

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JUNE 9, 2026**

At 6:00pm this meeting was called to order by Deputy Municipal Clerk, Shannon Campbell. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 10, 2026, and in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau. He acknowledged the passing of Councilman Polistina's mother, Rita, and offered condolences to the family.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Kern; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Polistina; Councilman Smith; Council President Bucci.

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Nassar, and Chief Pollak were also present.

Council President Bucci moved to the presentations and deferred to Councilwoman Kern.

6:00PM – PRESENTATIONS

MAINLAND CREW – GIRLS JUNIOR COX FOUR CHAMPIONS

Councilwoman Kern welcomed all including the Mainland Regional High School JV Crew team. She announced the races they won this past season including the Atlantic County Championships, Garden State Championships, and, the Philadelphia Championship. The team traveled to nationals in Tennessee and came in 4th in the country. They had an outstanding season, she congratulated all. Councilwoman Kern read the following certificate that was presented to each crew member and coach:

**“MAINLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS JUNIOR COX FOUR CHAMPIONS
STOTESBURY REGATTA**

In recognition of outstanding achievement during the 2025-2026 crew season, the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Northfield, NJ would like to congratulate Coach Matt Mohnack, Coach Stephanie Hanlin-Hale, and the Mainland Regional High School Girls Junior Varsity Crew Team.

Patricia Casey
Helena Evinski

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Taylor Funk
Olivia Herbert
Skylar Large”

Coach Matt Mohnack thanked the Mayor and Council noting it was a long season, the girls stepped up and would be back next year, he congratulated the team.

Council President Bucci announced the golf team was unable to make it tonight and would be recognized at a later date.

At 6:06pm on motions properly made and seconded, Council took a brief recess.

At 6:07pm Council resumed the meeting.

MAINLAND CO-ED GOLF – NJSIAA 2025-2026 STATE CHAMPIONS

Council President Bucci announced the golf team was unable to make it tonight and would be recognized at a later date.

Council President Bucci moved to committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Polistina – Finance and Collections; Library; Municipal Alliance; Senior Citizens; Affordable Housing

Councilman Polistina announced the next senior lunch the was scheduled for June 18th at 1pm at the Library. He reported on the annual audit, retired CFO Stollenwerk left behind a good legacy, we were in good financial position, there were no recommendations or findings that needed to be addressed. The auditors noted several interlocal agreements that represent savings for the City, Council would continue to review for savings. The same with fees we collect, we may need to review ordinances as costs arise. All members received a copy via email and it is on the city website.

Councilman Polistina read the following prepared statement regarding the proposals for crossing guards:

“Earlier this year, City officials began exploring the internal operations and costs associated with directly employing Crossing Guards. City Council has an obligation to ensure that it is financially and operationally responsible to the citizens of Northfield and gathering information to fulfill that obligation is part of Council’s job. At the March 24, 2026 council meeting, we had a closed session discussion to determine whether there was any interest in gathering additional information. Before

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that meeting, the City's labor counsel did discuss this with the GWU President.

Since that time, the City has continued to explore its options, however, at this time, no action is being taken. The City is aware of its obligations to work with the Union and will continue to do so. An executive session is scheduled for next Council meeting to provide for further discussion.

The City values the job that the crossing guards do to serve the children of the community and any decision regarding a change will balance all interests.

Thank you."

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

Councilman Dewees met with Deputy Clerk Campbell, Superintendent Boyd, and Sean Smith regarding the disc golf course at Birch Grove. They went over some housekeeping items as well as naming the golf course, he stated he would bring that up during new business.

Councilwoman Kern – Inspections, Housing/Zoning; Northfield Sports (FAN); Library; Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Kern, regarding the Mainland Golf Team, they were unavailable tonight, they are State of New Jersey Golf Team champs, they were welcome to come to another meeting. Graduation is Friday the 19th at 6:30pm, the next Library meeting is this Thursday, FAN also has a meeting scheduled for Thursday night.

Councilwoman Bucci – Insurance and Safety; Planning Board; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Council President Bucci attended the Hooked-on Fishing event at Birch Grove Park on Saturday that was put on by the Municipal Alliance, there were 44 participants, the weather was beautiful, she thanked Alliance Coordinator Shannon Campbell, our Police and Fire Departments as well. It was a fun day.

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

Councilman Smith, regarding Northfield Community School, Graduation is scheduled for June 23rd at 5pm, our meeting is at 6pm, he wished the students well and announced he may be late or miss our meeting; his daughter is graduating that night. He also reminded residents to lock their cars, there have been break ins in his neighborhood of unlocked cars.

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Councilwoman Carfagno - Fire Department / EMS; Technology / MRHS Channel;
Cultural Committee / Veteran Liaison

Councilwoman Carfagno read fire calls for May, their monthly training was underway, the Fire Department was conducting training on new extrication equipment. There is a resolution on the agenda tonight for a grant for an exhaust vent. The Cultural Committee would be meeting June 13th, August in Northfield is Veterans month, she invited all Northfield Veterans to the August 11th meeting to be honored by Council. Regarding technology, Council received an email that taping of meetings would discontinue due to funding at the end of the school year.

Councilman Notaro – Sanitary Sewer Operations

Councilman Notaro thanked OEM Coordinator Tim Joo for the grant resolutions on the agenda tonight for infrastructure repair. He provided an update on the Northfield Plaza street light, he spoke with Shayla Salter from Atlantic City Electric, she was still gathering information, he would follow up with her next week.

Mayor Chau asked if Mr. McGilley provide information from the company that did the previous repair?

Deputy Clerk Campbell replied her office had not received any information from him.

Councilman Notaro recalled Deputy Clerk Campbell spoke with someone regarding the lights.

Deputy Clerk Campbell explained she met with Bob Bishop, he did search his title records and found that the lights were not a part of the development when it was built. The lights would have been installed at a later date.

Councilman Dewees added, he had a large map of the area as well.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Regulations regarding Keeping of Chickens – *Councilwoman Carfagno, Councilman Notaro*

No update.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

- Changes to Road Opening Ordinance Fees – *will be adopted in 2026*

No update.

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- Potential Ordinance to Restrict Parking on Zion Road between Tilton and the Bike Path

Solicitor Facenda reported he has done some research on the issue. First, he wanted to introduce Gina Nassar, she is an attorney working in his office. They should have more information later this week; being a County road, Council could suggest that it be made no parking, but we need the County's consent. He felt the City should do a study to determine if there are traffic or safety concerns and what could be done to fix those concerns and present it to the County and have them present their consent.

He deferred to Engineer Nassar.

Engineer Nassar replied the Police Department would have to determine if there was a parking problem. A traffic study would not determine if there was a problem with parking. The width of the road would determine whether or not you can have no parking.

Councilman Dewees felt the best place to start was with the County Engineer.

Mayor Chau noted that his recommendation was no parking on both sides.

Solicitor Facenda confirmed, based on the roadway width, if 28' or greater you have to permit parking on one side. He suggested Engineer Nassar start with reaching out to the County and see what they want to consider.

All members present agreed to allow Engineer Nami to reach out to the County Engineer for guidance.

Chief Pollak added that there have been no accidents, to his knowledge, just complaints from residents.

Councilwoman Carfagno noted it was hard to see passed parked vehicles at night; parking was a problem.

Engineer Nassar would report at the next meeting.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Naming of the Disc Golf Course at Birch Grove Park – *Councilman Dewees*

Councilman Dewees, as he mentioned earlier, met with Sean Smith, he recommended naming the disc golf course "The Brickyard", he asked for Council's thoughts, if agreed, he would pass that along. In the near future they would have a grand opening with the official naming.

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Councilman Smith, gave some background, Birch Grove was home of Somers Brick Company back in the early 1900's and through the depression. The rain filled in the holes; bricks are still found throughout the park.

Councilman Dewees presented Council with a sticker of the logo for the course. He noted the amount of work done by volunteers and by Public Works.

Council President Bucci took a straw poll vote, all members were in favor of naming the disc golf "The Brickyard".

- Increase of Rental Registration and Inspection Fees – *Councilwoman Kern, Councilman Dewees*

Councilwoman Kern explained she was approached by the Inspections Office. Our rental inspection and registration fees haven't increased since 2006 or 2009, Ms Caramma suggested raising the fees, Councilwoman Kern and Councilman Dewees agreed to raise the fees to \$85.00 each. She noted the permitting process will be going digital in 2027, this increase would to offset the cost of the program for the construction office, we would need to add to the budget next year. If all members were in favor, she would like it on the next agenda.

Council President Bucci took a straw poll vote, all members present were in favor of raising the fees.

Councilwoman Kern noted it would not affect those already registered for this year.

Council President Bucci moved to the regular meeting agenda.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Bucci asked all to take out their Regular Meeting agenda. Before she made any assignments, she asked were there any resolutions that anyone had questions about or would like to discuss?

There were no questions or comments.

Council President Bucci made the assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION / FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Bucci opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to comment on any subject, she asked that all persons state their name and city of residence for the record and observe the five-minute limit per speaker.

Janice Davis, Supervisor of the Crossing Guards – stated she found out there could

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be a possible change as to who would be employing the crossing guards. They were not advised by Council, the Police or their Union. They found out by accident. One of the guards suggested they start a petition. They do not think it's in the best interest of the community, the children or the guards. It would cost more money, the Chief said they may break even, she did not think that's possible. She read from a letter written by David Tucker, GWU President, he stated "that he received the bids from the vendors for the crossing guard services", Mrs. Davis noted that she sent them to him, "the cost was higher than under the GWU contract, the employer must demonstrate they would save money or prove better service. He expects no further activity on this matter, if the City takes any further action, the GWU would file an injunction if this moved forward" according to Mrs. Davis the letter was sent to Nicole Curio. She understood the Chief has an agenda and would like to get accreditations and a drone program, but not at the expense of the crossing guards. The guards were very dedicated, the Chief and Police Department may be concerned – they had to work additional hours during covid, it was hard to attract guards, conditions can be horrendous.

Council President Bucci thanked Mrs. Davis and noted her appreciation for her coming and added that there has been no decision made.

Solicitor Facenda reiterated that Council was investigating, part of that process included hearing from the Crossing Guards, he noted their input was important. He advised that all of Council appreciated what they do and that Council did not intend to make a decision without the input of the guards, he assured Mrs. Davis that our Labor Law Attorney did in fact reach out to the union representative before the March meeting.

Mrs. Davis asked if they would be notified if there would be a vote.

Solicitor Facenda noted they should monitor the agenda; he didn't know who Council would notify other than the union rep. He again commented that Council was still in the investigative process as Councilman Polistina's earlier statement said. Council has the obligation to make sure the policy and procedures and items in place are the best.

Mrs. Davis was afraid since it was the end of year, they wouldn't know what was going on.

Solicitor Facenda stated everything this Council considers is on an agenda and they are online or at City Hall.

Mark Doherty, Northfield – recalled a number of years ago the republican party put out a campaign "Northfield, the Great American Hometown" bumper sticker, he proudly put that on his car. This was a great place, he has lived coast to coast, this is a jewel, a fantastic town, a great place to raise a family, we have a fantastic Police

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Department, they are dedicated and well trained, our emergency services are worth paying for. He asked Council to please consider this is a community, the crossing guards were valuable, they look out for our kids, the guards know each kid by name, please don't alter what makes our community a great place to raise a family.

John Holleran, Northfield – stated the last time Northfield got rid of something and went out to bid it was for EMS and they lied about response times. A new supervising company can't promise they would all work in Northfield.

Mary Canesi, Northfield – addressed Council, she was familiar with the process when the Council opts to explore outsourcing a service, she was not sure where the wheels fell of the bus, but, guaranteed that this Council did not do anything without notifying the union representative.

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

At 6:46pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Campbell, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk