

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JANUARY 20, 2026**

At 6:02pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 10, 2026, 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 Nassar, and Captain Pollak on behalf of Chief VonColln, were also present.

Council President Bucci congratulated the PeeWee players and cheerleaders and deferred to Councilwoman Kern.

6PM – CAPE ATLANTIC JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE PEEWEE CHAMPIONS – NORTHFIELD CARDINALS FOOTBALL TEAM AND CHEERLEADING SQUAD

Councilwoman Kern welcomed all. She read from the certificate that was presented to members of the Northfield Cardinals Pee wee Football and called forward Coach Graves.

Coach Graves announced that this this team was so talented, focused, and well behaved. It was really impressive to watch a group of 3rd and 4th graders with that kind of determination. Speaking to the boys and girls, he told them they did good work.

Mayor Chau introduced himself and congratulated the kids and parents. He noted that he used to teach at Mainland, and he would be watching them all and looking forward to their talents.

Councilwoman Kern read the following recognition and presented a certificate to each player on the team who was present:

“In recognition of outstanding achievement during the 2025 football season, the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Northfield, NJ would like to congratulate Coach Chris Graves, Assistant Coaches, and the Northfield Cardinal Pee wee Football Team.

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#1 - Crew Graves	#13 - Patrick Krause	#26 - Jasper Lipka
#2 - Quinn Kennedy	#14 - Callen McGrath	#27 - Lucas Hoag
#3 - Ryan Kulp	#16 - Mark Boland	#29 - Layla DePamphilis
#4 - Finn Geary	#18 - Christopher VandenBerg	#30 - Ryker Mrugalski
#5 - Marco Naman	#19 - Drew Sher	#40 - Brantley Olivier
#7 - JJ Perry	#20 - Dempsey Shorter	#66 - Greyson Sullivan
#9 - Carter Winesickle	#21 - Will Care	#98 - Hunter Nelson
#10 - Jackson Yard	#22 - Jason Gallagher	#99 - Jackson Pratt
#11 - Lorenzo Menniti	#24 - Roman Martin	
#12 - Gregory Wilson	#25 - Winston Ford	

Assistant Coaches: Andres Menniti, Mike Sher, Justin Grimley, Josh Hoag, Chris Kennedy, Dan Krause”

Councilwoman Kern moved to the presentation for the cheerleaders and called forward Coach Jennifer Hale.

Councilwoman Kern read the following recognition and presented a certificate to each player on the team who was present:

“In recognition of outstanding support to the 2025 Cape Atlantic Junior Football League PeeWee Champions, The Northfield Cardinals, during the 2025 football season, the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Northfield, NJ would like to congratulate Cheerleading Coach Jennifer Hale, Assistant Coach Leslie Rhodes, and the Northfield Cardinals PeeWee Cheerleading Squad.

Addison Sorochnyskyj	Emma Hale	Rosali Michael
Alexa Czaplinski	Giuliana Aiuto	Roselyn Vega
Ava Yard	Giuliana Caprio	Rylie Davis
Avery Burchell	Isla Gregory	Sage Vizthum-Sher
Avery Flanagan	Mackenzie Garcia	Samantha Brook
Beckett Scullion	Madison Bender	Sophia MacDowell
Brenna McCloud	Maxeen Pfaeffli	Sophia Totoro
Caroline Cisbani	Mia Rhodes	Sophia Vizthum-Sher
Diamond Wilson	Millie Horner	Sydney Pitman
Elena Morales	Olive Pendergast	Wilhelmina Howarth
Emery Mingee	Renee Broschard	
Emma Burns	Riley Rich”	

Mayor Chau thanked the ladies, and said they do a terrific job motivating the players and their parents, the stunts are impressive. Keep up the good work, he thanked all very much.

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At 6:16pm, on motions properly made and seconded, Council President Bucci called for a short recess.

At 6:19pm Council President Bucci resumed the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Polistina had no report.

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

Councilman Dewees reported Public Works was moving through town cutting branches that get in the way of trucks, cleaning drainage basins, and also working on the disc golf course.

Councilwoman Kern – Inspections, Housing/Zoning; Northfield Sports (FAN); Library; Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Kern congratulated football and cheer, adding that she had wanted them to do a cheer where they say ‘08225’, but that involved stunts. She announced that the varsity teams will be here on February 24th. She met the new library director, Mia Fabi and Councilwoman Kern would be attending the next meeting. The library offered many programs for all. She congratulated the seven musicians from Mainland who auditioned for the All-South Jersey Honors Band Ensemble and announced the next Mainland Board of Education meeting for January 26th at 6pm.

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

Councilwoman Bucci had no report but said she has made it her mission to visit as many businesses as possible in 2026.

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

Councilman Smith received notice from the Assignment Judge for Superior Court requesting a meeting with stakeholders, he hoped he could make that meeting and was looking forward to an end of year report. Northfield Little League softball and baseball sign ups were under way for the spring season. The next Northfield Community School Board of Education meeting is scheduled for January 26th.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno announced she had just placed another order for the Hometown Hero Program. She hoped to have photos with the families before they were installed. The Cultural Committee will be meeting at the Museum this Saturday at 10am. The next 250th meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, January 22nd at 5pm at City Hall. She thanked Clerk Canesi for proactively working on the website so it is ADA compliant, it was a lot of work to ensure compliance – she thanked Clerk Canesi for that. Councilwoman Carfagno read the Fire and EMS reports for December, including year to date. The end of year totals far exceeded calls in recent years, she thanked the Fire Department for all they do and for keeping us safe.

Councilman Notaro – Sanitary Sewer Operations

Councilman Notaro reported the Sewer Department has been doing manhole inspections and necessary line maintenance, they are keeping up well on our system, with service and maintenance. There were 154 utility mark-outs this month, which would require road opening permits. He noted sewer flow totals and thanked Superintendent Boyd, keep up the good work. Regarding the vialytics software, it was in the solicitor's hands now and we would be moving forward with the free trial. if it works out and we like it, we will move forward.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Regulations regarding Keeping of Chickens – *Councilwoman Carfagno, Councilman Notaro*

Councilwoman Carfagno announced the committee was working on something and it would be sent to the solicitor for review.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

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

Council President Bucci reported this ordinance was with the solicitor for review.

- Increase in Tax Map Revision Fees for Subdivided Properties (Pending Planning Board Input)

Council President Bucci reported the Planning Board Solicitor was still reviewing.

- Changes to Road Opening Ordinance Fees – *will be adopted in 2026*

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Councilman Notaro announced he met with the new engineer regarding a new fee schedule, they had a few more things to review and should have something in the next few weeks.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

Council President Bucci moved to budget selection dates.

- Selection of Dates for Budget Workshop Meetings
 - *Introduction Deadline 3/24/26*
 - *Adoption Deadline 4/21/26*

Councilman Polistina suggested February 12th and 26th, and, we could schedule a third if needed. He suggested 4pm.

Clerk Canesi confirmed February 12th and 26th and March 19th, to be advertised as if needed. All meetings 4pm.

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.

Seeing no one 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