

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

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 6, 2024, 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 Notaro; Councilman Polistina; Councilman Smith; Council President Leeds.

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer DeBlasio, Engineer Mauro, and Chief VonColln were also present.

**RECOGNITION OF LIFE SAVING EFFORTS**

- Patrolman Herbert Kreuz
- Patrolman Brenden O'Brien
- Firefighter Steven Fisher
- Firefighter Christopher Trench

Council President Leeds thanked all for coming, he announced our recognition event and listed names to be recognized.

Mayor Chau stated tonight was a special night, we support our Police and Fire because of what they do for our municipality.

Council President Leeds stated that on December 7, 2023, at 10:41am, a call came in for an individual suffering a cardiac event. Police Officers Kreuz and O'Brien arrived in less than 2 minutes. Shortly thereafter, Firefighters Fisher and Trench arrived. As a team they began CPR and saved the gentleman's life. He reminded all that February was heart month.

Mayor Chau read the following Certificate of Recognition that was presented to each individual; Council President Leeds presented each with a pin.

**“WHEREAS**, the dedicated work of public safety professionals should be recognized as a meaningful way to remind people of the true difference they make, but especially when they demonstrate exceptional skills in a crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, on Wednesday, December 7, 2023, Northfield Police and Fire personnel were dispatched to a residence in the City for a reported cardiac arrest; and

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, Patrolman Kreuz, Patrolman O'Brien, Firefighter Fisher and Firefighter Trench arrived on location and together performed life-saving efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, because of their quick response and teamwork they saved a man's life under emergency circumstances. Had it not been for their quick response and immediate performance of CPR, the individual would likely not have survived; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of the City of Northfield wishes to recognize Herbert Kreuz, Brenden O'Brien, Steven Fisher, and Christopher Trench for demonstrating heroic and lifesaving efforts.

**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 Patrolman Herbert Kreuz, Brenden O'Brien, Steven Fisher, and Christopher Trench on this 20th day of February 2024.”

Patrolman Kreuz stated he was humbled to be receiving this honor, it was a privilege to serve the citizens of Northfield and to know you make a difference. He thanked Mayor and Council, his co-workers, and his family.

Patrolman O'Brien thanked all for coming out, noting this is what he signed up for.

Firefighter Fisher thanked all for their support.

Firefighter Trench thanked all for coming out.

Chief VonColln spoke and said he was not surprised; it is and has been an honor to work with these gentlemen and with the Fire Department. This was a testament to their training and dedication.

Chief Cummings congratulated all, they made the Department and the City proud, he thanked Council for the opportunity to hire Firefighter Trench to have two people on duty during the day, it was humbling the amount of people they have helped.

Mayor Chau thanked all and announced that we support Northfield Police and Fire.

*At 6:09pm on motions made and seconded, Council took a brief recess.*

*At 6:13pm Council resumed the meeting.*

Council President Leeds 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

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

Councilman Dewees reported that he and Councilman Polistina met with Superintendent Vitale to discuss signage for frisbee golf; quotes came in today.

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

Councilwoman Bucci attended the Insurance and Safety meeting on the 13th, she met the new Risk Management Consultant, Adam Miller. It was a very productive meeting. Regarding Economic Development Commission (EDC), she said the Northfield Business Association, which is a separate entity held a mixer at Kensington, in less than a year they have grown the organization to 50 businesses. Now they have to determine how they can work with the EDC. As Mayor Chau announced the liquor license changes, basically, if there is an unused license in an adjacent city, someone can buy it and use it in the neighboring city. One condition is that it be in an area designated in need of development; Councilwoman Bucci said she has a report from Triad that she will send to Clerk Canesi to be provided to our planner for review. It would be great for the City.

**Councilman Polistina** – Finance and Collections; Inspections, Housing/Zoning; Library; Municipal Alliance Senior Citizens

For Finance and Collections, Councilman Polistina announced we do have a budget workshop this week. On the agenda tonight was the promotion of Jessica Caramma; it was well deserved. Regarding the Library, a new director was hired earlier this year, there were several new programs. He noted the solar eclipse was coming up in April, and the library ordered 500 sets of glasses. He asked all to look at the library's website for their upcoming events. The Municipal Alliance will be hosting Coffee with a Cop next week on the 29th at McDonalds; it is a great event every year.

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

Councilman Smith said there wasn't much of an update for the court; we are waiting to meet with the Judge regarding our consolidation with Hammonton. A meeting was scheduled but it was delayed. Northfield Little League and Babe Ruth were anxiously waiting for the spring season. The next Northfield Community School Board of Education meeting will be March 18<sup>th</sup>. Regarding frisbee golf, two weekends ago, Superintendent Vitale went out and did some clearing, there are baskets out there, it looks great and is really taking shape. He thanked Superintendent Vitale and his crew, and Mr. Brady; it could be a real treasure moving forward.

Councilman Dewees expressed his concern with play happening without signs.

Councilman Polistina replied that players are asked to be very careful until signs are in place.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

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

Councilwoman Carfagno reported that the Mainland Regional High School Board of Education meeting is scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup>, she offered congratulations to the CAL Champion Girls Basketball team and Section Championship for the Swim Team. She mentioned Lydia Wainright, who broke the 100-yard-fly record. The Cultural Committee will be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11am at the museum. She thanked Mr. Brady, Superintendent Vitale, and Councilman Smith's brother for their work on disc golf.

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

Councilman Notaro did not have a report.

**Council President Leeds** – Fire Department/EMS

Council President Leeds did not have a report.

Council President Leeds moved to Ad Hoc Committee reports.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

Councilman Polistina did not have an update on electric vehicles.

Councilwoman Bucci reported there was a meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> for food trucks. She introduced a special event permit that Wildwood uses, however once Birch Grove was in the mix, it got muddy. We will need to do some additional work.

Council President Leeds suggested contacting Tony Coppola, in Galloway.

Councilman Polistina noted the Committee was trying to get together to discuss Affordable Housing issues.

Councilwoman Bucci, regarding the insurance requirement review, suggested changing the number of people that constitute a group, increasing it to 30. She asked if it could just be Northfield people?

Solicitor Facenda replied, no.

Councilwoman Bucci's recommendation was that 30 defines a group for non-physical activity. She added that we do not need to change the ordinance, so the problem is solved.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

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

- Stormwater Facilities Shared with Atlantic County—*Update if available, from the Engineer*
  
- Potential Sale / Development of City Owned Properties: Block 66 Lot 11; Block 69 Lot 1.02

Council President Leeds asked if there was an update on the sale of land?

Clerk Canesi replied; it looked like we would have a draft of a Developer's Agreement between the City and Habitat for Humanity on the March 12<sup>th</sup> agenda for review.

There were no updates on the work session topics for ongoing business.

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

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

No new grant opportunities were announced.

- Amendment to Street Opening Permit Ordinance

Engineer DeBlasio explained the genesis of the need to revise the street opening permit, he had never encountered the process Northfield uses; he said Clerk Canesi correctly pointed out that ordinance needs to change.

Clerk Canesi explained that there were some items in the code for street openings that we do not necessarily follow; we may want to look at that as well.

Engineer DeBlasio explained a recent DOT Grant opportunity; a memo was sent to Mayor and Council, he needed to know which opportunities the Council wanted them to pursue.

Council President Leeds asked Councilmen Polistina and Dewees to review the opportunities.

**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Leeds reviewed the agenda and made the assignments. He noted the addition of Resolution 60-2024 that Solicitor Facenda would read into the record.

Solicitor Facenda advised he would read the Resolution before the consent agenda was adopted.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**PUBLIC SESSION / FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

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

Ian Brady, Linwood. Mr. Brady said as Council mentioned, the frisbee golf course was taking shape. Superintendent Vitale and the guys have done a phenomenal job, as to signs, it is in the woods there is nothing ...

Councilman Dewees commented that we still have an obligation to put up signs.

Mr. Brady said he just wanted to put everyone at ease. The whole back 9 would be completely away from paths. He thanked Councilman Smith's brother for the loan of the baskets and said they are chained up so they don't get stolen. They were not publicizing it yet, volunteers who worked on the course have been playing. They are not done yet, they still need tee boxes signs, etc. that's where the big dollars come in.

Councilman Polistina thanked Mr. Brady for his work.

Mr. Brady replied it was not close to done, and it's for everyone.

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

At 6:37pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk