th from 12:00pm-1:30pm at Good Shepherd Church. Café Bru will be providing the coffee and Northfield Mothers' League will be providing snacks; contact Shannon Campbell if interested in attending. 'Movie Night' will be April 1st and Hooked on Fishing will be June 3rd. There was no report on Insurance and Safety. A Business Association is being formed by Northfield business owners; it will be separate from the Economic Development Commission, and it will be a non-profit. The Economic Development Commission members have been recommended to Council President Polistina. Councilwoman Bucci introduced Michael Grossman, in the audience, who has been instrumental with the efforts of the Economic Development Commission.

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

Councilman Smith congratulated Chief Newman on his retirement, and said he always found him to be accessible and responsive. He extended congratulations to Chief VonColln, and was looking forward to his many years of service. The Northfield Community School Board of Education would have its first meeting on January 23rd. He reported that we have an individual who was on the agenda this evening to be hired as our part time Construction Official and Building Inspector. Councilman Smith had reached out to other towns to discuss a possible Shared Service and got some willingness from a few towns; Ventnor and Galloway were both responsive. However, we did find a qualified individual to be hired as our employee. To other members of Council, Councilman Smith said: if there were areas that you feel we should look at, please reach out.

Councilman Notaro reported that Mayor Matik had reached out to him, Linwood was very interested in sharing dispatch with Northfield, and housing it in Linwood. It may be a savings, maybe not, but Linwood was very interested.

Councilman Smith noted that they had meetings last year, we should continue to pursue it.

Councilman Leeds added that he would have figures for the next meeting.

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Council President Polistina recognized Councilman Smith's hard work on the shared service aspect.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno was working with MRHS on times for the videographer, she spoke with a few people about the veteran's hospital. The Mainland Board of Education meeting is tonight, their next meeting will be February 21st.

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

Councilman Notaro reported that over the weekend we had a 40-year-old sewer force main break on Zion Road, he felt we should look at some options for the future at this location. Regarding the Economic Development Commission, he looked forward to his first meeting as liaison with Councilwoman Bucci after her amazing work last year. He was looking into some much-needed repairs for FAN, it was best to be proactive. Regarding the Construction Office, he welcomed Derek Leary and looked forward to meeting him soon.

Council President Polistina – Finance and Collections; Library; Senior Citizens

Council President Polistina reported he attended the last library meeting, a member of the public commented on the lack of availability of meeting space and the insurance requirement. He would like to look at allowing use, without a prohibitive cost. The library requires insurance only if booked in advance. He would like to look at that for this year, he would like to meet with Councilwoman Bucci and Clerk Canesi. The library proposed a maintenance agreement that included a lot of details that didn't need to be part of a maintenance agreement. The library said they were setting up a path for future boards, to possibly have an operating manual going forward, as to who is responsible for what. He read the library statistics for December.

Regarding Finance and Collections, it's the time of year where we'll be talking about budgets. For the next meeting Council should be prepared to schedule budget meetings. He asked all to work with department heads to ensure you and they are prepared. Our net valuation was \$872,389,600 it went up by more than \$5.3 million in 2022. In 2008 we were at \$993 million in ratable value, we've been dropping repeatedly due to appeals. Things were starting to rebound after a \$100 million loss over a period of years.

Council President Polistina moved to the work session, ongoing topics.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

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- Stormwater Facilities Shared with Atlantic County–*Update if available, Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar did not have an update.

- Potential Public Auction of City Owned Property Block 66 Lot 11 – Receipt of Proposals Pending Block 66 Lot 11; Block 69 Lot 1.02; Block 121 Lot 1

Council President Polistina stated there was no update from Habitat or others.

Council President Polistina noted the sign ordinance was on the agenda.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Engineer Nassar reported that he was working on the Local Recreation Improvement Grant with Clerk Canesi, the submission deadline is Friday, he needed some additional information from CFO Stollenwerk.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

Council President Polistina asked if anyone wanted anything voted on separately from the consent agenda. There were no responses.

Council President Polistina made the assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION/ FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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

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

At 6:29pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Leeds, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk