

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION**  
**JUNE 15, 2021**

At 6:04pm 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 Executive Order of the Governor of the State of NJ No. 243, this meeting will be held in-person and as a remote public meeting (live-streamed) using Zoom conferencing service. Due to continued 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 June 15, 2021 at [www.cityofnorthfield.org](http://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 June 15, 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/82866814195> or by telephone using one tap mobile +16465588656,,82866814195# or direct dial +1 646 558 8656 using Meeting ID: 828 6681 4195. 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](mailto: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 June 15, 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

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
JUNE 15, 2021**

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 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 Notaro; Councilman Perri; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina.

**Absent:** Mayor Chau\*

*\*Mayor Chau arrived at 6:08pm.*

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Perri reported there was a lot road work in progress. He has had some correspondence from Seniors regarding a reorganization date to meet. Last month's sewer counts were down a bit; they were coming back in line.

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

Councilman Utts reported the Planning Board heard an application from a day care center, looking to set up at Northfield Plaza. It looked like a good addition to our town.

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

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION**  
**JUNE 15, 2021**

Councilman Notaro reported the Cultural Committee was working very hard on the 4th of July event, he announced the June 26<sup>th</sup> presentation of annual awards for 1<sup>st</sup> baby (etc.), followed by a performance by ‘Duck and Cover Band’. FAN was having a fundraiser coming up at Vagabond. The Connolly Mile was also on 4<sup>th</sup> of July, it was also a FAN fundraiser. He would wait to report on the Fire Department under new business.

Councilman Notaro read the following EMS report: TriCare had a total of 142 dispatches, 128 calls with patients, 98 transports, 16 mutual aid calls to Egg Harbor Township and administered zero Narcan.

Councilman Notaro added that Sunday, Inspira, our new EMS vendor, started at 7am. The report was that they had a great day and attended a local parade celebration for Tommy McGowan, who had been accepted to West Point.

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

Councilman Dewees gave an update on the museum. The electrical outlets at the bandstand have been repaired and the issue with the phone has been resolved. We are doing some minor patch repairs to sheetrock that was damaged. Aubrey Hiers, Library Director, questioned internet access at park center, he was still working on it; he believed a low hanging wire may have caused interference. The restrooms at park center were open between 8am and 7pm. He thanked the Police Department for helping with that.

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

Councilman Smith, regarding the court situation, said we had spoken at the last meeting about court. Linwood tabled their resolution to go to Hamilton last week. The legislation was moving forward, he would defer to Mayor Chau for commentary. The full season of baseball and softball was played, there were several championships, he congratulated all. Northfield Community School Graduation was scheduled for tomorrow. He did not receive an invitation; he did not know if anyone else did.

Mayor Chau believed they were limiting seats; he did not receive any formal invitation.

**Councilwoman Madden** – Insurance and Safety; Library; Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden reported Mainland Regional High School had their board meeting Monday, they announced special recognition for 42 students as well as the Girls Swim Team, and Golf Team, and Mr. Medica and Mr. Cox, long time Board of

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION**  
**JUNE 15, 2021**

Education members. The April and May students of the month were announced as well: Grade 9 – Joey Russo; Grader 10 – Jaxson Mariano; Grade 11 – Nishita Chowdhury and Vanessa Zapata; Grade 12 – Annika Asuncion and Madeline Falk. The Northfield Library had a board meeting last week; they adopted a Resolution in favor of supporting the preservation of the library as a municipal library and the library agreement between the City and the Library. The Board was asking that the Council entertain a resolution in support of the library in the future.

**Council President Polistina** – Finance and Collections; Municipal Alliance

Council President Polistina reported he received more information on the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. \$843,593 is Northfield's allotment. We were still trying to get clarity on how it could be used, we do know it cannot be used to offset tax burden, with first application for use in the general fund in 2022. It served to replace lost revenue due to the Corona virus. He hoped we could use it wisely over the next two years.

Council President Polistina moved to the ongoing business.

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

- Zion Road Pump Station Easement – *Subdivision Plan Pending*

Engineer Nassar reported the pump station plan would be ready in July for submission to the Planning Board.

Solicitor Facenda added that he has kept the attorney for the land owner up to date; he seemed fine.

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

Engineer Nassar reported that the State was refusing to share in the cost and adding levels of bureaucracy. Engineer Nassar was ready to send a letter that we will handle the plans and share the cost of the improvements.

Council President Polistina asked Councilman Perri if he would be involved?

Councilman Perri replied, yes.

Council President Polistina asked Engineer Nassar to include him as well.

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

No update from the Committee.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION**  
**JUNE 15, 2021**

- Shared County Court – *Update from Mayor Chau*

Mayor Chau reported the only update, as Councilman Smith pointed out, was that the legislation has passed the Assembly and has moved to Senate, where it has the full support of the Senate President. The hope was for it to pass before business was concluded for the summer. He asked all to keep in mind as we go along, the savings were fluid, based upon the number of participating municipalities. The current projections were based on 10 municipalities.

Council President Polistina noted that we do have on the agenda to pass that, as there was a deadline to join the program.

Councilman Perri added that there was language that if revenue did not meet our projections, we would be billed, because they have an operating account that has to be made whole. He did not anticipate seeing that in there. He referred to section D.

Mayor Chau replied that he would contact Mr. Ferguson at the County with Councilman Perri's concern.

Councilman Perri replied, hopefully we will reach our goal, but if not, the budget would have to be made up from the users.

Councilman Smith pointed out that if we do meet that number, we could get money back.

Solicitor Facenda noted that attached to the agreement was exhibit A; we've all seen those numbers. He asked if those numbers were provided by our court?

Mayor Chau stated they were provided by our CFO.

Solicitor Facenda added, right now we're paying Linwood \$147,000.00; the contribution to Hamilton would have been \$80,000.00? He was comforted by the fact that CFO Stollenwerk had reviewed these numbers, and as long as they are accurate.

Councilman Smith clarified the agreement with Hamilton was \$80,000.00 and then a revenue split.

Solicitor Facenda stated there were many blanks in the agreement; it was not a complete agreement. He did not know if it was Council's intention to approve this agreement tonight. As Mayor Chau alluded, these figures were fluid. Solicitor Facenda recommended in the resolution we indicate a willingness to participate but that final agreement was subject to review by the solicitor. He felt more details may be needed before we can approve it with finality.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
JUNE 15, 2021**

Councilman Perri added we did not have full approval as of yet from the State Legislature.

Solicitor Facenda agreed; the County wanted assurance that we were considering this and would entertain it, but he had pause with regard to an agreement not yet final at the State level, and due to lack of finality in the terms of the agreement.

Council President Polistina noted the deadline from the County for municipalities to opt in was June 18th.

Solicitor Facenda asked had Linwood opted in?

Council President Polistina replied no, but there was talk that they would at their next meeting.

Solicitor Facenda confirmed they would not make the June 18<sup>th</sup> deadline either; we do have a contractual obligation to give them notice. He suggested a possible special meeting.

Council President Polistina advised that Linwood's next meeting was June 23rd; perhaps a special meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>?

Councilwoman Madden asked what was the impact of our missing the deadline?

Council President Polistina stated Linwood was Lead in an agreement we have with them for court.

Solicitor Facenda, to Councilwoman Madden's point, explained the significance of the terms of the resolution and agreement. He asked if we didn't do a resolution of support previously?

Clerk Canesi replied, yes, we supported the feasibility study.

Mayor Chau recommended accepting Solicitor Facenda's advice.

Councilman Smith suggested that Mayor Chau notify the County, we were interested.

Solicitor Facenda suggested that letter include a copy of the former resolution.

Council President Polistina confirmed Council would not be voting on Resolution 110-2021 tonight.

- Sump Pumps discharging into Storm Drains – *Update*

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION**  
**JUNE 15, 2021**

Council President Polistina asked if there was an update on the sump pump issues? Or had weather taken care of that?

Councilman Perri advised he had spoken with an expert; the detention and retention should be retained on site in a drain field or in a system that can recharge it to the ground. There should be specifications and plans. Each home would have unique design. We didn't have it in our Land Use Ordinance or in our City Code.

Council President Polistina confirmed there was nothing in our Code preventing it now, or requiring that it be kept on property?

Councilman Perri replied no, only for stormwater.

Council President Polistina confirmed, but not for sump pumps.

Councilman Dewees stated as an example: if you were still allowed to put a septic system in, in Northfield, you would have to show plans.

Councilman Perri added it gets complicated because you have to include it in your Land Use Ordinance.

Council President Polistina asked would current people would be grandfathered in?

Councilman Perri replied, yes.

Councilman Utts added, unless they sold the home.

Solicitor Facenda replied he was not sure if that was accurate; pre-existing non-conforming use may transfer with the land. We could try.

- 2021 Local Road Program – *Update from Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar announced he emailed out a list of roads that need construction and resurfacing, some will be full width and some half. He was looking for Council's feedback.

Council President Polistina had no additions or deletions; he asked did anyone else?

Councilman Perri stated he had not had a chance to look at them all; he asked did Engineer Nassar want to run it to the next meeting to give everyone a chance to look at it?

Engineer Nassar suggested that any other roads known to the Council be added as well.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
JUNE 15, 2021**

Councilman Notaro asked for the timeline?

Engineer Nassar replied, early next year.

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

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Council President Polistina moved to New Grand Opportunities.

Mayor Chau sent an email to Council regarding Green Acres.

Engineer Nassar explained Green Acres restrictions and requirements associated with Green Acres funds.

- Stormwater Facilities Shared with the County of Atlantic – *Requested by Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar advised he received a call from County Engineer, Mark Shourds. Along Shore Road and adjoining streets there were stormwater systems that were combined systems between the City and the County, dating back to the 1930's. He gave the example of Country Club Acres, it took water from Shore Road, as did Fifield Avenue. The County suggested an agreement between the parties for the maintenance of the combined systems. Engineer Nassar felt it was to our benefit to have an agreement, if there were issues it caused flooding. Technically, we can't work on a County system, this would define what we were responsible for and what the County was responsible for.

Councilman Perri felt the biggest was between Jackson and Fairbanks on Shore Road and down to the bay. Since we use it, they want us to tie in to the interlocal agreement. He suggested the County present us with a proposed agreement.

Engineer Nassar replied, they would, they want us to agree to move forward.

Councilman Perri was in favor of it.

Council President Polistina agreed. He asked if anyone from Council was opposed? There was no response.

- DRAFT of Fee Ordinance for Bandstand Use – *Requested by Cultural Committee*

Councilman Notaro announced the Cultural Committee was looking to charge a fee; it's all right here.



**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION**  
**JUNE 15, 2021**

Councilwoman Madden noted it was \$50.00 for a 3-hour period; do they tack on additional time if it's longer?

Solicitor Facenda pointed out that only underlined sections were changing; anything else is existing. He had comments he would give to Clerk Canesi tomorrow.

Council President Polistina asked if there were any other comments? We could have for introduction at our next meeting.

- Potential 2021 Acquisition of Fire Truck

Council President Polistina moved to discussion of a fire truck; the topic came up during capital discussions last year.

Councilman Notaro stated this came up after the budget discussions this year; now was the time to start thinking about it. It was a request from our Volunteer Fire Department. They wanted some kind of a commitment to proceed with the bid specifications, etc.

Council President Polistina replied it was quite an undertaking to put them together; if they do it and we don't commit, they start from scratch.

Mayor Chau added it takes a full year to draw up the specs, do visitations, etc. Our ladder truck was a used vehicle, it was in breakdown-maintenance. Someone had mentioned mutual aid, but we need to have an apparatus that is ready and fit.

Councilman Notaro noted, like anything else it's best to have their own equipment; these guys were Northfield taxpayers too.

Council President Polistina asked was it possible with the mutual aid aspect of it, for example, an issue at Cresson Hill, was there a way to speed up the mutual aid process by having, for example, Linwood called first?

Mayor Chau felt we couldn't ask a municipality to be on standby. Linwood has a ladder truck but they don't have a full time Fire Department.

Councilman Notaro stated the ladder truck wasn't just for high rises, there were big homes in Sutton Woods. We were here to provide public safety. He supported the purchase.

Mayor Chau added the ladder truck also provides a Telesquirt. It allowed shooting of water from the top of the truck.

Councilwoman Madden was absolutely in support of adding a fire truck to next year's budget. We now have high rises.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION**  
**JUNE 15, 2021**

Mayor Chau stated this is a big investment, a 20-25 plus-year investment.

Council President Polistina noted this was a forward-looking proposal; it would not be delivered until 2023.

Councilman Smith asked was the current ladder truck purchased used?

Eric Shenkus, 11 Jack Sloan Court, addressed Council. He was the Assistant Chief of Fire Department. The aerial boom was purchased in 1973, it was remounted on a newer chassis in 1999. There was 48 years in on the overall apparatus, 22 on the chassis.

Councilman Smith remembered sticker shock on the last truck. He understood the arguments. He asked have we or can we look at used vehicles; this one lasted 40 years, if you maintain it, and, you do an outstanding job of doing that.

Assistant Chief Shenkus replied. There was a used market; the Department had discussed it and it would be up to the Council. They have an equipment replacement cycle of seven years, last time they approached the City was in 2014, and before that 2007. The Department was getting 28 years out of each truck as it existed now. We had to consider cost and return on used. There were quite a few around the 20-year mark; this was because a lot of municipalities were looking to get a lot of life out of the truck. They could be used at six or ten years, but you have to look at the hours on the engine, mileage, usage, etc. there were a lot of variables. Suppose they find something that meets the requirements and it's 20 years old, and they can get another eight years out of it. You would have to replace the equipment more frequently; this did not afford savings to the town. The last truck was less than half a million, because they do not seek out the Cadillac versions.

Councilman Notaro felt we had to consider the reason a used vehicle is on the market; they become a nuisance.

Councilman Smith felt there could be a Company that no longer existed.

Assistant Chief Shenkus replied that Councilman Smith's example was few and far between. The town needed a 100' aerial device given the exposures they were charged with protecting.

Councilwoman Madden did not have confidence in a used vehicle for a ladder truck.

Eric Shenkus added that new models provide enhanced safety for operators of the trucks as well. Aerial trucks were better for responding to fires where solar power was present; more than 500 homes in Northfield now have solar. He thanked Council for their time.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION**  
**JUNE 15, 2021**

Councilman Perri had concerns in the past about the warranty and the term of the equipment. He felt the administration should ok a tentative agreement to move forward to allow them to start the specs. He was not sure why it wasn't a generic piece of equipment, why you have to do all that spec-ing, but sure there was a reason for it.

Council President Polistina took a straw poll; all members present were in favor. He stated that was our commitment to move forward with it to spec it out, Council will move forward with it during the next capital cycle. He thanked them for their service.

Councilman Dewees announced a bequest to the City of funds from the estate of Elliott Howard Krevens. We were notified by the Trustee of the Estate of Elliott Howard Krevens of the existence of the Elliott Howard Krevens Foundation, which was established in 2012, and which provided for financial support from Mr. Krevens' estate to various groups and organizations, including Birch Grove Park.

The Foundation remained unfunded until Mr. Krevens' death in 2018, and the estate was only recently settled. There is currently around \$920,000 in the Trust Account, 5% of which was bequeathed to Birch Grove Park, which is a total of 46,000.

The entire sum will not be distributed in one lump sum, and instead, we have been advised, as have all beneficiaries of the Trust, that we will receive funds on an annual basis, in the amount of 5% per year (\$2,300) for the life of the Trust.

He read from Mr. Krevens' obituary: Ventnor, NJ Longtime resident. Age 79. Beloved son of the late Joseph and Lillian Krevens. Cherished longtime friend of Jini Virtue Errichetti and her family as well as a dear friend to many others. Elliott was a 1959 graduate of Atlantic City High School. He held many jobs during his life, including manager of a pool deck, parking lot and ice cream stand. Elliott was known to those who loved him as an eccentric gentleman who always wore shorts no matter what the weather, and for his many plants and flowers that adorned his home, both inside and out. He loved his cats. Elliott was very generous and donated to many charities throughout his life."

Councilman Dewees advised we would send a letter to the family thanking them for the donation.

Council President Polistina reiterated that municipal court will not be included in tonight's vote. In regard to cannabis, we had two ordinances prepared, because of a deadline with the State. Either to approve certain classes of licenses, or to prohibit them. Certain uncertainties exist with the State, we have to vote on one tonight. It had been voted on in the State we would be dealing with it whether we approve it or not. If we opt out now, we would have the time to find out what the State was doing. He needed to know which we would be putting on tonight's agenda.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION**  
**JUNE 15, 2021**

Councilman Utts was in favor of the opt in; there was a limited number of licenses available, if there were businesses in our town, we should give them as much lead time as possible. By opting in later, licenses may not be available.

Councilwoman Madden agreed with Councilman Utts.

Solicitor Facenda referred to instructions to create a 500' buffer in the permitted zone, this was the area where licenses would be permitted inside the RC zone. He did not know if this is what the Council intended, with regard to the geographical limitation.

Councilman Dewees felt it should be amended.

Council President Polistina asked, straight RC zone, with no limitations?

Councilman Dewees replied, yes. He asked if conversations with the Police Department had occurred.

Council President Polistina stated he did speak with Chief Newman.

Chief Newman, addressed Council. He was not in favor of this at all, his own personal reasons aside, we don't know what is coming down from Trenton. For him as Chief, it was putting the cart before the horse. With a liquor store or movie theater you know what you are getting, with this, we literally don't know what we don't know. He urged caution on behalf of the governing body.

Mayor Chau asked Chief Newman if he knew what other towns were doing?

Chief Newman replied, only what he's read in the paper. He would hate to see us locked in to something we can't change.

Solicitor Facenda advised Council they could opt out tonight, and introduce an ordinance next month opting back in, the reverse was not correct. If you do nothing, you will be considered to have opted in, all 6 licenses. If there are any reservations, opt out, and you can opt back in when you gain more clarity. Once you opt out, you can opt back in at any time.

Councilman Notaro confirmed we were excluding classes 1 and 2.

Solicitor Facenda read from the ordinance; yes.

Councilman Notaro noted this will be everywhere whether we like it or not. If we are doing this, he felt 1 and 2 should be a part of it.

Councilman Utts felt by opting out, you could displace a business.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION**  
**JUNE 15, 2021**

Councilwoman Madden was in favor of opting in.

Chief Newman urged Council to get the facts, he was not saying don't do it, just get the facts.

Councilman Smith went on record again, he did not want it in our town. The money doesn't matter to him. He noted the Municipal Alliance Ordinance on the agenda. The state could legalize prostitution but he doesn't want a brothel in our town.

Councilwoman Madden stressed that voters want this.

Councilman Notaro clarified those voters voted to decriminalized marijuana, not to have it in Northfield.

Solicitor Facenda wanted to make sure Council was clear. Unless the community formally opts out of some or all of the above types of recreational cannabis businesses by adopting an "opt out" ordinance by August 21, 2021 it will be deemed to have opted in for same and locked in for a period of five years. During the five-year period the community cannot reverse its "opt in" status and if a recreational cannabis business opens it cannot be legislated out after the five years. On the other hand, communities that opt out of certain cannabis business activity may reverse that decision at any time by adopting a revised ordinance.

Councilman Perri, looking at it from a business standpoint, stated the business of government regulates what you can and can't do; it makes it legal. The people doing the sales now are not regulated. As a business person, he looked at where taxes go. We have liquor taxes, mercantile taxes. It would be convenient to our residents and it would be a certified product. They wouldn't have to go to another town. The billion-dollar cannabis industry was cutting edge. This was for people 21 and above and it had to be enforced. Education is the way to go, teach the children when they are young to stay away from drugs and alcohol. We make money as the business of government, he looked at it as an opportunity for tax relief. He would hate to forgo hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax dollars. He was in opting in.

Councilman Dewees had nothing to add.

Councilman Notaro urged that we include classes one and two.

Councilman Perri suggested a 250' buffer.

Councilman Smith wanted a 1000' buffer.

Solicitor Facenda stated Council could vote on Ordinance 7, if it passed, we didn't need ordinance 8.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
JUNE 15, 2021**

Clerk Canesi explained the process of referring the Ordinance to the Planning Board. We did suggest that we would provide an advisory copy; they have 35 days to consider, if they make recommendations for amendments that the Council is going to accept, and the amendments substantially change the ordinance, we would have to readvertise the public hearing, which would affect the timeline.

Councilman Perri asked for clarification on the zoning map, and Birch Grove Park being in the R1 zone.

Solicitor Facenda advised that was the direction he was given; Birch Grove Park is technically a residential zone. He did not know that it could ever be developed. He could craft language if Council desired to exclude Birch Grove Park because it was unlikely it would ever be developed as a residential site.

Councilman Perri stated the committee recommended the standard development setback, or 100'.

Councilman Dewees added or nothing at all.

Councilman Perri recommended the standard setback, he believes it was 25-30', no buffer larger than that from an R1 district.

Clerk Canesi asked about Council's desire to exclude on-premises consumption.

Councilman Perri felt it should be sales only.

Solicitor Facenda, based on discussion between he and Councilman Perri, noted the setbacks in the current ordinance for the zone should apply.

Solicitor Facenda read the changes to ordinance into the record. Section 215-158A (26) removed "provided same are not within 500' of any residential zoning district", 215-158A (26) c. added "but not to be consumed on premises".

Solicitor Facenda asked about inclusion of classes one and two?

Councilman Utts stated there were things associated with grow houses and processing; he didn't know if we wanted that.

Solicitor Facenda confirmed classes three, four, five and six, with no buffer. Regarding class five, he added not to be consumed on the premises.

**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda, and made the agenda assignments. He reminded all that Resolution 110-2021 would be excluded as

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
JUNE 15, 2021**

it would not be voted on this evening. Resolution 115-2021 would not be part of the consent agenda; it would be voted on after the executive session.

**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.

Heather Mellon, 2509 Herbert Drive, thanked Mayor Chau for the very nice Memorial service at Veterans Park, it was a nice turnout for the Boy Scouts. It was sad in a way, our Boy Scout Troop was dwindling, and new scouts would be going to Somers Point. The troop was having difficulty finding someone to replace Don Edwards. She was sad because of the marijuana thing. She hoped Council talked to the people in their district; as a Crossing Guard she talks to a lot of people and she has been asking people. They are not against marijuana but they don't want it in their town. She wondered if they were going to change the curriculum in schools; how were they are going to present this? Council should wait to see how other towns are doing and then make a decision.

Steve Goldstein, 501 Maple Avenue, speaking via Zoom, said the paving in front of his house was done, he thanked Councilman Dewees and Councilman Perri and Engineer Nassar.

Clerk Canesi reads the following letter from Alice Foreman, 814 First Street, received too late to be read at the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting:

“Dear City Council: I am a 49 year resident of Northfield who has had the privilege of raising five children here and now 11 of my 16 grandchildren are being raised in Northfield. The Foreman Family surely loves the "Gateway to the Shore" that Northfield is.

This past year has truly stretched the resolve of many as we struggled with the ramifications of the pandemic. Kudos to the Northfield School District that did what few school districts in New Jersey did. Under the leadership of Mr. Pete Bretones and the input of dedicated teachers and remarkable parents, the school was able to provide an in person education to all who were able to take advantage of it and a virtual education to those who had health concerns. The school is back to full time sessions and all should be congratulated. Luckily for many of the children during the summer of 2020 they were able to find the silver lining in the dark cloud of the pandemic at the beach, at the baseball field (not Northfield's) and at the basketball courts in Margate. For this grandmother and sports lover it was joyful to watch kids enjoy the fresh air and exhale with a sense of freedom. But Birch Grove Park was silent until the end of summer when the Cheerleaders and football players from 6 to 14 took to the fields. The incredible FAN Board was finding a way to provide a normal fall in the midst of anxiety.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION**  
**JUNE 15, 2021**

Tents, refreshment stand, music, and cheer squads transformed the football field of Birch Grove Park into a sea of happiness. The fall rains actually did transform the field into a sea. Thank you to City Council for providing a band aid to the problem with new sod. The clay of the historic brick yard that preceded Birch Grove was good for making bricks but not for draining off excess water. FAN has an ambitious plan that I think could work. They have proven their dedication to finding a way to provide an excellent experience for young people and have harnessed lots of positive energy to do so as well as to expand opportunities for more.

An indoor basketball program wasn't able to be run this year in Northfield. Angelo De Rosa tried but indoor activities were not going to work during the pandemic. This led to realizing that Northfield didn't have outdoor basketball courts. Birch Grove could offer this. Outdoor clinics, instruction, three on three all could take place at Birch Grove. Little ones could be on the swings and see saw and bigger ones could be bouncing the ball and shooting hoops. And at the same time, all could take advantage of the joy of the park.

The school has utilized the park in their curriculum and end of year field days. The hiking trails have become a site for Easter egg hunts and the snack bar could be reinvigorated. The FAN Board is truly on to something and with the help of the City Council in grant writing our Gateway to the Shore will become even better.

As an educator for 32 years and the wife of an educator and the parent of 3 educators and in law of 3 more, I always tried to find a way to say yes. "No" is always the easiest way, but with a little out of the box thinking, a yes can be found. I hope you can find the Yes to the FAN request.

Sincerely,  
Alice Foreman”

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

At 8:17pm, on a motion of Councilman Utts, seconded by Councilman Dewees, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk