

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

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 7, 2023, and in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Council Pro Tempore Dewees.

Municipal Clerk Canesi explained to Zoom participants that the camera feed was not showing the dais; it was an error she could not correct for this meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Council President Polistina

Absent: Mayor Chau

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

Council President Polistina moved to Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Leeds – Fire Department/EMS; Planning Board

Councilman Leeds had no report.

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

Councilman Dewees said he had spoken with Superintendent Vitale; the bandstand would be repaired. Regarding Mainland Lacrosse, Councilman Dewees explained the limited use of the football field during the month of March on an as needed basis.

Councilwoman Bucci – Insurance and Safety; Municipal Alliance; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilwoman Bucci announced details for Coffee with a Cop. Regarding Safety, she advised that Chief VonColln had requested to purchase AEDs with the City's Optional Safety Budget. She asked Chief VonColln to speak.

Chief VonColln explained the Police Department had two AEDs in service, the others are obsolete. The units in service were 16 years old and are eight years out of warranty. There was funding in the Safety Budget that would allow for the purchase

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of replacements. Tim Joo was working to assist, possibly with a buy-one get-one program with AtlantiCare. Chief VonColln had contacted Inspira as well to see if they had a similar program.

Councilwoman Bucci reported that she met with the Economic Development Commission last week, they were a very impressive group of people. We were lucky to have business leaders like this in our community. She attended a meeting in Brigantine about windmills. There are plans for more than 5,000 windmills up and down the coast, as close as nine miles to Brigantine's coast. There were economic concerns about property values, as well as environmental concerns. Marine mammals have been washing up. Contact Councilwoman Bucci if you want more information. Congressman VanDrew was holding a Congressional hearing on March 16th to urge a moratorium. She noted that this was not a political matter, it was non-partisan.

Council President Polistina asked Councilwoman Bucci to forward him the information.

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

Councilman Smith reported the court had a new Chief Judge, Richard Fauntleroy. Northfield Little League would be holding opening day on April 15th. The Northfield Community School Board of Education meeting was scheduled for February 27th. Councilman Smith had attended the February 8th Strategic Planning meeting, with a 3rd one coming up. Councilmen Smith, Notaro and Leeds had met with Linwood and representatives from Motorola to discuss dispatch. The staff from Motorola would put something together for them to look at. He referenced the shared service feasibility study for County wide Fire and EMS, noting that this would be discussed during New Business.

Council President Polistina commented that the next Strategic Planning meeting for the school was scheduled for March 30th.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno, for Technology, advised that she'd spoken with Chuck Smith to have students here by 6pm. She had also been talking with the Clerk about getting better video and possibly airing it somewhere else. She met with the Cultural Committee, they discussed bandstand repairs and other repairs. They also discussed a Ring doorbell to make sure the museum was secured.

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

Councilman Notaro had no report.

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Council President Polistina – Finance and Collections; Library; Senior Citizens

Council President Polistina reported that budget meetings were coming up – he would have more to report down the line.

Council President Polistina moved to the work session, ongoing topics.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

- Stormwater Facilities Shared with Atlantic County–*Update if available, Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar reported he met with Superintendent Vitale today, we need to update our outfall maps for the State. One outfall that we thought was a shared outfall, is in fact, not. We now know where all of them are and we can finalize our agreement.

- Potential Public Auction of City Owned Property Block 66 Lot 11 – Receipt of Proposals Pending Block 66 Lot 11; Block 69 Lot 1.02; Block 121 Lot 1

Council President Polistina did not have an update on the property sale but would keep all informed.

- Potential Ordinance to Restrict Parking on Zion Road, between Tilton and the Bike Path

Council President Polistina asked Chief VonColln if he had input about the Zion Road parking issue.

Chief VonColln advised that the Police Department spoke with the resident of 1416 Zion Road, right behind Jersey Cow; he was interested in extending the no parking. He also spoke with the County, to create a Loading Zone Only on both sides of Zion Road, with time restrictions, to be fair to both businesses. The County advised if we adopted the ordinance, the County would concur.

Council President Polistina would check with Zoning to make sure it does not conflict with any prior approvals.

Councilman Dewees asked did we know what times deliveries occur?

Chief VonColln noted he has not seen any in the late afternoon or evening.

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WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Council President Polistina asked if there were any new grants? There were no replies.

- LEAP Grant Support – County-wide Shared Fire/EMS Dispatch

Council President Polistina asked Councilman Leeds if he had any input.

Councilman Leeds reported that he had dinner with Chairman Risley. The County is applying for a grant for Fire and EMS. Most dispatch centers in the County are controlled by police departments. The police department dictates what the dispatchers do. We would still need to pay the County and for police dispatch. The County is not interested in exploring adding police, yet. The feedback was that a lot of towns objected to it, a study done in 2013 still applied today. No study that only involved fire and EMS would be of value to us. Senator Polistina did say there was money available for grants.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

Council President Polistina asked if anyone wanted anything voted on separately from the consent agenda.

Councilman Notaro asked for Resolution 60-2023 be voted on separately.

Council President Polistina made the assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION/ FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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

Mike Portnoy, announced he did not live in Northfield, 26 Stonehill Court in EHT – he was the prospective purchaser of property off of Roosevelt Avenue. He came before the Planning Board for a variance for frontage which was granted, one of the conditions of the approval was that the alley must be paved. He was buying from an estate and the costs are becoming prohibitive. The Planning Board suggested he approach the City about paving the alley. He noted other alleys that were paved. He would like to ask Council how they decide which alleys get paved, and would they consider paving this one?

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Council President Polistina asked where on Roosevelt?

Mr. Portnoy replied it was 100' off of Shore Road; 11 Roosevelt was 90 feet off of Roosevelt.

Council President Polistina asked was the only access to the property off of the alley?

Mr. Portnoy replied, yes. Since there were three other properties on the alley and two of them use the alley every day, he was told there was no process to compel the other owners to contribute. The other residents did not want to contribute to the cost.

Engineer Nassar stated that in the past 11 years, we have not paved any alleys, we do not routinely improve alleys. Perhaps it was a property owner.

Council President Polistina replied we would have to look at that to see if we have the ability.

Mr. Portnoy added that to bring the sewer line off of the street was \$24,000.00, NJ American Water would not give him a price until the lot was approved. The electric costs were pending. Mr. Portnoy estimated the cost of paving at \$16,000.00.

Council President Polistina advised Mr. Portnoy he would have to give us time to research the issue.

Solicitor Facenda added he would have to look into it – there were budgetary concerns, what the cost would be and was the Council willing to do it?

Councilman Smith asked for the size of the house.

Mr. Portnoy advised it was a four-bedroom, two-bathroom home, and 2000+ square feet. There was 53' frontage on the alley.

Council President Polistina, to Captain Nixon, asked what were his thoughts.

Captain Nixon replied that the Fire Department letter requested that it be paved.

Mr. Portnoy to Engineer Nassar, gave a breakdown of costs for sewer, he asked could he use his own utility contractor to put in the sewer connection, in the alley. He could do it at 1/5 of the cost.

Engineer Nassar replied he would have to look at the whole thing as one project – he needed some time to think about it.

Mr. Portnoy asked if he had to pave it, did he have to use a City-approved contractor or could he use his own.

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Council President Polistina asked what was your timeline?

Mr. Portnoy replied he had no other offers on the property, there was a minimum of 30 days due to the appeal process for Planning Board.

Mr. Portnoy gave his contact information to Council President Polistina.

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

At 6:33pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk