

CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JULY 13, 2021

At 6:03pm 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 N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 - 1.7, this meeting will be held in-person and as a remote public meeting (live-streamed) using Zoom conferencing service. Due to 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 July 13, 2021 at 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 July 13, 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/82618879501> or by telephone using one tap mobile +16465588656,,82618879501# or direct dial +1 646 558 8656 using Meeting ID: 826 1887 9501. 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 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 July 13, 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

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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 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 Mayor Chau. Mayor Chau read the following statement: “We are gathered to make decisions for our community, may we use only our best skills and judgement, keeping ourselves partial and neutral as we consider the merits and pitfalls of each matter that is placed before us and act always in accordance to what is best for our community and our fellow citizens.”

ROLL CALL

Present (in person): Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Perri; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau.

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

6:00 PM PRESENTATION

- Mrs. Jini Erricchetti on behalf of the Elliott Howard Krevens Foundation

Council President Polistina announced Mrs. Jini Erricchetti, he thanked the Foundation for their donation to Birch Grove Park.

Councilman Dewees explained that the Elliott Howard Krevens Foundation was established in 2012, and funded upon his passing. The foundation provided for financial support from Mr. Krevens’ estate to various groups and organizations, including Birch Grove Park. He announced that a plaque will be placed under a tree at the Park in Mr. Krevens’ memory, and read the plaque inscription: “With Sincerest Appreciation to the Elliott Howard Krevens Foundation”.

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Mrs. Erricchetti approached the podium, introduced herself, and said she grew up in Northfield. Her maiden name was Virtue, she lived on Jackson Avenue near Mike's Deli, and went to Mt Vernon, Mill Road and Mainland schools. She worked at Kohr Brothers on the Atlantic City Boardwalk and that was where she met Elliott. He was a very unique individual, what money he made, he invested very well, and it will be donated to various charities including Birch Grove Park. He was a good friend of hers, she appreciated the gesture of the plaque, adding that he loved animals and plants. Mrs. Erricchetti presented the first check from the Foundation to Council.

Council President Polistina was glad Mr. Krevens enjoyed the park while he was here.

Councilwoman Madden asked did he have a specific vision for the park? Before leaving the podium, Mrs. Erricchetti replied that he loved plants. Councilwoman Madden suggested a wild flower garden.

Council President Polistina offered condolences to Engineer Nassar on the passing of his mother; he was surprised to see him here, but, we are appreciative of his presence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Perri reported his first issue was a sewer back up, he copied everyone on what he got from Joe Pantalone (ACUA) today. There was a complicated issue but the ACUA does indicate they are going to upgrade the system. Their response was quick, he spoke with Councilman Notaro who seemed satisfied with their actions. Hopefully they can get this resolved, some preventive measures have been taken.

Councilman Notaro thanked Councilman Perri for his responsiveness to the issue. He appreciated Councilman Perri coming down personally. Councilman Notaro toured the station and they are doing upgrades, hopefully it won't happen again.

Council President Polistina noted it was a high-volume station, as well.

Councilman Perri replied yes, three towns, with part of Egg Harbor Township as well. The pipe comes from Shore Road at 30' above sea level, to just about sea level.

Councilman Perri reported his second issue was that he had complaints about fireworks in different areas; there were comments out there that we couldn't enforce it, but that was not the case. Certain types of fireworks were illegal. He encouraged residents to call dispatch so it can be reported to the police and be taken care of. He recognized everyone who participated in the 4th of July event, there was great

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attendance on the street. Mayor Chau, Mrs. Pullan and the City did a fine job. He offered condolences to the family of Patty Crowne, and to Engineer Nassar.

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

Councilman Utts concurred that the parade was a big success, he thanked participants and volunteers. The Planning Board met and approved a new ice cream parlor on Route 9, and memorialized the approval of a child care center, it was nice to see new businesses in town. We were still seeking to replace Mike Dattalo as Zoning and Code enforcement, who will be retiring. He encouraged applicants to apply.

Councilman Perri asks Councilman Utts about the new Veterans building.

Councilman Utts replied that they came with a concept, no final plans have been submitted. It would be a real plus for the town and an essential service for our veterans.

Councilman Dewees asked if it was the former Tilt-In Windows site? Are they going to do anything with the drainage?

Councilman Utts was sure the engineer will be looking at that.

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

Councilman Notaro reported the fire truck would be discussed during ongoing business. He met with Inspira and Egg Harbor Township regarding some issues with dispatch. Inspira was trying to do some things better; it was a plus to service and to our residents. He congratulated the 12U Little League team on their district championship, he saw videos on FaceBook. He also had the pleasure of driving a float for varsity cheer and football. It was nice to see kids out there enjoying themselves, in all his years he had never seen a parade so energetic. He thanked Joan Brennan, Roy Clark, and the Cultural Committee, Mary Canesi and Shannon Campbell for helping the day-of, and Chief Cummings and the Volunteer Fire Department for all they did. He hoped every year was the same.

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

Councilman Dewees also congratulated Little League on the district win. He thanked Joan Brennan and all the volunteers, the parade was a great event and it was nice to be out there.

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

Councilman Smith congratulated the Little League team on the 12U District 16 Championship. There were two runs in the 6th inning for a walk-off win, he wished them success in sectionals. He thanked all the volunteers for their work on the parade, he was pleased to see the participation, especially the residents lining the roads, and the return of the Connolly Mile, with a tremendous turnout. He barely lost to his 9-year-old daughter in just under 10 minutes. He offered condolences to Engineer Nassar on the passing of his mother. He offered condolences to the family of Allan Mack, a Northfield resident who recently passed away. Regarding Zoning, he did reach out to Egg Harbor Township, theirs just resigned as well. Councilman Smith suggested sharing if they were able to find a candidate. We were in the same situation.

Councilwoman Madden – Insurance and Safety; Library; Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden congratulated Chase Petty, from Mainland, for being drafted by the Minnesota Twins. Regarding the Library, June attendance was 421, material circulation was 1,221, e-book circulation was 62, audiobook circulation was 46 and fines were \$78.00. Numbers were still down compared to two years ago. After serious consideration and committee meetings, the committee decided not to pursue consolidation with the County Library System.

Mayor Chau asked what committee Councilwoman Madden was referring to; this was his committee and he was not included in any meeting to discuss it. He was upset that Councilwoman Madden made the decision without consulting him.

Councilman Dewees clarified there was no additional meeting. It was their recommendation not to pursue it; that doesn't mean it can't be discussed further.

Mayor Chau reiterated that it was his committee, and he was very angry that he was not consulted. Mayor Chau continued at length, again expressing his anger that he was left out of the decision-making process.

Councilman Dewees reiterated that no other meeting occurred.

Mayor Chau continued, asking Councilwoman Madden to repeat what she'd said; Councilwoman Madden complied.

Council President Polistina intervened; we aren't getting anywhere.

Mayor Chau felt he was being interrupted, and offered that as the reason he was raising his voice. He continued to question Councilwoman Madden, asking if he was left out of a meeting because of the color of his skin? He said he is being

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discriminated against.

Councilwoman Madden replied that Mayor Chau's comment was unnecessary and asked that he not to speak to her in such a manner.

Mayor Chau continued to express his dissatisfaction with the events. He said he was sorry for his anger but that he will not tolerate this.

Councilman Polistina advised Mayor Chau that enough had been said.

Council President Polistina apologized to all that he was not able to control the meeting.

Council President Polistina – Finance and Collections; Municipal Alliance

Council President Polistina agreed with previous comments that the parade was great, he acknowledged the Little League win and Chase Petty's accomplishments.

Council President Polistina moved to ongoing business.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

- Zion Road Pump Station Easement – *Update* from Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar reported the submission packet for the Planning Board should be ready next week. He would will work on the details, escrow funds etc. with Clerk Canesi and CFO Stollenwerk.

Solicitor Facenda requested a copy of the site plan for the contract from Engineer Nassar.

Clerk Canesi asked did we need the ordinance to authorize the purchase before we go under contract?

Solicitor Facenda replied we had a few things to do.

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

Council President Polistina continued with Northfield Avenue.

Engineer Nassar reported he had not received any answers back from the State regarding the contribution and how we were going to proceed. He sent emails and would reach back out to the State.

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- 2021 Local Road Program – *Finalize Street List, Requested by Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar submitted a list to Council and asked if they had any objections or additions?

Councilman Perri and Councilman Notaro had not had a chance to look at it.

Council President Polistina didn't see anything objectionable, he advised Engineer Nassar to proceed.

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

Engineer Nassar did not have update.

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

The Committee had nothing new to report.

- Shared County Court – *Update* from Mayor Chau*

Council President Polistina stated that lately there have been perceptions that Northfield was against shared services or shared court; maybe that's why we had so many options, because of our level of interest. Because we have had so many shared services in the past, we know how to evaluate the pros and cons, and we have the responsibility to review all proposals, which we've done for the past several months. He thanked Mayor Chau for his leadership on the County proposal, Councilman Smith and Clerk Canesi for their work on all of them, CFO Stollenwerk for crunching the numbers, and Solicitor Facenda as well. One proposal has been withdrawn, so we will not be voting on resolutions 126-2021 and 128-2021 this evening. He asked if Mayor Chau wanted to speak.

Mayor Chau thanked all. As Council President Polistina pointed out, it was our responsibility to look out for the taxpayers. It was virgin territory for us in Atlantic County to consolidate the courts. He hoped it worked out for Northfield and for all participating municipalities.

Council President Polistina asked if there was any discussion on the courts?

Councilman Smith thanked the Mayor as well; he has done a yeoman's job in setting it all up. We need to be in touch with Linwood, we look forward to joining the County system, if for some reason the County is not up and running as of January 1, we need to have a contingency plan.

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Councilman Perri expressed his concern that the pandemic and our numbers that weren't figured in, would we be looking at a \$60,000 increase next year?

Council President Polistina replied, with the number of towns participating now it was still a savings over what we pay now, and what was budgeted. It was a better financial decision, as well as better services.

Councilman Perri felt this year would be a trial year, hopefully the numbers would come back up where we at least break even. It had been a big undertaking, the Mayor and others devoted a lot of time. As a caveat, he'd like to see central dispatch eventually, and tax collection.

- Sump Pumps discharging into Storm Drains – *Update* from Councilman Perri*

Councilman Perri reported he received a price on construction of sump pumps; his recommendation would be to ban it on municipal streets and to have it on site and go from there. It does create a problem if they put it in our sanitary sewer.

Council President Polistina asked was there any possibility of allowing it where it is not puddling?

Councilman Perri recommended banning it entirely.

Councilman Dewees understood Councilman Perri's point, but didn't know how you keep it on site.

Councilman Perri replied the resident could pump it into the grass or some sort of French drain. Recharge systems are out there but they all cost money.

Council President Polistina noted we'll start putting something together.

Councilman Perri recommended that they have to maintain water on site.

Council President Polistina added those in place would just be grandfathered in.

Councilman Dewees believed this case was an exception.

Councilman Perri noted some have removed theirs since we started talking about it.

Council President Polistina stated, for those that are in place now, if it's in our curb line, our City Works will have to help maintain it. He hoped residents would take care of it themselves, but we can't rely on that.

Councilman Notaro asked could it be treated like the high grass ordinance?

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Council President Polistina replied we could look in to that.

- Potential 2021 Acquisition of Fire Truck

Councilman Notaro announced that he spoke with Chief Cummings and Eric Shenkus and they put together a committee for the fire truck. He was at officer's meeting last night to discuss other issues and there was a demo of a very nice truck.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Council President Polistina moved to New Grant Opportunities, seeing none he introduced Tim Joo.

6:15 PM PRESENTATION

- City of Northfield Emergency Management Coordinator Tim Joo - Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Planning

Tim Joo, Emergency Management Coordinator, 811 Shore Road, announced he wanted to update the Council on the Plan. Part of the requirements were outreach. He hoped to make the Family Association of Northfield meeting this week. Another requirement was to have a jurisdictional assessment team, he hoped one or two Council people would join, it involved one or two meetings and we have about a month to get our paperwork in order. It was not a big lift, we already have a plan, we just need to review and amend where necessary. One of the items is to have a tree expert assess the health of trees that could fall and take out power lines, it was the number one reason for loss of electricity, another was a generator for the Public Works building. Unless anyone has questions? The handout was part of the agenda, and there was a County-level meeting coming up. He referred to the storm drains on Shore Road that mix in with the County, that project is one of the projects on this list. The goal was to minimize loss, and mitigate loss with grant funding. He asked if there were any questions?

Councilman Dewees and Councilman Notaro volunteered to be on the committee.

Councilman Notaro thanked Coordinator Joo for his service, and for his proactive approach with everything he does.

Councilman Smith, regarding trees, it would seem Atlantic City Electric had an interest as well. Did they have a tree expert?

Coordinator Joo noted that Atlantic City Electric hired Asplundh, they look at the lines. Coordinator Joo was looking more at trees that are dead or dying and can fall into lines.

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REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina spoke regarding Ordinance 8-2021, the cannabis prohibition ordinance. This ordinance is on the agenda because he recommended pausing the cannabis before we go forward. We have no idea what the legislation was. While they say there are 37 licenses, ultimately, we don't know what that number is going to be. Ultimately, we can move forward. If we move forward with the opt-in ordinance, those things are permanent, and if we miss something the State comes out with, we are stuck with it. Existing businesses would be grandfathered in. Pausing it doesn't stop it, it just lets the State put forward what they are going to do, and we aren't stuck with some oddity we can't undo. He had a big concern in that regard, he doesn't want to be caught living with something we can't undo. He noted that our Chief of Police recommended that we pause. As more information comes out of Trenton, we can move forward.

Councilman Perri asked for clarification between pause and opt out.

Council President Polistina explained this opt out pauses us. If we have nothing in place by August, and we pass ordinance 7-2021 to allow it; this resolution would run concurrently, he would like to pass the prohibition. This would prohibit everything. If we pass ordinance 8-2021, and we get more information between now and August 7th, we are in a position to go either way. If we don't prohibit everything it would be too late then.

Councilwoman Madden stated it was passed at the last meeting, 70% of residents are in favor of it, there are people interested in setting up businesses.

Council President Polistina also read the first presentation that the State put out, and it was deplorable, what if they come out with something similar?

Councilwoman Madden added that some cities are already passing ordinances, she doesn't see why he would put up an ordinance to prohibit it after it's been passed with a vote of five to two.

Councilman Utts wasn't sure of Council President Polistina's concern. The money is already flowing in those areas that have approved it. It may be to Northfield's own detriment to wait. He felt this could generate \$40,000.00 plus a year. It wouldn't do the residents any favors to miss out.

Clerk Canesi gave the example that liquor licenses are based on population, we can't issue another one if we want to. Before prohibition, did anyone contemplate that the State would put forth a population control on liquor licenses? No, but that is what they did. This is just an example to illustrate that we don't know what rules there will be. Suppose there is no limit on the number of licenses and we end up with the entirety of that section being all cannabis businesses and the other businesses who

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are currently there don't want to be next to them? She has heard from businesses who said they don't want to be next to a cannabis business.

Council President Polistina gave the example of would you have expected that the State would put out a law that the if the police caught an underage person with marijuana, smoking, or smelled it, if a police officer approached that child that the officer would be charged and the child would go free?

Councilman Utts felt that was a good intention gone wrong. It's true we don't know what the State will come up with, he found it hard to believe that competition would allow that many cannabis businesses in one area, head-starts count. This could pay for a fire truck.

Councilman Smith stated that the legislation is a lot of "what if's", we don't have any details. While 70% may be factual, he had spoken to a number of Northfield residents who voted in favor of it who do not want a cannabis business in Northfield.

Councilman Perri stated we voted for three liquor licenses at the last meeting, he didn't see the difference. Everything would be approved by an amendment to land use ordinance.

Solicitor Facenda explained that in some case we may not be able to limit the number of licenses, he gave the example of population limits on liquor licenses. If the State has a standard, we cannot exceed it. There are no provisions in the ordinance as drafted limited the number of licenses on the theory that the State is going to establish that. If we do nothing, you are deemed to have opted in, regardless of whether it's a conditional use or permitted use, you are stuck with that decision for five years. Conversely, if you opt out or prohibit certain actions, you can reverse that decision. If you opt out you could adopt ordinance 7-2021, next month. If you do nothing you are stuck for five years; if you opt out you can change it next month or after the next meeting.

Council President Polistina added that if more information comes available, we can act accordingly at the next meeting

Councilman Dewees mentioned Chief Newman's comments from the last meeting.

Councilwoman Madden thought we voted to permit at the last meeting.

Councilman Utts replied that it has been introduced.

Council President Polistina was asking to introduce Ordinance 8-2021 tonight.

Councilman Utts felt it's just another retail establishment, alcohol kills people every day.

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Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda, and made the agenda assignments. He reminded all that Resolutions 126-2021 and 128-2021 would be excluded.

Clerk Canesi asked, for purposes of clarifying how her office should respond to inquiries: if Ordinance 7-2021 passes at the next meeting permitting the use in the regional commercial zone, and a business comes to the Clerk's Office and wants to apply for a license, what can they do before the regulatory framework is in place?

Councilman Perri replied, nothing.

Clerk Canesi didn't understand the head start. Questions would come to the Clerk's Office.

Councilman Utts replied that they would have to wait until the State comes out with the final regulations but they could start looking at real estate and know what the zone was.

Councilman Perri confirmed that they would still have to go to the Planning Board.

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.

John Conover, 26 Northfield Avenue, was here to share insights and look for solutions regarding 31 Northfield Avenue. He grew up in the neighborhood, it was a mix of young people and families. His family has owned and paid taxes on the property since 1953. Problem one was speeding, it's a narrow street. The renters, squatters, whatever they are, refuse to slow down. They were approached by numerous people on the street without result, and at times with profanity. Problem two was trash without lids has caused a rodent problem. Rats, squirrels and birds pick at the trash every day, it was upsetting. Visitors at this address throw trash on the curb and it sits there for weeks or until a storm washes it down in front of someone else's house who picks it up. Mr. Conover's wife has to tell them to put their trash out on trash day. Last week they put it out but it did not all get picked up and the rest stayed at the curb. Problem three was the inability of the renters to stay off of his property, there is a basketball hoop on Mr. Conover's property and they use Conover's home as out of bounds. Yesterday, after the residents played ball, there was trash in his yard, and they think nothing of it. He was disappointed over the transient nature of the residents. Last week, he got to witness an arrest, which he was sure all of Council knew about. Cars come and go at all hours of the day. He urged Council to go by there after the meeting, it was the fourth house on the right, from Shore Road. They grill right in the front yard and sometimes have a fire pit. He had sent pictures to the City and sometimes the police. He hoped Council could mitigate

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for the residents. Council missed a great fireworks display; they had the entire street blocked off.

Christine Gordon, 101 Northfield Avenue, stated that the house was in foreclosure, no one was responsible. There were speeding cars, it was loud, there was profanity. The traffic was conducive to drug dealing, cars were in and out every twenty minutes. The fireworks were out of control on the fourth of July. Rockets that they are not allowed to have, thousands of dollars of fireworks, landing on their roofs. They are nice to neighbors faces, but say they don't want to slow down. It has been like living in hell for the past year.

Tom Boyd, 117 Northfield Avenue, echoed a lot of what Mr. Conover and Mrs. Gordon said. It had become a real nuisance and a hazard; it's been going on for a year and has gotten worse. Mr. Boyd was told by the residents that he is not their father. Sometimes they were very respectful, sometimes not. They have young children in their house. Mr. Boyd had his two young grandchildren riding bikes, but not in the street. It's a tight knit street and community. They come and go at all times; they leave for a half an hour and then they are back. The street was a narrow street with parking on both sides. He was concerned that someone was going to get hurt.

Mayor Chau stated that he has had conversations with Mrs. Gordon and has driven down there as a result of concerns he's heard. The fireworks must have been very loud, he had spoken with Chief Newman, with Captain Steinecke, with the Zoning Official and with the City Clerk's Office. It was deplorable. He did not know what the solution was. The house was in foreclosure, no one was taking responsibility. He did not know what the City could do but it was not fair, perhaps the Solicitor can comment.

Solicitor Facenda replied, assuming the house is in foreclosure, there was a process, and then and only then can an eviction can be undertaken. There was nothing the City could do; it goes through the courts. Trespass, littering, etc.. as to all of those things, he believed they had spoken with Chief Newman, and those were being addressed via enforcement. Code violations were difficult because you have a non-responsive owner. Facenda asked Clerk Canesi if we still used Community Champions.

Clerk Canesi replied yes, adding that she did not believe this property was in foreclosure in Community Champions; she had heard it was in the first step of the process.

Solicitor Facenda added to the extent that there was criminal conduct, trespass, harassment, you don't necessarily need the Police Department, you can file a complaint and if the judge finds probable cause they can be brought in to court.

Councilwoman Madden asked couldn't the landlord be responsible?

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Solicitor Facenda responded, not for the conduct of the tenants. For code violations, yes. The neighbors could file harassment complaints and maybe get relief in municipal court.

Councilman Perri asked for elaboration of the arrest that was referenced.

Mrs. Gordon stated that a tenant was arrested for setting someone on fire the day after fourth of July.

Chief Newman noted that Mrs. Gordon was correct. Northfield Police Department was notified by Shore Memorial of a burn victim and an investigation led them to the individual.

Mr. Conover said there were some good kids in the house, but only one adult. There were three tenants across the street who produce one trash can a week, and these people produce seven a week, so you can imagine how many people can live in a house.

Mrs. Gordon asked, wasn't there a way you can stop this from happening?

Mr. Conover replied, the residents don't care.

Mrs. Gordon felt no one cared about them.

Mr. Boyd added that he had asked them to slow down, and they will agree, then 'floor' the car on purpose.

Council President Polistina advised that we would do what we have the ability to do.

David Goldstein, 116 Dolphin Avenue, via Zoom chat, "Why can't we have the home condemned as a health hazard? If it is that unsanitary and dirty and causing rats to be there the property should be condemned as a health hazard. How about enforcing littering codes and fining the bad people. Hit them in the pocketbook."

Council President Polistina asked had the rat problem been reported to the County?

Mr. Conover stated he reported it to the building inspector, but he never responded.

Clerk Canesi advised that rats would need to be reported to the County Board of Health.

Mr. Goldstein, via Zoom Chat, "how about contacting action news to do a story?"

Clerk Canesi typed in the Zoom Chat, asking if there were any more comments? There was no response.

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

At 7:51pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Notaro, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk