

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MARCH 4, 2025**

At 5:59pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2025, and in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Chau led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilman Dewees

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Facenda, and Engineer Mauro were also present.

Council President Bucci announced the Family Association of Northfield Presentation.

Presentation of Certificates: Northfield Cardinals Football and Cheer Cape Atlantic Junior Football League Varsity Champions

To the honorees and others in the audience, Councilwoman Kern said this was one of our favorite meetings. Council was very proud of all of you for your accomplishments this year. She announced that she is this year's FAN Liaison, and Councilman Notaro was last year's; she invited him to come forward as well.

Mayor Chau announced the awards and asked the coaches to join him.

Football Coach Joe Russo thanked the Mayor and Council for recognizing the 2024 Northfield Cardinals Varsity Football Team and Cheerleaders. He thanked the Council for making this a town that people want to move to and raise their children here. Youth sports and volunteerism is a big part of the success of the program.

Football Coach Joe Goukler announced there were 36 players total on the varsity squad. They had an undefeated season, 10 and 0, they played hard; practice started in August and they played through November.

Cheer Coach Leslie Rhodes thanked Mayor and Council for recognizing the girls as well. Cheer was not a competitive sport in Northfield, and there were not as many opportunities for recognition. They do work very hard, they placed 1st in their first competition this year.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MARCH 4, 2025**

Mayor Chau said that as a former coach, he recognized the dedication; he thanked all coaches and volunteers.

Councilwoman Kern thanked all for their commitment and dedication as well and congratulated them again. She announced she would read the names of the honorees and ask them to come up, and Councilman Notaro would hand them their certificate.

Councilwoman Kern read the following names for Cheerleading:

Emma Albert, Savannah Barone, Ava Boland, Josephine Cassidy, Madison Chinnici, Naya DeRias, Sophia Gagliardi, Haley Gamberg, Morgan Howard, Addison Keena, Reece Lockhart, Taylor Mann, Kinley Mrugalski, Linda Ortiz – Flores, Madison Peters, Paige Rhodes, Alexandria Ryan, Franchesca Shoemaker, Sophia Wilson, and Coaches Tami Keena, Mandie Gamberg, Jessica Percodani, and Leslie Rhodes.

Councilwoman Kern read the following names for Football:

Andre Voermans, Mason Moretta, Angelo DeCicco, Max DaBundo, Blaine Wright, Max Kerrigan, Brady Eissler, Max Roesch, Braedon Reuter, Michael Pepper, Brendan Sher, Nick Goukler, Brian Mooney, Oliver Ford, Bryson Wright, Ricky DePamphilis, Christopher Graves, Ryce O'Connell, Cole Levinson, Steve Blair, Colin Burke, Trent Stefano, Crew Russo, Emmett Malia, Darshon Roy, Johnathan Murphy, Drew O'Neill, Elijah Weizer, George Frangias, Jake Guererri, Jax Cooper, JJ Battaglia, Liam Murray, Logan Kallen, Hunter Pendlebury, and Coaches Joe Russo, Jason Barretta, Sonny Fraser, Joe Goukler, Dan Kallen, Tyler Nehl, and Mike Tierney.

Mayor Chau addressed the honorees and said by the time they reach Mainland we will have another group of champions.

At 6:14pm on motions made and seconded, Council took a brief recess.

At 6:21pm Council resumed the meeting.

Council President Bucci moved to committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Polistina did not have a report.

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

Councilman Dewees was absent.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MARCH 4, 2025**

Councilwoman Kern – Northfield Sports (FAN)

Councilwoman Kern stated that at the last meeting she had mentioned the Jim Hoopes and Karin Deveney Awards but she did not know at that point that the recipients were already chosen. During that meeting, Councilwoman Carfagno had asked how forms were distributed to the high school seniors; Councilwoman Kern checked with FAN and was advised that forms were given out to the guidance counselors of MRHS, Holy Spirt, ACIT, St. Augustine and OLMA. A committee from FAN picks the award winners. The winners this year are Avery Notaro and Brady Arena. The awards will be given out Saturday, March 8th at the Northfield Community School and it was Councilwoman Kern’s understanding that the Hoopes and Devinney families had been invited to attend. At the February 20th FAN meeting, they asked her about seeding by the bench at the football field.

Councilman Notaro replied that we have a program with Georgia Golf; he offered to reach out to them.

Councilwoman Kern thanked all for participating in the honors for cheer and football. They were excited to come, she wished we could do it more often.

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

Councilwoman Bucci reported for Insurance and Safety; we had talked about health care and another municipality had a significant reduction in their health care premiums by shopping a private vendor. She felt it was something we could look into. In her experience, the rate is great in the first year, and then increases. Regarding Planning Board, May 1st is the hearing on the Master Plan, they have a goal for a specific economic element in the Master Plan due to a grant received by the ACEA. The grant was obtained in year two. The goal of the Master Plan is to enhance the standard of living, create jobs and promote the economic wellbeing of the community. We saw at our budget meeting that expenses continue to grow so our goal is to have more income in the City and she believed the way to do this was a redevelopment plan. There are three major property owners, we have to figure out how to entice them. She was continuing to look into liquor licenses, she was working on that with Senator Polistina's office. She would ask someone from another town to come in and speak to the Council about tax abatements.

Solicitor Facenda suggested including Planner Cuiello as well.

Councilman Polistina noted that our Tax Assessor has offered to come to Council to provide information.

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

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MARCH 4, 2025**

Councilman Smith had no report.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno read the Fire and EMS reports for February. She provided details on the upcoming Flea Market on May 3rd, and the 4th of July Parade, the parade will be on the 4th with a rain date of the 5th. The committee was still looking for the 1st baby born in Northfield as well as Miss/Mr. 4th of July and citizen of the year. All information was listed on the City website. The next MRHS Board meeting was scheduled for March 10th. Councilwoman Carfagno concluded her report by announcing the details for the Northfield Mothers' League spaghetti dinner.

Councilman Notaro - Sewer Operations; Inspections, Housing/Zoning.

Councilman Notaro referred to Resolution 86-2025 to approve bid specs for the slip lining project. He thanked the engineer and public works; he noted the four alternate bids and a 5th option. Once the bids came in, we'll know if we have funding for the projects. He thanked Public Works Supervisor Boyd and Superintendent Vitale for their help.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Electric Vehicles – *Councilmen Polistina and Notaro.*

Solicitor Facenda advised that he should have the ordinance for the next meeting.

Special Events Ordinance – *Councilwoman Bucci, Councilman Dewees.*

Councilwoman Bucci announced the Ordinance was still being worked on.

Road Opening Ordinance / Remaining Proposed Amendments – *Councilmen Dewees and Notaro.*

Councilman Notaro spoke with Engineer DeBlasio and Superintendent Vitale, he would speak with Councilman Dewees. We amended where the money goes, there were some other things that needed to be tweaked, so they'd be working on it.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

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

Council President Bucci announced that the only thing we currently have is a list of rules for the campground, which we have not had since 2019. She asked all to consider what they would like prohibited in the lakes and bring back to the next meeting.

Councilman Smith suggested to only allow fishing.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MARCH 4, 2025**

Discussion ensued amongst members of Council, Clerk Canesi, and Solicitor Facenda as to the specific activities that should be listed as prohibited in our ordinance.

Solicitor Facenda would create a draft ordinance.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Councilman Notaro, to Engineer Mauro, said he spoke with Engineer DeBlasio and he mentioned there were grants available for infrastructure for full rehab of pipes and roads.

Engineer Mauro replied, there were grants for piping, large scale, multiple pipes, there are NJDOT and other grants for paving. She would talk with Engineer DeBlasio.

Councilman Smith felt it would be incumbent upon us, based on budget discussions and where we stand now, to have another budget meeting. The one budget meeting got knocked out. He believed a 3rd meeting was necessary.

All members present agreed on Thursday, March 13th at 6pm for a budget workshop meeting.

Councilwoman Carfagno asked when would information on the insurance be available?

Councilman Polistina replied that CFO Stollenwerk was getting our loss history.

Council President Bucci addressed the seating arrangements during budget workshop meetings. At present, the Council is seated on the main floor, as opposed to the dais. She asked if anyone would be open to moving up to the dais? Did anyone object to that?

There were no objections.

In the context of the upcoming March 13th budget workshop meeting, Clerk Canesi announced that the Council would need to introduce our budget at the March 18th Council meeting.

Council President Bucci suggested when a complaint is presented, it should go to the Chair of the Committee.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MARCH 4, 2025**

Clerk Canesi referenced the City Code; it does provide that complaints go to Business Administrator. If she gets a copy of any complaint, that will satisfy the ordinance. She also requested a copy of any reply for records retention purposes.

Council President Bucci clarified that complaints should go to the Business Administrator.

Councilwoman Carfagno thanked Council President Bucci for providing possible grants for the 250th celebration.

Clerk Canesi reminded that grant applications need to be approved by the Council.

Council President Bucci reiterated this.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Bucci reviewed the agenda and made the assignments.

Councilman Polistina, with Councilman Dewees not present tonight, stated he was not fully prepared for the Executive Session, he missed a part of the meeting, but he would do his best.

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 6:44pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Solicitor Facenda announced to Mayor and Council that he had to leave due to an unanticipated schedule conflict, and his back up counsel, Marc Nehmad, Esquire would take his place for the balance of the meeting when that occurs.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk