

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MARCH 7, 2023**

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 7, 2023, 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 Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Nassar, and Sergeant of Police DiMarco (on behalf of 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 reported that Public Works repaired the steps at the bandstand, there was an issue with alarm at the museum; Superintendent Vitale and Roy Clark were looking at this. Councilman Dewees suggested that the museum use the same company we use. There was an issue with the lights at the football field, on the home side, lacrosse was using the field. Superintendent Vitale contacted Calvi Electric and the problem was traced to Atlantic City Electric. He would will look at it again this evening.

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

Councilwoman Bucci reminded all to attend the elected officials seminar, we also get \$250 per person as an insurance premium credit for attendance. Coffee with a Cop was very successful, she would like to move to Park Center possibly next year to get more people to attend. She updated all on offshore wind projects because of speculation that this could affect our local economy. She announced an upcoming meeting, and a hearing at Wildwood Convention Center hosted by Congressman Van Drew. Attendees must register with Congressman Van Drew's office.

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

Councilman Smith reported Northfield Little League's opening day is April 15th. The next Board of Education meeting was scheduled for the 20th and the strategic planning session on March 30th. Councilman Smith attended Northfield Mothers' League spaghetti dinner on Sunday, he commended all Northfield Mothers' League members for all they do for the City.

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

For the Cultural Committee, Councilwoman Carfagno noted that Councilman Dewees had commented during his report, adding that the door had been repaired. She had spoken with several veterans; she was trying to get a count of all veterans in Northfield to hold an event. She congratulated the Mainland Girls and Boys Basketball and Track Teams on their seasons.

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

Councilman Notaro also attended the Northfield Mothers' League spaghetti dinner, it was a great event and he thanked the group for all they do. He noted minor repairs would be made to snack bar at the football field. The slip lining project contractor had an issue and it looked like we will have to shut down on Route 9 for a few days, in the vicinity of McDonald's.

Engineer Nassar added that he gave contact information for the NJDOT to the contractor, NJDOT was okay with the closure. There were two contractors involved and one of them would close the road. There was an 80' section that collapsed during slip lining. He explained what happened, and the need for repair. McDonald's would be able to remain open.

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

Council President Polistina attended Coffee with a Cop and had invited the Senior's Group, a few attended. This Thursday at 10am at City Hall there will be an Elder Fraud seminar presented by the FBI and in conjunction with our Police Department and the Municipal Alliance. Our next budget meeting had been canceled, and we were proceeding. Last year we added a firefighter and this year we added a police lieutenant. Health benefits went up as well. We were at a 1.5 cent tax increase. We have had a zero increase for a few years now. State Aid may help us if there is more than anticipated. On a sad note, Ray Adams, our Payroll Clerk passed away. He wished the family strength, and his family here at Northfield as well. He would be sadly missed.

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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*

There was no update.

- 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-

There was no update.

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

Council President Polistina announced there were ‘no parking’ signs, there was no need for a loading zone from either of the businesses along there.

Clerk Canesi advised she received a call from Tilton Market, they indicated they wanted to speak to Council on the record. She stated that she noticed someone in Zoom that may be from Tilton Market. She asked if anyone would like to speak on the Zion Road issue; there was no response.

Councilman Dewees asked if we were extending the no parking zone farther than 125’.

Council President Polistina replied, yes.

Clerk Canesi advised that she would check with Chief VonColln on a recommended distance and work with Solicitor Facenda for an ordinance for the next meeting.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

There were no new opportunities discussed.

- Revised DRAFT of Sign Ordinance

Council President Polistina announced the sign ordinance committee would meet again and then work with the Planning Board to see what makes sense.

- Potential Food Truck Ordinance

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Council President Polistina stated we have nothing in our code to address food trucks, they seem to be popular so we'll be putting together a committee to create an ordinance. He asked for volunteers.

Councilwoman Bucci and Councilman Dewees both requested to be on the committee.

Engineer Nassar announced that he received communication from the Planning Board about EV (Electric Vehicle) charging stations, there were new requirements that must be met. He received an application but we have no rules yet, he had to approve.

Clerk Canesi added that the model ordinance had several "blanks" in it that needed to be filled in. She suggested a committee look at the section of the model ordinance where the blanks are.

Council President Polistina and Councilman Notaro would be on the committee.

Clerk Canesi suggested the Zoning Officer as well.

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.

Council President Polistina made the assignments noting that Resolution 75-2023 would not be moved as Council did not have enough information to proceed.

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.

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

At 6:23pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk