

CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JUNE 23, 2026

At 6:01pm 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 Council President Pro Tempore Dewees.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilman Smith, Mayor Chau*

**Mayor Chau was absent during roll call, he arrived around 6:12pm.*

Solicitor Facenda, Associate Gina Nassar, Engineer Nassar, and Lt. Dimarco, on behalf of Chief Pollak, were also present.

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

PRESENTATIONS

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

Councilwoman Kern, called forward Coach Andre Clements for the golf team and read the following certificate of award:

**“MAINLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
2026 CO-ED GOLF TEAM**

In recognition of outstanding achievement during the 2025-2026 golf season, the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Northfield, NJ would like to congratulate Coach Andre Clements, Coach Alex Weidman, the Mainland Regional High School Co-Ed Golf Team, NJSIAA 2025-2026 Boys Golf State Champions.

Matthew Barnabei
Matthew Borini
PJ Foley
George Frangias
Brett Heist

Scarlet Bilotta
Cole Bruno
Daniel Foreman
Merrick Funk
Daniel Herzchel

Rocca Bonavita
Cameron Celluci
Ariana Frangias
Trevor Hackett
Patrick Hiltner

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Adrianna Kesic
Nicholas Pfaeffli
Cameron Tilou

Gabriella Krachman
Clark Silvern
Ryan Wing”

Hunter Pendlebury
Keller Tannehill

Councilwoman Kern presented certificates to the coaches and those in attendance; she congratulated the coach and the team.

Council President Bucci turned the floor over to Councilwoman Carfagno for the Cultural Committee awards.

Councilwoman Carfagno called forward Joan Breann, Rob Patrick and Roy Clark to make the presentations.

Rob Patrick introduced himself and the Cultural Committee, he noted events the Cultural Committee hosts throughout the year and announced they are accepting volunteers.

JULY 4TH AWARDS

First Baby – Charlotte ‘Charlie’ Elizabeth Sundstrom

Rob Patrick announced the first baby born in Northfield: Charlotte “Charlie” Elizabeth Sundstrom born 01/03/2026 at 2:13pm at 7 pounds 13 ounces. Charlie’s due date was Christmas, but her coming a little late meant her becoming the first Northfield baby. Her father Kevin grew up in Northfield and his wife Nellie grew up in Margate. They have two dogs Willy and Luna and a cat Lucy. Nellie owns a speech therapy clinic for children called Wayfinders Therapy Center and Kevin is a police officer right here in Northfield.

Mr. Patrick and Ms Brennan presented the family with flowers, a plaque and a certificate.

Mr. July 4th – Jay Hurley

Mr. Patrick announced this year’s Citizen of the Year, Jay Hurley, Jay and his wife moved to Northfield in 1984 and began raising their family, welcoming their son in 1985 and daughter in 1988. In 1988, Jay served 15 years on the Board of Education, including 5 as President, and initiated the construction of Northfield Community School. He was a member of the Republican Club from 1987 to 2008, serving as President from 2005 to 2008. Jay’s joy of volunteering in our community also included him coaching girls’ basketball, boys soccer, and t-ball for Northfield All Sports, now known as FAN. One of his most recognizable contributions is announcing Cardinal’s football for 8 years, becoming the “Voice of the Cardinals.” Jay still announces all Northfield football games today since his return in 2023.

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Another important accomplishment of Jay's, which has supported our community, was becoming the race director of the Northfield Connolly Mile in 1994 and continues to organize the annual event with his daughter Katie Hanlin. Since 1989, Jay has been serving as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Bernadette Church. Some may also recognize Jay's name at sports games being a contributing sponsor for FAN football and baseball. A passion of his is also serving on the Old Grad Award committee for Atlantic County, recognizing outstanding high school athletes annually. He has also dedicated many years being the President of the Atlantic City Hall of Fame, inducting former athletes into this prestigious group. Jay was inducted into this hall of fame twice as well, once for his individual accomplishments in track and field and another as captain of the very successful 1975 track and field champions.

Mr. Patrick called Mr. Hurley forward and presented him with a sash, plaque and certificate.

Citizen of the Year – Arlene Gilbert Groch

Our Citizen of the Year has resided here for close to sixty years. Arlene, has been a successful civil rights attorney who has argued cases right up to the highest court of our country. Additionally, she is an award winning painter and clay artist. The most important reason for the nomination is Arlene's tireless support for the poor and disenfranchised. Arlene is a certified CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) who ensures that children in the foster care system are protected from discrimination and exploitation. Arlene is also a significant financial contributor to the local Food Bank. She never passes an opportunity to lend her talents, influence or financial support to worthy causes.

Mr. Patrick called Mrs. Groch forward and presented her with flowers, a plaque, and certificate.

At 6:15pm on motions properly made and seconded, Council took a brief recess.

At 6:19pm Council resumed the meeting.

Council President Bucci moved to committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Polistina reported the Senior Committee meeting was last week Thursday, guest speakers included employees of the County Department of

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Intergenerational Services. They gave a presentation on the many services offered by the County. They have several programs available, including a 'Fix It' program, transportation services, meals on wheels, a senior center for socialization that offer meals as well. They can help residents navigate Medicare and different insurances available. It was a great presentation; they can be reached at 888-426-9243; they offer several great programs.

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 thanked Superintendent Boyd and his staff for installing the banners around the bandstand and decorating for the upcoming event for the 250th.

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

Councilwoman Kern expressed apologies that more of the golf team wasn't available, she attended the Mainland Regional High School graduation last week over 300 graduates, she attended the Northfield Community School graduation tonight, they had 95 students. The playground ribbon cutting was yesterday, they installed new turf around the playground and they added new equipment. The Library was very busy, summer reading programs were starting, they are also planning 100 years of the Library on August 8th, all of Council was invited to attend. They will also be participating in the parade with a theme of Let Freedom Read. For FAN, she attended their meeting last week, they were in football and cheer mode, they also have a newly elected board, she thanked them for all they do.

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

Council President Bucci thanked Public Works for their help with decorating the park, this was the first event for the 250th Committee, Thursday; there would be food trucks vendors, and entertainment, it would be a beautiful evening.

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

Councilman Smith was absent.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno read the Fire report from June and from January until today. She thanked all our first responders; we were very fortunate. The next Cultural

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Committee meeting is Saturday, July 25th. She reminded all that August is Veterans Appreciation month, she invited all veterans, Council would like to thank them for their service. As Council President Bucci reported, there was an event on the 25th and 3 days left to enter the decorating contest, the deadline was the 26th, judges would go out the 1st-3rd, awards would be presented on July 8th. On July 8th there would also be a Cops v Coaches softball game, the Atlantic City Country Club would be having fireworks on July 2nd and the parade and run would be held on the 4th.

Councilman Notaro – Sanitary Sewer Operations

Councilman Notaro reported on the Northfield Plaza lights, he spoke with Shayla Solter from Atlantic City Electric, they had no known history of the lights, she did confirm they are tied into an existing light pole. Councilman Notaro suggested Council create a committee with Councilman Dewees and Engineer Nassar.

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.

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

Council President Bucci asked Engineer Nassar for an update.

Engineer Nassar reported he met with the County Engineer. He advised that Council needed to introduce an ordinance, send it to the County, the County would then concur and add no parking; the process started with the City.

Councilwoman Carfagno asked, don't we have already have no parking?

Solicitor Facenda explained it's no parking from the corner to end of the driveway.

Mayor Chau added, it's 125' on both sides - for the activation of the traffic light.

Councilman Polistina asked why we were considering this? Was there an issue?

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Mayor Chau explained, a resident complained, he had received complaints as well. He also observed several patrons parking on the street, it was not very well lit, it was very dark. There was a complaint that cars were parking on a resident's property, there were several cars and pedestrians in the summer.

Engineer Nassar commented that this was in Council's hands.

Council President Bucci noted that she was not sure if Council was ready for an ordinance.

Engineer Nassar added the road narrows by Fuae.

Councilman Polistina confirmed those residents can't park their either.

Engineer Nassar advised that some homes have dirt driveways.

Mayor Chau noted that Jersey Cow came before the board, they were approved for a parking lot; it has not come to fruition yet.

Council President Bucci added they were approved for 9 additional spaces.

Councilman Dewees would like to do more research before voting.

Engineer Nassar offered to draft an overhead map.

Council President Bucci recalled the resident did not want additional lighting. She agreed with Councilman Dewees and would like a better understanding of the impact.

Mayor Chau asked Council to stop by during the evening and see what it's like.

Council President Bucci asked Lt. DiMarco if he was aware of any accidents?

Lt. DiMarco was not aware of any of the street, very minimal if at all, he offered to pull calls for service.

Councilman Dewees asked Lt. DiMarco to look at the lighting.

Solicitor Facenda asked Mayor Chau if the application from Jersey Cow had curb and sidewalk?

Councilman Dewees felt we may want to consider installing curb and sidewalk.

Solicitor Facenda believed the Planning Board may see an application soon, he was concerned we'd be putting this traffic on another road.

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Mayor Chau advised a resident thought Council already approved an ordinance for no parking to Fuae.

Council President Bucci stated Council would revisit this topic after more information from Engineer Nassar.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

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.

David Goldstein, Northfield – announced that Atlantic County wanted to sell the nursing home on Dolphin Avenue, they know the history of the land, it was referenced in the book on Who's Buried in Northfield. He was challenged to prove bodies were buried there. Satellite scans were done, the home was built on the graveyard as well. He knows Council did not have authority over the County, at least 3000 people were buried there. He has contacted an attorney and the County, he asked Council to contact the County and ask them not to sell; he felt it should be treated as a cemetery. He urged all to please speak for the voices that can't speak any more.

Kirk Fehr, Northfield – regarding the light at Tilton and Zion, he did not think the light was connected to the loop any longer. Regarding the sewer pump station, he asked if the pipe collapse had to do with the pump station?

Engineer Nassar replied, no, it was a different issue.

Janice Davis, Northfield – Crossing Guard Supervisor, asked if there had been any progress?

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Solicitor Facenda replied, the topic was on the agenda this evening for an executive session, no action was expected to be taken tonight.

Councilman Polistina noted that Council needed to discuss in executive session.

Solicitor Facenda advised there would be an update after meeting.

It was agreed that Lt. DiMarco would be provided with an update that he would share with Mrs. Davis.

Kirk Fehr, Northfield – wanted to bring to Council’s attention some inventions that were made by Northfield residents, a timer for ski pole and an early metal detector.

Council President Bucci suggested he contact the Cultural Committee.

Councilwoman Carfagno invited him to the next Cultural Committee meeting.

Charles McGilley, Northfield - thanked Mr. Notaro for his efforts, he thanked the entire Council for backing August as Veteran month. He also thanked the members of the EMS department. He asked all to take a look at the playground at the school, they did a beautiful job. He also thanked David Goldstein, the County has kept the nursing home running, it was important to veterans, for many, it was their home, he asked all to keep in mind it has done some wonderful things.

Mayor Chau suggested Mr. McGilley attend a County Board meeting.

Jackie DeRosa, Northfield – was here on behalf of Ja’briel Mace, he had a field use application on the agenda and was unable to attend the meeting. Ja’briel wanted to give back to the community, there were many camps that were too expensive for kids to attend. As a young athlete, many players from our area that went on to the collegiate level didn’t have the opportunity to mentor younger athletes in the community. His goal wanted to teach football skills, hard work, discipline, confidence and team work. He understood organizing a camp required planning, approvals and safety, he wanted to ensure this camp was successful. This camp was a way for him to inspire and support young athletes. Mrs. DeRosa asked Council to consider approval for the field use.

Councilwoman Carfagno, thanked Mrs. DeRosa for coming, she noted her son played with Ja’briel. She questioned the status of the non-profit organization?

Mrs. DeRosa replied it’s not an organization yet. If there was any profit it would be minimal, he needed to pay other coaches, pay for shirts, drinks, insurance, etc.

Councilwoman Carfagno wanted to be transparent.

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Mrs. DeRosa replied, this was not her project, she was just helping him.

Councilwoman Carfagno thanked her for speaking on his behalf, she noted there were two dates requested on the application, July 11th and July 18th.

Mrs. DeRosa replied, he would like to use the field on July 11th.

Deputy Clerk Campbell advised Council would need to amend the resolution to remove July 18th. She also explained how the application, agreement and insurance process works for all field use requests.

Kerri Thompson, Northfield – Substitute Crossing Guard, she recently moved to Northfield and became a guard. She advised that Mrs. Davis is nice does an amazing job, it has been a pleasure working with her, as a resident, this change could cost taxpayers more money, consistency for the kids adds a niceness, it was very meaningful to the kids and guards to have a relationship, she felt it added to the continuity and safety for the community. She announced there was a petition the had been going around with over 700 signatures.

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

At 7:09pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Campbell, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk