

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MAY 4, 2021**

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 9, 2021, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), and N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 - 1.7, this meeting will be held in-person and as a remote public meeting (live-streamed) using Zoom conferencing service. Due to social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public. Visit the event calendar page for May 4, 2021 at www.cityofnorthfield.org to determine current seating availability. Face coverings and social distancing will be required for in-person attendance. To reserve an available seat, contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 609-641-2832, ext 125, no later than 4:00pm on May 4, 2021. Once all available seats have been reserved, virtual attendance will be required using a web-browser to Join the Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83902270313> or by telephone using one tap mobile +13126266799,,83902270313# or direct dial +1 312 626 6799 using Meeting ID: 839 0227 0313. For those wishing to comment during the dedicated public comment portion of the meeting, but who may be unable to attend (in person or via Zoom), public comments may also be submitted in advance via email to mcanesi@cityofnorthfield.org or by written letter to the Office of the Municipal Clerk, 1600 Shore Road, Northfield NJ 08225, or by hand delivery to the drop box in the parking lot at the south corner of the municipal building, addressed to the attention of the Municipal Clerk. Comments shall contain the name and address of the author, will be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting, and must be received by 2:00pm on May 4 2021.

Municipal Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“Due to social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public this evening. For this reason, this meeting is also being presented simultaneously as a remote public meeting, live-streamed, using Zoom conferencing service, and in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Orders and the Open Public Meetings Act. Zoom meeting participants can dial in by telephone and listen to the proceedings, or they can access the meeting using a web-browser, and be able to view and listen. Instructions on how members of the public could reserve one of the limited seats, as well as how they can access Zoom have been made available on the municipal website and were published in the Press of Atlantic City. The full text of the public meeting notice has been posted at the entrance to the municipal building and includes Zoom instructions, information on where to find the meeting agenda and relevant documents, as well as instructions on how members of the public could submit comments in advance of tonight’s meeting. For those participating via Zoom, all participants will be ‘muted’ upon entry to the meeting. Web-browser participants will not be able to share their screens or see the camera-view of anyone other than the host, which is the City of Northfield. Zoom participants wishing to exercise their right to participate during the public comment portion of the meeting should wait until the specific announcement is made to open the public comment period. At this time, one by one, any telephone users

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will be asked to identify themselves and will be unmuted to permit commentary. For web-browser participants, comments or questions may be submitted via the chat function and will not be acknowledged outside of the designated public-comment portion of the meeting; chat-users must also provide his/her name and address for the record in order to be heard. Any written comments submitted in advance will be read aloud and addressed during the public comment portion of the meeting.”

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Council Pro Tempore Dewees.

ROLL CALL

Present (in person): Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman Perri; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina

Absent: Councilman Notaro; Mayor Chau

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

Council President Polistina moved to Committee Reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri– Public Works: Roads, Engineering, Sewer Operations; Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri reported Zion and Mill Road had issue with a cave-in, the problem has been rectified and was ongoing for reconstruction of the road. The signage at Pine and Bates has been completed, we are still looking at getting stone for the one corner. One sign was still pending for mark-out but the majority had been resolved. Councilman Perri offered condolences to the Ryon Family; Mrs. Ryon was a pillar of the community and assisted Councilman Perri during his time as Mayor, she was part of tree lighting ceremony and many other events. He recognized Lori Ayres, he had been a friend of John, her husband, for many years. And Mario Martirone, another outstanding citizen. He offered condolences to the families of all. He had information on sump pumps but would discuss when that comes up on the agenda.

Councilman Utts - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Technology / MRHS Channel; Planning Board

Councilman Utts reported revenues were up over last year in the inspections department, penalties had been assessed to those have failed to pull permits. The Planning Board will get an introduction tomorrow for the Arthur Henry site. The rendering looked nice.

Councilman Notaro - Fire Department/EMS; Northfield Sports (FAN); Cultural Committee / Veteran Liaison; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilman Notaro was absent.

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Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields; Birch Grove Park, Bike Path, 1st Street Playground, Veterans Park

Councilman Dewees reported the Babe Ruth Field had been growing and was cut this week; there was a game this week, there were no complaints and it looked very good. He had a resident contact him regarding growth along the fence, he commended Shannon Campbell for her role in that as well, she does a great job for the City.

Councilman Smith - Court / Violations; Little League and Babe Ruth, Northfield Community School; Shared Services

Councilman Smith thanked Public Works and Northfield Little League; had a cancer awareness game last Friday night vs Ocean City. Public Works did a great job cordoning areas off, and Northfield Little League assisted as well. He thanked the Clerk's Office for help with the insurance requirements so the game could be played. Bunting Family Pharmacy made a donation that would go to Gilda's Club; the kids played their hearts out. Discussions were ongoing for Court, with the County and with Hamilton Township. Councilman Smith would be in contact with Linwood officials for an update.

Councilwoman Madden – Insurance and Safety; Library; Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden had nothing to report for Insurance and Safety, the next Library meeting was scheduled for May 13th. Mainland Regional High School had their budget meeting on April 29th, they had a 1.5% increase. Northfield was always the highest percentage; this year it's the lowest at 29%. She thought we would see a slight decrease. Mr. Marrone took great effort to cut costs and perform tasks in-house. There were special recognitions: Girls' Cross Country went undefeated in the Cape Atlantic League; Girls' Tennis went undefeated in the Cape Atlantic League; Girls' Volleyball are the Cape Atlantic League East Conference Champions. Mr. Marrone was waiting on information from the State regarding vaccines.

Council President Polistina – Finance and Collections; Municipal Alliance

Council President Polistina wanted to recognize the placement of the 9-11 artifact out front, it looked like a wonderful spot, in the former location of the war memorial. He thanked Shannon Campbell for coordinating and following through, he thanked Engineer Nassar for the design work, and retired Assistant Chief Lauren Crooks for obtaining the artifact, and Tara Management as well. It had been in the building for a few years and is in its final place of honor. There would be a formal dedication when the plaque arrives. He encouraged all to stop by and see it.

Council President Polistina moved to the unfinished business.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Zion Road Pump Station Easement – *Update from Solicitor Facenda*

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Engineer Nassar reported there was a resolution on the agenda for Engineer Nassar to move forward.

- Northfield Avenue at Rt 9 Drainage –*Update, if available, from Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar reported regarding Northfield Avenue drainage; he is still in contact with DOT, they kept asking for plans, there had been a bit of back and forth. Engineer Nassar has a meeting with a supervisor on-site on May 11th at noon. Any Council member who would like to attend, may.

- Lease Agreement, Parking Spaces at Jackson and Fuae Avenues – *Update from Committee*

Council President Polistina had no update on the lease agreement.

- Shared County Court – *Update, if available, from Mayor Chau*

There was no update on Shared County Court as Mayor Chau was absent.

- Recreational Marijuana – *Update, if any, from Committee*

Council President Polistina announced that Council would have a draft ordinance on the agenda for May 18th.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Engineer Nassar stated that we had two grant opportunities for recreational facilities, one from the DEP and one from the DCA. Mayor Chau also sent one from Atlantic City Electric, it was small, in the \$10,000.00 range, but we will apply for that as well.

- Sump Pumps discharging into Storm Drains – *Requested by Councilman Perri*

Councilman Perri had a pre-union meeting for UWA; Councilman Perri and Councilman Dewees had been working with an issue at Yorkshire Avenue with a sump pump that drained into the street. Clerk Canesi looked for anything in the existing ordinances but we didn't see anything. Due to the possibility of mosquitos, the Road Department did clean it temporarily and did a fine job. Our Plumbing Inspector, Jay Dilworth, was contacted about any state codes that may exist that govern sump pump discharge into the street, there were none. His recommendation was to have the Municipal Engineer draft a local ordinance to require on-site drainage, with a French drain; it may help with any future installations.

Councilman Dewees asked if we reached out to other towns to see what they do? They have the same issue at the County.

Councilman Perri replied, no.

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Engineer Nassar noted that Buena Vista Township has an ordinance that you can do it as long as it doesn't create puddling.

Councilman Dewees felt it could be very costly for the resident.

Council President Polistina added that they could end up dumping it into the sanitary system, and there was no way to regulate that.

Engineer Nassar reiterated that if the water didn't stand, it's wasn't an issue.

Solicitor Facenda asked if it was an issue of maintenance of the street.

Councilman Perri stated it was becoming more and more intense, he made a public health decision to have Public Works do it as a one-time issue. The complainant wanted it eliminated, long term. Some people have less volume and the drain is closer to the home. He would try to research further.

Clerk Canesi offered to share an ordinance from Franklin Township that she found; she was not sure how we would address those that already existed.

Councilman Dewees added that water did freeze-up in the winter.

Councilman Perri added, at least with an ordinance, it will help with future installations.

Councilman Utts asked if there an ordinance against stagnant water?

Councilman Perri deferred to Zoning.

Councilman Dewees replied it would be the Board of Health.

Clerk Canesi explained that the municipal code didn't make the gutter the homeowner's responsibility; the homeowner was responsible from the curb, back towards the residence.

Councilman Utts stated, so the gutter was no man's land.

Engineer Nassar announced that applications were open for 2021 Municipal Aid. He needs feedback from Council, we needed to have a project on the scale of Fuae Avenue. He had a preliminary list.

Councilman Perri, Councilman Dewees and Superintendent Vitale would meet with Engineer Nassar.

Council President Polistina asked anyone from Council that had suggestions to give recommendations to Councilman Perri or Councilman Dewees for inclusion.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda, and made the agenda assignments.

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PUBLIC SESSION/ FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Polistina opened this portion of the meeting for any member of the public to speak on any topic; he noted a five-minute limit per speaker.

Aubrey Hiers, 3 Park Road, Linwood, stated that the parking lot looked amazing and was very much appreciated. The conditions especially during rain were much better. This past weekend they had their first program at Birch Grove Park, Home Sweet Habitat, it was an Earth Day program at the Bandstand for the kids, they had a turkey vulture and a snake, the kids loved it and had a great time. They had a pop-up library, and actually checked books out, three new kids signed up for library cards. This was trial run for a program that is planned for every weekend in the summer, and she was very excited about the programming at this location. The Library received a \$3,000.00 grant from the American Library Association, they were one of nine in the State. The plan for the grant is to host two community book talks at the bandstand, with wireless microphones; the first will be Saturday would be July 17th on a book called the 'Nature Fix'. The other was scheduled for Saturday August 21st, with 'Palaces for the People', as an effort to improve communication in our society. She also planned to use the grant to add Wi-Fi and a router to the Museum, with the ability to control when the Wi-Fi was accessible. She asked was Council willing to have Ms Hiers work with the Cultural Committee or Museum staff, to have the Wi-Fi installed? It would help the museum as well.

Councilman Dewees noted we were having an issue with the Museum right now, we were having some communications-related wiring issues, but he was working on it. He asked Ms. Hiers for her timeline.

Ms Hiers hoped to have the internet up by July 17th, so the Zoom platform can be used.

Councilman Dewees would speak with Superintendent Vitale and Kathi Smith tomorrow.

Councilman Smith asked would copies of the books be available at the library as well?

Ms Hiers replied, yes.

Councilman Perri asked Ms Hiers to let him or Joan McCord know when the Seniors could come back in for their activities?

Ms Hiers stated that would be discussed at the next Board meeting. They are also contemplating an outdoor book sale. She knows the mahjongg ladies are ready to come back. She missed them all.

Heather Mellon, 2509 Herbert Drive, stated that Aubrey did a fantastic job with the children at the park, the children just loved it. She made sure everyone was safe, all were distanced and wore masks. It was so good to see the park being used. The

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Friends of the Library and the Friends of Birch Grove Park have offered to help Ms Hiers with any expenses. Regarding the marijuana draft ordinance, did last meeting's vote mean it's a go?

Council President Polistina advised that was just to proceed with the draft.

Mrs. Mellon was very much against it; she had been following Colorado. A lot of the shore towns are saying no for a very good reason. She didn't want Northfield to become the gateway to marijuana, instead of the Gateway to the Shore. She urged Council to be careful. A drug is a drug.

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

At 6:45pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Smith, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk