

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MAY 24, 2022**

At 6:05pm 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 Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Bucci; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

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

Council President Polistina welcomed all to the meeting, and moved to committee reports

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 painting of the museum had not started; he would check on the status tomorrow. We had some issues with fencing at Birch Grove; he was also addressing some trees that were a concern reported by a resident of Northwood Court.

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

Councilman Utts reported that most of Council were in attendance at Veterans Park for the Purple Heart Ceremony. He thanked Deputy Clerk Campbell and Engineer Nassar; it was a very moving event. Mainland Regional High School posted their new meeting schedule; their meetings were now on Mondays, which will be easier for Councilman Utts to attend. There had been no Planning Board meeting since the last City Council meeting.

Councilman Notaro - Sewer Operations; Northfield Football, Cheer, Basketball (FAN)

Councilman Notaro agreed with Councilman Utts, and said the Veterans Park Ceremony was a great event, and the flyover was very successful. He spoke with Marco Polo Smigliani today; Mr. Smigliani expressed his gratitude to the Council for their support. Councilman Notaro thanked Mr. Smigliani, Sam Davis, Congressman

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Van Drew, Mayor Chau, Councilman Utts and Councilman Leeds as well, for their support of the event. Councilman Notaro said he and Councilman Leeds met with Mr. Smigliani two years ago to get this ball rolling. He thanked Engineer Nassar, Drew Holmes and the students at the Atlantic County Institute of Technology, Rob Blaine from Public Works for coming in on a Saturday, and last but not least, the person, without whom this event would have been impossible, Shannon Campbell. He thanked Councilman Dewees for work on the fields, and said he has received many compliments. FAN's annual fundraiser at Egg Harbor Township Vagabond was coming up. There was a Resolution on the agenda this evening for garage doors for the Fire Department; he thanked Captain Nixon for his diligence in getting the doors at a price that was \$10,000 under-budget.

Councilman Leeds – Fire Department/EMS

Councilman Leeds shared a story of a Boy Scout who fell during the Purple Heart Ceremony, and Shannon Campbell jumped in to action and got him help. He thanked her for being there and noticing that. The Fire Department has had three working-fires in a few days; it's unheard of in Northfield. To Chief Newman, he commended Patrolman Heller, Sergeant Pollak and Patrolman Pemberti for their assistance in getting the residents out of the home. The Firefighters did a great job, they were there within minutes, there was an issue with dispatch and the location of the fire. Sergeant DiMarco, Patrolman Gansert and Patrolman Heller assisted the firefighters with a fire at London Square Mall, and once again the Fire Department did a great job. We needed a ladder truck, Linwood's wasn't available, and Pleasantville's took 20 minutes to get there. Then at 2:30am, another structure fire, which was once again, quickly handled. He wanted to make sure Chief Newman knew how well his officers performed. He thanked all for everything they did. He also attended the FAN meeting with Councilman Notaro.

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

Councilman Smith reported that Northfield Little League was moving along in the season. Mainland's Pink Game got rained out, but he commended Public Works and Darren Boyd in getting the field ready. Councilman Smith appreciated the efforts of the City workers. The game ended up being played at Mainland instead, with proceeds going to Gilda's Club. Northfield Community School Board of Education meeting was last night. Regarding shared services, he's looking to sit down with Councilman Leeds to discuss dispatch services.

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

Councilwoman Bucci announced there were Municipal Alliance events coming up, including Golf with a Cop on June 4th and Hooked on Fishing on June 5th. Hope

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One would also be there. August 2nd was National Night Out at Birch Grove, from 6pm-8pm; Alliance Coordinator Campbell was working to solicit local vendors. The library attendance was increasing, and Councilwoman Bucci mentioned various library programs. Northfield Community School was now having a representative attend the Library Board meetings, Alyssa Caramenica. Regarding Insurance and Safety, she attended the Safety Meeting on May 19th, trees would be addressed, the slide had been ordered for the First Street Playground and safety measures have been put in place for the interim period, and the lights on the Bike Path were being worked on. Engine 65 was back in service after repairs. Our JIF policy was up for renewal at the end of the year, with a commitment from the Council due by October 31st; it's a 3-year renewal. She read a summary of benefits of JIF membership in support of the renewal, including training, the strong safety culture, and more. It was Councilwoman Bucci's recommendation that we continue; they do a great job. Because of our good loss history, there were dividends as well. Regarding Economic Development Commission, Deputy Clerk Campbell suggested a letter inviting businesses to meet on June 13th at 7pm, to be included with the renewal documents, to get the ball rolling.

Councilman Dewees, added that there were two lights on the bike path that needed to be removed and rewired.

Council President Polistina – Finance and Collections; Senior Citizens

Council President Polistina reported that after a long hiatus, the Seniors will be meeting on June 16th at Little Italy. Deputy Clerk Campbell would share the invitation on the City website. The guest speaker this month would be Michele Kirtsos, Tax Collector, who will speak regarding the 'senior freeze' and some other programs.

Councilman Leeds noted at the recent restaurant fire, no one had emergency contact information. The fire department went over the next morning and had them fill out a form. The construction office creates a form, but it's not going to the right place. We need a process in place.

Clerk Canesi explained that part of the City's mercantile license process involves an emergency contact form that is completed and returned; the form then goes to police, fire, and dispatch. It may not be going where it needs to go at dispatch, but the process exists.

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*

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Engineer Nassar did not have an update. It did seem to drain slow, perhaps there was a blockage.

- Stormwater Facilities Shared with the County of Atlantic – *Update if available from Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar did not have an update; he was still waiting for the County.

- Potential Acquisition of Fire Truck – *Bid Specifications Being Reviewed by CFO / QPA*

CFO Stollenwerk was still reviewing the specifications.

- Potential Public Auction of City Owned Property Block 66 Lot 11 – *on Hold*

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities
- Updated Fire Manual – *Requested by Councilman Leeds*

Councilman Leeds reported that the Fire Department had been trying to get the Fire Manual updated for years; Chief Cummings has asked Councilman Notaro and Councilman Leeds to bring it to Council and see if we can get it approved.

Council President Polistina asked Council to read it, and we can get it on the agenda.

Councilman Leeds noted that he did read the entire manual.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina began to review the Regular Meeting agenda, then went back to the Sustainable Communities Grant.

- Sustainable Communities Grant Program – *Requested by Councilman Dewees*

Councilman Dewees moved to the Sustainable Communities Grant program, he thanked Deputy Clerk Campbell for bringing to his attention, it was a park-specific grant to rehab the fireplace.

Councilman Smith announced that he received an email from local resident who lives near the golf course, Mr. Steve Downey. He read Mr. Downey's letter, expressing complaints about early noise from the golf course maintenance activities, including mowing and blowing, well before what is allowed by ordinance.

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Solicitor Facenda indicated that our code is 8am for power lawn equipment; it is a Code Enforcement issue, or Mr. Downey can sign a complaint.

Councilwoman Bucci mentioned that last month Barbara Madden asked the Council to consider a resolution in support of Ukraine; also, Senator Polistina had full-size Ukrainian flags, for free. Buena had shared their resolution.

Solicitor Facenda asked if Council wanted him to do anything?

Council President Polistina confirmed we can have it on the next agenda.

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

Council President Polistina asked if anyone wanted anything pulled from the consent agenda?

Councilman Leeds requested Resolutions 114 and 115 be voted separately.

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.

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

At 6:38pm, on a motion of Councilman Notaro, seconded by Councilman Leeds, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk