

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JANUARY 18, 2022**

At 6:04pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 8, 2022, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), will be held in-person and as a remote public meeting (live-streamed) using Zoom conferencing service. Due to continued social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public. Visit the event calendar page for January 18, 2022 at www.cityofnorthfield.org to determine current seating availability. Social distancing will be required for in-person attendance. To reserve an available seat, contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 609-641-2832, ext 125, no later than 4:00pm on January 18, 2022. Once all available seats have been reserved, virtual attendance will be required using a web-browser to Join the Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85751861471> or by telephone using One tap mobile +13126266799,,85751861471# or direct dial +1 312 626 6799 using Meeting ID: 857 5186 1471. For those wishing to comment during the dedicated public comment portion of the meeting, but who may be unable to attend (in person or via Zoom), public comments may also be submitted in advance via email to mcanesi@cityofnorthfield.org, or by written letter to the Office of the Municipal Clerk, 1600 Shore Road, Northfield NJ 08225, or by hand delivery to the drop box in the parking lot at the south corner of the municipal building, addressed to the attention of the Municipal Clerk. Comments shall contain the name and address of the author, will be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting, and must be received by 2:00pm on January 18, 2022.

Municipal Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“Based on CDC guidelines related to Covid-19, the City of Northfield has suggested that everyone 2 years or older who is not fully vaccinated should wear a mask in indoor public places, and visitors are made aware of this decision with signs at the entrances to the building.

To ensure the health and safety of our employees and visitors, we are also continuing to adhere to social distancing requirements in our indoor public spaces, and as a result there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public this evening. In order to ensure that the public may fully participate despite the limited in-person capacity, this meeting is also being presented simultaneously as a remote public meeting, live-streamed, using Zoom conferencing service.

Zoom meeting participants can dial in by telephone and listen to the proceedings, or they can access the meeting using a web-browser, and be able to view and listen.

Instructions on how members of the public could reserve one of the limited seats, as well as how they can access Zoom have been made available on the municipal website and were published in the Press of Atlantic City. The full text of the public

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meeting notice has been posted at the entrance to the municipal building and includes Zoom instructions, information on where to find the meeting agenda and relevant documents, as well as instructions on how members of the public could submit comments in advance of tonight's meeting.

For those participating via Zoom, all participants will be 'muted' upon entry to the meeting. Web-browser participants will not be able to share their screens or see the camera-view of anyone other than the host, which is the City of Northfield.

Zoom participants wishing to exercise their right to participate during the public comment portion of the meeting should wait until the specific announcement is made to open the public comment period. At this time, one by one, any telephone users will be asked to identify themselves and will be unmuted to permit commentary. For web-browser participants, comments or questions may be submitted via the chat function and will not be acknowledged outside of the designated public-comment portion of the meeting; chat-users must also provide his/her name and address for the record in order to be heard.

Any written comments submitted in advance will be read aloud and addressed during the public comment portion of the meeting."

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present (in person): Councilwoman Bucci; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

Absent: Councilman Dewees

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

Council President Polistina 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, Sewer Operations

Councilman Dewees was absent.

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Council President Polistina reported the following on behalf of Councilman Dewees: The Department of Public Works was working to assist with leaf collection, the ACUA was also out working. Public Works felt they could get through all of the City within the next week or two.

Councilman Utts - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Cultural Committee, Veteran Liaison, Mainland Regional, Technology / MRHS Channel; Planning Board

Councilman Utts reported that both applications that were presented at the recent Planning Board meeting had been approved. A ten (10) foot tall ice cream cone on top of the proposed new ice cream parlor was not approved. A seventy- seven (77) unit age-restricted complex was approved, with 15% affordable housing. A wastewater easement was discovered and its existence is being incorporated into the plan. There was some opposition by residents regarding affordable housing, Councilman Utts assured the resident that it was not low income, but moderate, and would be a nice addition to town. The City owned a buffer bordering the property which would be offered to the owner, and they would maintain it.

Councilman Utts asked Clerk Canesi for an update on the Electrical Inspector.

Clerk Canesi advised she was waiting for direction from member of Council; as of this Friday we would not have an Electrical Inspector.

Councilman Utts reported the Shared Service Committee was exploring sharing this service with another town; these individuals are retiring and rates of pay were increasing. He felt shared services seemed to be the way to go in the future.

Mayor Chau referred to the ice cream parlor that had been approved at the Planning Board meeting; he noted that he could not vote on the application due to its type. He said he expressed concern at the meeting about the ability to turn left from the parking lot on to Tilton Road, due to the proximity to the intersection. Mayor Chau's options, not as Mayor, were to go to the County Planning Board because the intersections are County roads.

Councilman Utts agreed with Mayor Chau that a left turn was not a good idea. He felt a letter from the Mayor could be beneficial in discouraging it.

Councilman Notaro - Fire Department/EMS; Sewer Operations; Northfield Sports (FAN)

Councilman Notaro reported that he spoke with the Linwood Mayor and we should be getting a proposal tomorrow for the Building Department. The Fire Department was giving away free smoke detectors, some from the state, some donated by ACE Hardware. He read the December EMS report: 181 Calls for service, with an average

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response time of 5.7 minutes; we provided mutual aid 89 times. Inspira has additional personnel and equipment in place to address the mutual aid calls. He thanked Northfield resident Kenneth Trackman, who donated a car to the Building Department. He thanked the Clerk's Office for assisting with the paperwork. Regarding FAN, improvements to the roof and siding had been addressed.

Councilman Leeds – Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilman Leeds had nothing to report.

Councilman Smith - Court / Violations; Little League and Babe Ruth, Northfield Community School; Shared Services

Councilman Smith reported that Northfield Little League was in the midst of sign-ups, they began their push prior to the New Year, to get an early jump. He hoped for a successful and complete season. They did get their application in to the City for field use. The Northfield Community School Board of Education had not yet had their first meeting of the year. Regarding shared services, Councilman Smith had been working to set up a meeting, but was in contact with them. He was reading the NJ Municipalities Magazine from December, and said one of the main articles was about 5G, and they were stressing that municipalities need to be up to date and prepared. Councilman Smith was not sure what, if anything, we would need to do, but it should be on our radar, we should know where we are and what we need to do. He wanted to send out a note that a resident of Northfield was involved in a tragic one car accident, Councilman Smith coached him in baseball, he did survive but had his left arm amputated, he sent out best wishes for a speedy recovery. He noted there was a GoFundMe page as well.

Councilwoman Bucci – Insurance and Safety; Library; Municipal Alliance

Councilwoman Bucci reported the Safety Committee would have its first meeting February 17th; she will be attending. She would also like to attending the monthly JIF meetings with Mary and Shannon that are on zoom.

Clerk Canesi asked if Councilwoman Bucci wanted to come to the Clerk's Office or would she like the link?

Councilwoman Bucci replied she would come to the office.

Councilwoman Bucci continued her report. Regarding the Municipal Alliance, the funds had been drastically reduced. Shop with a Cop was very successful. Upcoming events included a police and teachers vs kids' tournament after the NIT, which they hope to have televised. She announced upcoming coffee with a cop March 26th from 12-2pm at Good Shepherd Church. Regarding the Library Board, Barbara Madden would be a trustee and she would be a great asset, there was one remaining board

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vacancy. Library attendance continued to decrease but circulation has increased. There were currently 883 active patrons. She explained a new program with tablets, preloaded with apps, for telemedicine visits. More information was pending. The Library had concerns about lack of masks, some patrons did as well, they would set protocol weekly based on the County's covid rating.

Mayor Chau asked Councilwoman Bucci to mention the sign.

Councilwoman Bucci added that the sign was old and broken, they would be getting bids and want a LED sign.

Council President Polistina advised they needed zoning approval.

Solicitor Facenda advised Councilwoman Bucci there was a whole section in the code on signs and LED.

Clerk Canesi added that she had provided this section of the Code to the Library Director and explained she would need Planning Board approval.

Council President Polistina – Finance and Collections; Senior Citizens

Council President Polistina reported that he has taken over the Senior Committee, they haven't met often due to Covid, he was looking for locations to meet and was working on programming.

Council President Polistina moved to the work session, prior business.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – PRIOR BUSINESS

- Northfield Avenue at Rt 9 Drainage
- Lease Agreement, Parking Spaces at Jackson and Fuae Avenues
- Stormwater Facilities Shared with the County of Atlantic

Engineer Nassar still had no update on Route 9 drainage or Stormwater.

Regarding the parking lot at Jackson and Fuae, Engineer Nassar had an informal inquiry from a realtor about a potential buyer for the property for which the lease is assigned; he did not feel he could move forward without getting the parking lot lease in place.

Clerk Canesi asked, did it make sense for Solicitor Facenda to review the existing lease and update with today's language, for presentation to the Council?

Solicitor Facenda agreed; he asked Clerk Canesi to send him the lease.

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- Potential Acquisition of Fire Truck – *Bid Specifications Pending from Chief Cummings*

Councilman Notaro reported that the truck was looking to cost about \$1.2 million; timeline for acquisition was 2024.

- Potential Public Auction of City Owned Property Block 66 Lot 11 – *Pending*

Clerk Canesi updated Council that the next step was to request the Mt. Laurel Counsel set up a call or zoom meeting with the groups suggested that could potentially develop the parcel.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

There were no new grant opportunities presented.

- Selection of Budget Meeting Dates

Council President Polistina suggested February 3rd for the first meeting.

Councilman Utts reminded all that was a Planning Board meeting date.

Clerk Canesi noted we could still do it; we'd just need to be done by 7pm.

Council President Polistina suggested that be an early meeting.

Council President Polistina suggested February 3rd at 4pm, February 24th at 6pm and March 10th at 4pm. He asked if those dates worked for everyone; there were no objections.

- Sale of City Owned Land, Block 92 Lots 30-31

Solicitor Facenda explained that he and Clerk Canesi spoke this morning. The smaller parcel, lot 30, they believed had to be offered to the 3 adjoining property owners first, if no one was interested, they would pass a resolution offering 30 and 31 together. The first step would be to send out Right of First Refusal letters to the adjoiners, and if no one was interested, then offer for auction, but lots 30 and 31 must be sold together.

Councilman Smith asked would the adjacent owners also have the opportunity to bid on both?

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Solicitor Facenda replied that they only have the Right of First Refusal if the parcel is undersized and undeveloped.

Solicitor Facenda added that the plan would be for them to express interest and put bids in before next meeting.

Councilman Smith asked for a copy of the tax maps.

Clerk Canesi replied that she would send them to him.

Solicitor Facenda asked if there was discussion at the Planning Board meeting about cleaning up the stormwater easement document?

Councilman Utts believed so.

Solicitor Facenda advised he would confirm with Joel Fleishman, Planning Board attorney.

Council President Polistina moved to the regular agenda.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

Council President Polistina made the agenda assignments and advised that Resolution 39-2022 would be voted separately from the consent agenda.

PUBLIC SESSION/ FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Polistina opened this portion of the meeting for any member of the public to speak on any topic; he noted a five-minute limit per speaker.

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

At 6:45pm, on a motion of Councilman Utts, seconded by Councilman Notaro, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk