

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JUNE 27, 2023**

At 6:02pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 7, 2023, and 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; Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Council President Polistina

Absent: Mayor Chau*

**Mayor Chau was present via telephone during the public comment portion of this meeting and at that time, delivered his Mayor's report.*

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Nassar, and Chief VonColln, were also present.

Council President Polistina introduced Rob Patrick, Joan Brennan, and Councilwoman Carfagno for the award presentation.

PRESENTATION OF CULTURAL COMMITTEE AWARDS:

Northfield's First Baby – Naomi Isobel Miller

Mr. Patrick announced the first baby and read the following statement:

“Naomi Isobell Miller was born on January 1st, 2023, to Minelva Guevara Miller and Grant Miller. Minelva is a Spanish teacher at Atlantic Christian School and was born in Panama. Grant was born in Galloway and raised in Northfield by Douglas and LuAnn Miller. Mr. Miller is a Health and Physical Education teacher at Pleasantville High School. The Millers are devout Christians who met on a mission trip to Panama with Mission Point Church in August of 2012. The Millers enjoy flag football, basketball, surfing, and snowboarding. They are lucky enough to be able to spend time with family in Panama and the United States.”

All congratulated the family.

Councilwoman Carfagno presented a certificate on behalf of City Council.

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Mr. July 4th – Paul Glenn

Mr. Patrick announced Northfield's first ever Mr. July 4th, Paul Glenn, and read the following:

“Mr. Glenn has shown his patriotism through his many contributions to Northfield and Atlantic County organizations throughout the decades. He moved to Northfield in 1960, during the summer ran dances at the American Legion for middle school students. For 45 years he coached baseball, softball and basketball in Northfield and had the Little League Field named after him in 1982.

Mr. Glenn served on the planning board, zoning board and was appointed to the school board. Mr. Glenn was elected to City Council in 1963, he is the youngest ever elected to public office in Northfield. He served 12 years as on City Council and was the president of the board at age 37. During those 12 years schools were built on Burton Avenue (Locuson School), Oak Avenue (Kresge) and the municipal building on Shore Road was completed. The sewage system throughout the city was extended and Northfield's portion of the bicycle path was started.

During the 1960's he helped distribute the Salk vaccine to fight polio; Mr. Glenn recalls the vaccine was given on a sugar cube. Mr. Glenn started a juvenile justice board for kids who were arrested for minor offenses. Mr. Glenn was the president of the Mainland Jaycees, Atlantic Board of Health and the Field of Dreams. He received an award from Pleasantville Exchange Club. He was involved with the Atlantic County Boy Scouts, Betty Bacharach Home and Children's Seashore House, and the Atlantic County Board of Disabilities. He worked with Cape Atlantic Basketball and Referees association for work in basketball. Mr. Glenn was named the Atlantic County Businesswomen's Association. He produced the Miss Atlantic County Pageant four times and worked on the Miss America Pageant production staff in 1960. He helped to write the wording for laws for disability access to public buildings.”

All congratulated Mr. Glenn.

Councilwoman Carfagno presented him with a certificate on behalf of Council.

Citizen of the Year – Patrick McGowan

Mr. Patrick announced Pat McGowan as the Citizen of the Year and read the following:

“Pat McGowan began his commitment to Northfield in 1995 when he first saw an old beaten down house on Shore Road. People told him he was crazy, but even if he may be slightly crazy, he knew deep in his heart that this was the house for him. Over the next couple of years, he transformed an old sea captain's house from an eyesore to a beautiful piece of history that has become his and his family's home. With so many

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old homes being demolished to make way for new buildings it is a blessing that Mr. McGowan has been able to save one of our historic homes from the 19th century when Bakersville, the former name of Northfield, was a seafaring community reliant on shipping and bay shellfish. You can still see the small captain's watch at the very top of his house where someone could look out over the bay to see approaching sailboats back in the 1800's. While this alone should be enough to honor Pat with the title of Citizen of the Year, he has been much more to the city of Northfield.

He has been important in the revival of the Committee for a City of Homes which works to keep our residential areas exclusively homes. Pat has helped out with Northfield and Mainland school systems, Little League and Northfield Cub and Boy Scouts, field trips, driving teams in parades, camping, to helping out at the Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale. His latest contribution to our community is as Pat the Bike Guy. He has applied his mechanical talent and expertise to refurbishing old bikes and providing bike maintenance advice to local residents. Pat has become a steadfast resident of Northfield, who works behind the scenes to give what he can, when he can and helps to create a wonderful place that we all can call home.”

All congratulated Mr. McGowan as Councilwoman Carfagno presented him a certificate from Council.

Mrs. Brennan invited all to the Fire Hall for refreshments.

At 6:13pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all were in favor of a brief recess.

At 6:23pm, Council President Polistina resumed the meeting.

Council President Polistina moved to Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Leeds – Fire Department/EMS; Planning Board

Councilman Leeds read the Fire Department report including fire and EMS calls, and mutual aid responses. Regarding Hooked on Fishing, it was a great success with 52 participants. It was a great job done by all on the Alliance and with the Police Department who participated.

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

Councilman Dewees reported the service had been moved at the football score tower. Superintendent Vitale had the RFP for the renovations for the tower, he had sent out requests for contractors. He would keep the Council up to date. Superintendent Vitale was scheduled to meet with an electrical contractor on Friday to get lights outside

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installed. Public Works have cleaned over 100 basins and jet cleaned 10 storm mains so far, with work continuing. Public Works also replaced all covers for bollards on the bike path. New recycling bins have been ordered for the bike path and the parks.

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

Councilwoman Bucci said at the last meeting, she forgot to mention Hooked on Fishing; it was a great job by Alliance Coordinator Shannon Campbell, as always, and the Police Department. It was a great event, as Councilman Leeds said. The Atlantic County Economic Alliance has funded Triad to work on a master plan, they would then work with the business community. The Economic Development Commission will be hosting a business symposium at the Atlantic City Country Club; they were currently working with the NJ Small Business Association to coordinate speakers. The Atlantic County Economic Alliance will also be presenting.

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

Councilman Smith announced that an ordinance was on deck this evening for the second reading to join our Court with Hammonton. Northfield Little League and Babe Ruth were in the midst of their All-Star season; he wished all of the teams good luck. The softball team was playing in the semi-finals tonight, he wished them luck as well, with hopefully a championship moving forward. He was working to set up another meeting with Linwood to resume shared dispatch discussions. He wished to congratulate Victoria Mozitis on her recent title as Miss New Jersey and wished her best in the upcoming year and in the Miss America pageant. He would like to honor the Mainland Regional softball team congratulations on their south Jersey Group 3 Championship and would like to honor them sometime this summer. Emma Crozier-Carol, a Northfield resident, had an unbelievable track season. She won the County Championship and came in second at the state level.

Councilwoman Carfagno - Technology / MRHS Channel; Cultural Committee / Veteran Liaison; Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Carfagno echoed the sentiments of Councilman Smith in offering congratulations to Victoria and to the baseball team. She attended the Northfield Community School and Mainland Regional High School graduations; they were very nice events. The next MRHS Board of Education meeting was scheduled for July 17th at 6pm.

Councilman Notaro - Inspections, Housing/Zoning; Sewer Operations; Northfield Sports (FAN)

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Councilman Notaro had no report this evening. He congratulated Victoria Mozitis, stating it was a very nice event. He thanked Deputy Clerk Campbell for stepping up and putting it together.

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

Council President Polistina agreed, Deputy Clerk Campbell answered the call as she always does. He read the highlights of the audit including outstanding bond balances and rates, with principal and interest it's about a million dollars a year. With interest rates rising we need to ensure we control the debt; it is better to reduce long term for the City. We were well below the statutorily permissible debt load, and we would continue to watch it. As to collections, they have been improving for the past 5 years. Our collection rate was 98.65% for the past year; it was a tribute to the Department that collects and to the residents as well. Regarding the Senior Committee we have luncheon tomorrow at 11am at the Library. It was an open forum to allow seniors to ask questions. Police and Fire would be present as well.

Council President Polistina moved to the ad hoc committee reports.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

- Electric Vehicles (Councilmen Polistina, Notaro) – there was no update.
- Food Trucks (Councilwoman Bucci, Councilman Dewees)

The committee was still working on the food truck ordinance.

- Insurance Requirements Review (Councilman Polistina, Councilwoman Bucci)

Council President Polistina reported he and Councilwoman Bucci met with our Risk Manager, to discuss and clarify insurance requirements for groups using public meeting spaces. If possible, we'd like to make reasonable changes to make it easier for groups to use our City meeting rooms. This would not affect groups that already have insurance, and for them, the rider they get protects the person running the meeting as well. The committee would meet again and present potential changes to the Council to make it easier for groups.

- Affordable Housing (Councilman Polistina, Councilwoman Carfagno) – there was no update.

Council President Polistina moved to ongoing business.

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WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

- Stormwater Facilities Shared with Atlantic County

Councilman Dewees offered to assist to get this moving.

Engineer Nassar reported the Count Engineer was still waiting for signatures from the Law Department.

Councilman Dewees would discuss with Engineer Nassar and would work to expedite, if possible.

- Potential Sale / Development of City Owned Properties: Block 66 Lot 11; Block 69 Lot 1.02; Block 121 Lot 1

Solicitor Facenda announced that the title searches have been ordered for the affordable housing projects.

- Possible Zoning ordinance to regulate Cooperative Sober Living Residences

Solicitor Facenda, as to sober living the ordinance, announced it was ready, but he would like to get the opinion of our Professional Planner as to distances, etc., in the event it is ever challenged, so that Council would have something to rely on as to why the ordinance was crafted the way it was. He would get an estimated price from our Planner, Tiffany Morrissey.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Council President Polistina reported that he and Councilman Dewees met with a consultant about different types of grants, he would keep Council updated.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

Solicitor Facenda advised Council that Ventnor withdrew from the Central Court this week.

Council President Polistina made the assignments.

Councilman Leeds added that on June 22nd the Police and Fire Department participated in an active shooter drill, it was great to see them working together again. He commended the Chiefs of both Departments.

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Council President Polistina also thanked Police and Fire for their efforts during the parade for Victoria Mozitis.

PUBLIC SESSION / FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Polistina opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to comment on any subject, he asked that they state their name and address for the record and observe the five-minute limit per speaker.

Mayor Chau (via telephone, due to technical issues with Zoom) presented his Mayor's Report: he was working with the Police Department to get an electric bike. The City of Ventnor has opted out of the Central Court. The County is now looking to provide private security which will yield a savings of \$400,000.00 which is nice but may be too late. In July, the Police Committee will be meeting again, the evaluation process needs to be discussed. He hoped to resolve by the end of the month with the labor attorney. Council had expressed interest in looking into a County healthcare system; he was working with CFO Stollenwerk to collate information, but, this was moving forward. He was also working with CFO Stollenwerk on a grant from Atlantic City Electric for energy review. Regarding the senior project, the report had been finished, it would go to the County and the Diocese would be presenting their project to the Council; everything looked good so far. The Sergeants exam has been scheduled for July. Mayor Chau thanked Council.

Seeing no one else, in person or on Zoom wishing to speak, Council President Polistina closed the public session.

At 6:47pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk