

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

At 6:03pm 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 Council President Pro-Tempore Dewees.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Kern; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Polistina; Councilman Smith; Council President Bucci.

**Absent:** Mayor Chau\*

*\*Mayor Chau was absent when attendance was taken but arrived at 6:07pm.*

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Nassar, and Chief Pollak, were also present.

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

Council President Bucci announced the FAN recognition event has been postponed until March 24<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Polistina had no report, a budget meeting was coming up this Thursday.

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

Councilman Dewees thanked Superintendent Boyd and Public Works for a fine job clearing the streets, it was a tough job. He asked Superintendent Boyd to please pass along to his department.

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

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Councilwoman Kern announced that there had been a resignation in the Construction Office, adding that these are typically tough positions to fill. Due to quick action by Clerk Canesi we have several applications; the Construction Official has agreed to stay until we replace him. The Mainland Surf team has qualified for the Nationals for the first time in school history, they will be going June 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>; good luck to them. The Mainland Board of Education meeting was canceled Monday. The Hero Campaign and Prosecutors Office did a demonstration on the dangers of drinking and driving. The Spring musical ‘Under the Sea’ will be held March 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>, seven or eight of the starring roles were Northfield students. She hoped all get a chance to go.

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

Councilwoman Bucci had no report.

*\*At 6:07pm Mayor Chau entered the meeting.*

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

Councilman Smith echoed Councilman Dewees' recognition of Public Works and the great job they did clearing the snow. The most recent NCS Board of Education meeting was held by Zoom; unfortunately, by the time Councilman Smith found the link and signed on, the meeting was over. He thanked Public Works, the Fire Department, Police Department and EMS for jobs well done during storm.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno announced the Cultural Committee meeting from last Saturday had been postponed to this Saturday. The veteran’s banners have come in and will be installed this spring.

**Councilman Notaro** – Sanitary Sewer Operations

Councilman Notaro echoed the positive comments regarding Public Works, Police, Fire and EMS during the storm. He thanked Clerk Canesi for her quick action regarding the Building Department.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

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

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Councilwoman Carfagno announced the committee would meet this week to finalize; she hoped to have something for the next meeting.

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

- 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*

Councilman Notaro announced there were a few additional changes, he would get them to Clerk Canesi.

- Bamboo Ordinance – *update from Solicitor Facenda*

Solicitor Facenda announced that the State of New Jersey passed legislation regarding an invasive species prohibition act, which included running bamboo, it had provision that provides for it to supersede lower-level legislation. He recommended leaving our ordinance as is until that new legislation becomes law, enforce it or don't enforce it, and then take action if needed.

Clerk Canesi asked is the Code Enforcement Officer going to continue to enforce between now and then?

Solicitor Facenda felt it should be up to the Code Enforcement Officer to enforce as he sees fit.

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

There was no new business.

**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Bucci asked all to take out their Regular Meeting agenda. Before she made any assignments, she asked were there any resolutions that anyone had questions about or would like to discuss?

Councilman Polistina noted the budget meeting was not on the agenda in the Meeting Notices section; it is scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm.

Council President Bucci made the assignments.

Councilwoman Kern would be abstaining from Resolutions 85 and 86-2026.

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**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 6:16pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk