

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
MAY 10, 2022**

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 8, 2022, 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; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina

**Absent:** Councilman Smith, Mayor Chau

Solicitor Facenda and Engineer Nassar were also in attendance.

Council President Polistina welcomed all to the meeting and asked Joe Henry to come forward.

**6PM PRESENTATION:**

SAFETY ON THE AGENDA – Joe Henry, Hardenberg Insurance Group

Joe Henry introduced himself, he works as our Risk Management Consultant. He was here to meet the annual requirement of having ‘Safety’ on the agenda, this year he chose trips and falls, and associated costs, as the topic for discussion. He reviewed what the City’s Safety Committee does, and explained the safety award earned this year based on performance. He reviewed the impact of a poor safety record, on insurance premiums, on employees, their quality of life, and actions that can be taken to prevent such accidents. The JIF has training resources, including classes and videos, safety bulletins, etc. He offered to answer any questions.

Councilwoman Bucci stated that Linwood and Margate don't require Facilities Use forms, but Northfield did. They were in the JIF, why do we have to?

Mr. Henry replied that they always recommend that we get a Certificate of Insurance, regardless of what others do.

Councilwoman Bucci replied that in the case of a trip and fall, they would likely blame the City, saying the City was negligent, in situations like that, she can see why other towns don't require them.

Mr. Henry advocated for consistency, he asked if Solicitor Facenda wanted to comment.

Solicitor Facenda stated if we were going to ask for it, we ask for it. And it wouldn't be bad to have that additional insurance.

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Mr. Henry added there were also sometimes settlements.

Councilwoman Bucci asked were the T.U.L.I.P. policies general liability?

Mr. Henry replied, yes.

Councilman Leeds asked what was the cutoff, do five friends meeting at the library need insurance?

Clerk Canesi replied, groups of 10 or more, that is stipulated in the City code.

Councilwoman Bucci asked about the FAN issue, did making a donation create liability?

Councilman Utts felt we would probably named anyway since its out facility; the question was, were we increasing our liability by giving them a donation?

Clerk Canesi advised there was history involved, more than just a donation. She believed the JIF solicitor had offered to speak with Councilwoman Bucci.

Councilwoman Bucci responded that she knew Dave Dewees.

Mr. Henry commented that Solicitor Dewees would be the person to speak with.

Council President Polistina thanked Mr. Henry.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Dewees reported that he heard back from the painting contractor; they anticipate starting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May at the museum in Birch Grove.

**Councilman Utts** - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Cultural Committee, Veteran Liaison, Mainland Regional, Technology / MRHS Channel; Planning Board

Councilman Utts reported that the owner of 420 Mt. Vernon came before the Planning Board to get approval for concrete and a structure. He received a continuance due to a language barrier. It looked like the individual was running his business out of his home, if residents express concern, feel free to share with them that the matter was going before the Board. Purple Heart Way was coming to Veterans Park; Engineer Nassar arranged for ACIT students to get involved, and

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public works. It really looked great. He reported the Mainland Regional High School budget was posted in the AC Press, but he was not sure of the impact on our taxes.

Councilman Notaro said he'd noticed the Planning Board did not salute the flag before the meeting; he asked Councilman Utts, why?

Councilman Utts confirmed that they do not, but didn't know why. He would find out.

**Councilman Notaro** - Fire Department/EMS; Sewer Operations; Northfield Sports (FAN)

Councilman Notaro announced that Councilman Leeds would deliver the Fire and EMS reports. Regarding FAN, he thanked Councilman Dewees for his work on the stairway and the door, and the roof on the snack bar. He thanked Shannon Campbell for her work on Veterans Park and for sending the pictures. We recently did slip lining on some pipes throughout the City; the savings from that could be \$100,000 per year. We'll get a better idea in the second quarter.

Councilman Utts encouraged an annual slip line program.

Council President Polistina asked what percentage of pipes had been completed?

Engineer Nassar replied he thought under 15% - he was not sure, but he would find out. He noted that we received a \$27,000 credit based on the first quarter.

Councilman Dewees asked if there was any idea where the problems could be?

Engineer Nassar replied, yes, the large, deep sewer pipes.

Council President Polistina asked how much smaller does slip lining make the pipe?

Engineer Nassar replied about three quarters of an inch.

Councilman Notaro asked Engineer Nassar how the ACUA calculated these flows? Was there a meter? What was the process?

Engineer Nassar offered to meet with Councilman Notaro to explain.

**Councilman Leeds** – Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilman Leeds read the EMS report for April. Councilman Leeds had been talking with the Fire Department; Inspira was going to train the entire department on Narcan, to be used in the event of an exposure at a fire scene. He read the Fire report for April. He announced that the fire truck bids were submitted, CFO Stollenwerk

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had questions and Chief Cummings was meeting with her. The bid was 112 pages. They worked very hard on the specifications.

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

Councilman Smith was absent.

**Councilwoman Bucci** – Insurance and Safety; Library; Municipal Alliance

Councilwoman Bucci announced upcoming Alliance events: June 4<sup>th</sup> will be Golf with a Cop, June 5<sup>th</sup> is the Fishing Tournament, and National Night Out on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Birch Grove.

Councilman Leeds asked if street sweeping could be later in the year? Maybe a week or two?

Clerk Canesi advised we could ask for next year, we may not get it, but we could ask.

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

Council President Polistina had no report.

Council President Polistina moved to old business.

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

- Northfield Avenue at Rt 9 Drainage – *Update if available from Engineer Nassar*
- Stormwater Facilities Shared with the County of Atlantic – *Update if available from Engineer Nassar*
- Potential Acquisition of Fire Truck – *Bid Specifications Pending from Chief Cummings*
- Potential Public Auction of City Owned Property Block 66 Lot 11 – Pending

Council President Polistina announced there were no updates on the work session topics.

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

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Engineer Nassar announced the 2021 Municipal Aid grant; he felt we should do a big road, funds available were in the vicinity of \$300,000. He asked Council for suggestions. The deadline for submission was the first week of July.

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Council President Polistina asked everyone to drive around and look at what streets may need to be paved.

- Added Assessment Audit

Councilwoman Bucci explained the summary of the added assessments that were being proposed by the tax assessor; based on an audit of the building department, and permits for which no added assessment was levied. She advised that members of Council met with Assessor Johnson, Business Administrator Canesi and CFO Stollenwerk to discuss; the recommendation was to go back to January 1, 2022, as opposed to January 2021, which the law would permit.

All members present were generally in favor of the 2022 date.

Clerk Canesi announced the resolution would be on the agenda for May 26<sup>th</sup>.

**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

Councilman Notaro wanted to discuss Resolution 107-2022, outside of the consent agenda.

Councilman Leeds had a question about Resolution 111-2022; he asked why didn't we have a vehicle?

Councilman Dewees advised it was being repaired.

Council President Polistina made the assignments.

**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.

Alicia Garry, 202 St. James Place, asked about the dangerous condition with the slide at the First Street playground.

Councilman Dewees replied that the new slide was ordered; the old slide has been taped off but it keeps being removed. He would address with Superintendent Vitale tomorrow.

Mrs. Garry asked about new swings, mulch, and a picnic table.

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Council President Polistina advised that mulch was done each year and that there were no major improvements in our capital for this playground.

Mrs. Garry added that it would be nice to have a picnic table. She suggested maybe an old one from Birch Grove could be moved there.

Council President Polistina replied perhaps one could be repurposed or funds could be identified.

Mrs. Garry noted there were still lights out on the Bike Path on Dolphin and Bates.

Councilman Dewees replied he knew there had been electrical problems, he would follow up with Superintendent Vitale.

Mrs. Garry asked about her apron repair?

Engineer Nassar replied the contractor indicated it was repaired; he would follow up with the contractor.

Joan Brennan, 116 Dolphin Avenue (speaking via Zoom), asked if anyone had spoken to the County officials regarding their proposed 10,000 square foot building that she spoke to Council about a month ago. She asked when would the painting project at the museum start; she had a group who would be doing the yard and she needed to coordinate around that.

Councilman Dewees replied the painting contractor will start the third week of May.

Ms. Brennan asked if anyone needed to be present.

Councilman Dewees replied no; they were just doing the exterior.

Ms. Brennan asked about the landing and porch repairs?

Councilman Dewees replied we did get a quote, it was a bit high, they were getting additional quotes.

Council President Polistina added that he did hear from one of the Commissioners about the building, and plans would be submitted to City Hall.

Ms. Brennan replied they have been there.

Council President Polistina replied, in the Construction department.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Council President Polistina closed the public comment portion of this meeting.

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At 6:55pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Notaro, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk