

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

At 6:07pm 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 February 8, 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 February 8, 2022. Once all available seats have been reserved, virtual attendance will be required using a web-browser to Join Zoom Meeting (use link provided), one tap mobile +13017158592,,86206949034# or dial by your location +1 301 715 using Meeting ID: 862 0694 9034. 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 February 8, 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

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

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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."

*** After this statement was made, it was determined that there were technical difficulties with regard to the functionality of the audio for Zoom participants; those participating via Zoom would not be able to speak using audio capability, but would instead have to type their questions or comments via the chat function.*

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilman Notaro

Engineer Nassar and Chief Newman were also in attendance.

Solicitor Facenda was present via telephone and zoom.

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

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Councilman Dewees reported there were six applications for field use on the agenda, one for the football field and the rest for various baseball fields. He would have a conversation with Mainland Lacrosse and ask them to use the practice field as much as possible, as opposed to the football field. He did not have any issues with any of the field use applications. He thanked Public Works for the outstanding job in the last snow storm.

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

Councilman Utts reported there was one application before the Planning Board. The signs have been approved for Purple Heart Way, with Legion Riders coming through. He announced the names of the new members of the Mainland Regional Board of Education. The electrical inspector has resigned, and a former employee has returned, temporarily.

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

Councilman Notaro was absent.

Councilman Leeds – Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilman Leeds read the January EMS report on behalf of Chair Notaro: 182 calls for service; 99 mutual aid out; 12 mutual aid in, the average response time was 6.2 minutes. The Fire Department had 27 calls for service and reported to 4 EMS calls. The career and volunteer fire staff stepped up with regard to snow: the men shoveled to help EMS by ensuring clear access on calls for service. Councilman Leeds met with the President of Republic Bank last month, along with Mayor Chau and Councilman Notaro. They were interested in forming a business association to start doing community events.

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

Councilman Smith reported Little League baseball and softball sign ups were starting. The Northfield Community School Board of Education meeting would be February 25th, the Governor recently announced the elimination of the mask mandate and it will be left up to the local Boards of Education to decide. He had a meeting with Linwood regarding the Construction office; he thanked Linwood for the dialogue. He received feedback from our CFO, and he urged continued discussions with Linwood. Linwood's Mayor did say this was a first-pass; they were willing to continue to negotiate.

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Clerk Canesi stated that she was interviewing candidates for the position; if we were moving forward with Linwood we needed to move quickly. We had a temporary employee working in the position.

Councilwoman Bucci – Insurance and Safety; Library; Municipal Alliance

Councilwoman Bucci offered condolences on passing of Marco Cevoli, a local man who recently died. She attended the JIF meeting last week, and would attend the safety meeting next week. The City’s JIF policy was up at the end of the year, and they have notified us that we are approved for renewal. Regarding the Municipal Alliance, the basketball game was canceled, but Coffee with a Cop would be on March 26th.

Council President Polistina – Finance and Collections; Senior Citizens

Council President Polistina reported that the first budget meeting went well; discussions were ongoing for how to best use the relief money. Nothing for Seniors has been set up yet.

Council President Polistina moved to old business.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – PRIOR BUSINESS

- Northfield Avenue at Rt 9 Drainage
- Stormwater Facilities Shared with the County of Atlantic

Engineer Nassar did not have anything new on Route 9 drainage but will have information to compile and present with regard to the County drainage issue.

- Lease Agreement, Parking Spaces at Jackson and Fuae Avenues

Council President Polistina advised the lease was being finalized.

Engineer Nassar added that he had an inquiry from an interested buyer and until the lease was signed, they have no parking.

- Potential Acquisition of Fire Truck

Council President Polistina reported the fire truck would be discussed during budget meetings.

Solicitor Facenda updated Council on the land sale. One of the adjacent parcel owners advised that she had not received the notice. We did receive the green card back from the certified mail, but it seemed as though the post office employees are signing the green cards and leaving the piece of mail. The owner confirmed that she

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did not sign the green card. With Council's approval Solicitor Facenda could resend the notices, with a return date prior to next meeting. He was relatively sure we'll get a bid on that parcel, and then auction the other.

Council President Polistina asked if anyone disagreed; there were no responses.

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

Clerk Canesi advised we were still working to set something up with COAH Counsel with regard to 66 lot 11.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

There were no new grant opportunities presented.

Council President Polistina moved to the regular agenda.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

Councilman Dewees advised he would be abstaining from the vote on the approval of the minutes.

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.

Clerk Canesi explained the audio difficulty; she asked Zoom participants to raise their hands if they wished to speak.

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

At 6:28pm, on a motion of Councilman Utts, seconded by Councilman Dewees, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk