

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
APRIL 18, 2023**

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

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Council Pro Tempore Dewees.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilwoman Bucci; Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro\*; Council President Polistina  
*\*Councilman Notaro was present via Zoom.*

**Absent:** Councilman Smith\*, Mayor Chau  
*\*Councilman Smith was absent during roll call, but arrived at 6:10pm.*

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

Council President Polistina welcomed all, he thanked Clerk Canesi for spearheading the project for the new seating; it looked great and was an improvement.

Council President Polistina introduced Joe Henry from Hardenberg Insurance.

Joe Henry – Hardenberg Insurance - Avoiding Complacency & Managing Risk

Mr. Henry introduced himself, he comes to Northfield annually as a requirement of the JIF safety committee. Tonight's topic was avoiding complacency and managing risk. There was a desire to get back to where we were prior to covid. He reviewed his presentation including various tactics to manage risk. It's important to think before you act and before you start. Risk is an everyday event. He touched on things we can do to avoid risk. Supervisor incident reports and hazard assessments are required. Self-assessments and job safety assessments are very important, they show immediate feedback on what employees are doing negatively and positively.

*\*At 6:10pm Councilman Smith entered the meeting.*

Mr. Henry continued; he gave examples of what can happen when proper safety inspections are neglected. Mr. Henry asked if there were any questions; there were none.

Council President Polistina moved to Committee reports.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Councilman Leeds** – Fire Department/EMS; Planning Board

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Councilman Leeds announced, tomorrow, Pleasantville Fire Department would be presented with a valor award for saving Mayor Chau's 3 dogs. He attended a meeting with Councilman Smith and Business Administrator/Clerk Canesi regarding shared dispatch. Councilman Smith would elaborate during his 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 the vendor for illuminating the sign out front has not been showing up, Superintendent Vitale has been on top of this and if nothing happens in the next week or so we would move on.

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

Councilwoman Bucci reported for Municipal Alliance, the next event was Bike Skills thru Life Skills on May 20 for grades 1 thru 6 at Tuckahoe Bike Shop on Tilton Road. Preregistration is required, with Shannon Campbell at City Hall. For EDC three new businesses will be opening, Lil Saigon, Lily Lotus Aesthetics, who had a soft opening but not a grand opening, and Nonna's Grill at Ridgewood Plaza.

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

Councilman Smith, regarding the court, some members of Council, along with Councilman Smith, attended a meeting with Hammonton and we would discuss later on during Executive Session. Northfield Little League had their opening day successfully this past weekend, he wished them all success for a healthy, good weather season. Northfield Community School have invited the Council to their April 24th 7pm budget meeting, Councilman Smith hoped to attend. We would be limited to 3 members of Council attending. Regarding shared service, they would be putting together a matrix to show cost proposals for shared dispatch to the Council, he hoped to have that to share at the next meeting.

Council President Polistina mentioned he heard there were grants?

Councilman Smith replied yes, Linwood Police Department had grant writers who would be putting together a grant proposal.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno reported the next Board of Education meeting was scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Long time NCS teacher Maryann Devine is once again hosting the honor flight at 5am on April 20<sup>th</sup> or at 9:45pm for their return. We

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have 8 veterans who are going to DC this year. This would be the last time the Northfield Community School National Honor Society would be sponsoring the event, hopefully someone else would take up sponsoring this event.

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

Councilman Notaro (via telephone, Zoom audio wasn't working) did not have a report.

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

Council President Polistina, for finance and collections, we had 6 tax appeals this year, significantly less than in past years. He hoped to be more stable with the tax base going forward.

Council President Polistina moved to the ad hoc committee reports.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

- Electric Vehicles (Councilmen Polistina, Notaro) – there was no update.
- Food Trucks (Councilwoman Bucci, Councilman Dewees) – Councilwoman Bucci advised the committee had a second meeting; Clerk Canesi was working on a draft.
- Sales of Retail Cannabis (Councilwoman Bucci, Councilmen Leeds, Smith) – Councilwoman Bucci advised she was still trying to schedule a meeting with Leo Schoffer. She shared a presentation from Somers Point Economic Alliance with the Council. The rough number projected was \$316,000.00 in income. She also believed we should speak with the Chief VonColln to discuss any concerns he may have.

Council President Polistina moved to ongoing business.

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

- Stormwater Facilities Shared with Atlantic County – *No Update*
- Potential Sale / Development of City Owned Properties: Block 66 Lot 11; Block 69 Lot 1.02; Block 121 Lot 1 – *No Update*
- Possible Zoning ordinance to regulate Cooperative Sober Living Residences

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Solicitor Facenda reviewed the ordinance provided by Councilman Notaro regarding the sober living homes; he wanted to review with Councilman Notaro and get some examples of what other towns may be doing. He was generally ok with it but it could use some tweaking.

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

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Engineer Nassar announced that he received notice today that grants were open with NJDOT until June 2nd. He would report further.

- Affordable Housing Subcommittee – Requested by Affordable Housing Counsel

Council President Polistina asked was anyone interested in joining him on the affordable housing subcommittee?

Councilwoman Carfagno volunteered.

Clerk Canesi added that the committee will also include her and Solicitor Facenda.

**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda and 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.

Joseph Sweeney, 1206 First Street - did research, he gave to the Council President. He explained that it is what other states do, and other sources that have deemed the potbellied pig to be a domestic pet, not a farm animal.

Seeing no one else, in person or on Zoom wishing to speak, Council President Polistina closed the public session.

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Solicitor Facenda noted for the record, that Resolution 102-2023 and 103-2023, if acted upon, would happen after the executive session, not during the executive session.

Council President Polistina missed assigning payment of bills and meeting notices, he made those assignments.

At 6:31pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk