

## **CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION FEBRUARY 4, 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 6, 2024, 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, Engineer Mauro, and Chief of Police VonColln were also present.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Polistina announced Council would have a budget meeting next week; the meeting last week was cancelled. There was a senior meeting coming up and they would get on a schedule. Council did have an Affordable Housing agreement on the agenda tonight for Habitat For Humanity.

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

Councilman Dewees reported a carport had been installed at the Public Works yard for the vactor truck. A pipe had burst at Park Center, work has been done to repair the damages and Servepro has been called in to do repairs to the sheetrock and insulation.

**Councilwoman Bucci** – Insurance and Safety; Inspections, Housing/Zoning; Planning Board; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilwoman Bucci reported the Economic Development Commission was looking to hire a Planner at zero cost to the City to do a plan along Tilton Road, either through the County Economic Alliance or the Chamber of Commerce; she would like to do something similar to what they did in Egg Harbor Township. They received a grant to do a redevelopment plan for a portion of the Black Horse Pike. She would also like to explore abatements for businesses along Tilton Road, she gave an example of the Gurwicz property doing a \$100,000.00 investment in sidewalks, offering that we could give a 5-10% abatement.

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**Councilwoman Kern** – Northfield Sports (FAN)

Councilwoman Kern announced that FAN travel basketball played the Ocean City travel team in Philadelphia at the University of Pennsylvania, it was a fun night. She would like to recognize the Northfield Cardinal Football team and Cheerleaders for their Championship win. She would like to honor them in the future during a Council meeting. Council was invited to Moppert Brothers on Tilton Road; they partner with the National Auto Body Council with the Recycled Ride Program to donate cars to veterans. A car was recycled and presented to a service member of the 177th Medical Unit. She thanked Moppert Brothers for doing this.

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

Councilman Smith stated all reports are that the shared court is operating smoothly. Northfield Little League signups are ongoing, he encouraged all to sign up by February 15<sup>th</sup>, online. Regarding Northfield Community School, he referred to a letter regarding a bus stop issue on the eastern side of Route 9 and explained that the school raised concerns about being observed by riders waiting at the stop. He school is investigating some sort of barriers; Councilman Smith expressed his position to school that we want students and others to feel safe. He would advise as more information was available.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno reported that Mainland Regional High School nominated teacher and professional of the year, Timothy Hanna, and Kimberly Andrien, respectively. She congratulated both. The next Board of Education meeting is February 24<sup>th</sup>. The Cultural Committee was meeting this Saturday at the museum to discuss the Flea Market, which has been scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8-2pm at the Community School. Regarding Hometown Heroes flyers and banners, we are almost there and finalizing the program, look for more information soon. She read the Fire Department report for January. She extended gratitude to Renu for donating the sink and countertops to the Fire Department ready room and noted the Resolution on tonight's agenda to accept the donation.

**Councilman Notaro** - Sewer Operations

Councilman Notaro did not have a committee report.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

Electric Vehicles – *Councilmen Polistina and Notaro.*

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Councilman Polistina noted that Clerk Canesi has forwarded the ordinance to the Solicitor for review. He thanked Clerk Canesi and Solicitor Facenda.

Councilman Notaro thanked Clerk Canesi as well.

Special Events Ordinance – *Councilwoman Bucci, Councilman Dewees.*  
Councilwoman Bucci reported they were rounding home on the ordinance.

Road Opening Ordinance – *Councilmen Dewees and Notaro.*  
Councilman Notaro announced an amendment to the Road Opening Ordinance was on the agenda tonight to amend where the fees were taken.

Councilwoman Carfagno asked Councilwoman Kern to report on the recent Office of Emergency Management meeting.

Councilwoman Kern stated it was her first meeting, along with members of the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works, and the Superintendent of Schools. They discussed multi agency drills, along with grant possibilities; she would discuss those with the Council Chairs before reporting further. AtlantiCare is sponsoring an EMT internship program with the local high schools.

**WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS**

- Prohibition of Certain Activities in and on the lakes at Birch Grove Park

Councilman Dewees announced that he'd found something from the campground prohibiting some activities; he would forward to Solicitor Facenda.

Solicitor Facenda replied; in concept Council should have a quick discussion. He asked if Councilman Dewees knew what is on list? He asked Council what they'd generally like to prohibit?

Councilman Dewees responded, no; he would meet with Superintendent Vitale.

Councilman Dewees would send the list from the campground to all of Council.

Councilwoman Bucci announced Solicitor Facenda was working on the microplastics ordinance; she asked if anyone was going to the County meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>?

Mayor Chau and Clerk Canesi both replied that they would be attending.

Council President Bucci referred to a resolution Clerk Canesi forwarded regarding an abatement program in Egg Harbor City, she asked Councilman Polistina to comment.

Councilman Polistina announced we don't have an ordinance now; the Rehabilitation Resolution gives us the ability to proceed with adopting an ordinance if we wish. These programs give tax abatements to commercial or residential properties. As to

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residential, if certain homes are in disrepair, it may make sense, it may benefit those who don't necessarily need the assistance and it affects the City's tax collections. During the abatement period all taxes collected stay in town as opposed to it going to the County and schools; the monies not collected get spread out amongst all taxpayers.

Council President Bucci felt it was a way to incentivize redevelopment in the City; she suggested conducting a straw poll at next meeting.

Councilman Polistina offered to get more information from the Tax Assessor and have a better presentation for Council.

**WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS**

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

There were no new grant opportunities.

**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 6:22pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk