

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
AUGUST 15, 2023**

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 7, 2023, 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 Bucci; Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Smith; Council President Polistina.

Absent: Councilman Notaro; Mayor Chau

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

Council President Polistina moved to Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Leeds – Fire Department/EMS; Planning Board

Councilman Leeds offered condolences to the family of Deputy Chief Leeds, who passed away recently. He had over 50 years of service, and that was unheard of today. His son Bill is a volunteer and his Grandson Cole is a career Firefighter. Councilman Leeds read the fire report for July. He thanked Firefighter Trench, Firefighter Sacco, and members of the Police Department, for an EMS response here at City Hall.

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

Councilman Dewees reported that lights were installed to illuminate the new LED sign out front of City Hall; he asked Council to drive by and take a look.

Council President Polistina responded that he has driven by and it looked much better.

Councilman Dewees noted that we could add additional goosenecks if needed, but he would prefer not to. The materials for the columns at the City Hall entrance have arrived; installation was pending. The fences at the baseball fields had been repaired and Public Works recently removed 15 dead trees from the inner loop at the park.

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

Councilwoman Bucci also extended condolences to the Leeds family as well as to the Fire Department. She thanked him for his service, and said it was a terrible loss for our community. She thanked the Police Department for the Chalk the Walk Contest; she also thanked them for getting the ice cream businesses involved and for the

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community outreach. It was nice to see this change. Councilwoman Bucci announced the date for Trunk or Treat, anyone interested should contact Deputy Clerk Campbell. She attended the grand opening for a new event space, she congratulated them and welcomed them to the community. Work was continuing between Triad and the Planning Board on the economic element.

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

Councilman Smith announced Northfield Community School would be open the next time we meet, with a first day of September 7th. He wished them the best for the first day of school. He extended condolences to the Leeds family, who have a long history in the community.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno offered condolences to the Leeds family; she thanked Mr. Leeds for his many years of service. She reported the Cultural Committee was doing a Fall Flea market November 18th contact Joan Brennan if interested. Mainland Freshman orientation will be held on August 30th.

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

Councilman Notaro was absent.

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

Council President Polistina reported he attended the mid-year meeting at the ACUA treatment plant, they are doing well against budget and have significant upgrades to create efficiencies and improve air quality planned in the coming years. Northfield's wastewater flows were down approximately 20% versus what was budgeted, we believe due at least in part to the slip lining projects we've been doing. He also offered condolences to the Leeds family. He congratulated all who participated in Northfield Night Out, it was a great event.

Councilman Dewees offered an update on Mayor Chau; he is in the hospital; he is getting treatment and is resting comfortably. He would keep everyone posted, and thanked all who have asked about him.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

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

Zoning Officer Nassar was in the process of doing a final review.

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- Affordable Housing (Councilwoman Carfagno, Councilman Polistina) – No update.
- Insurance Requirements Review (Councilman Polistina, Councilwoman Bucci) – No update.

Council President Polistina moved to ongoing business.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

- Stormwater Facilities Shared with Atlantic County– *No* update.
- Potential Sale / Development of City Owned Properties: Block 66 Lot 11; Block 69 Lot 1.02; Block 121 Lot 1

Solicitor Facenda reported the title reports for the 3 properties had been ordered; the Jackson Avenue property had no records at all that can be found. The other two properties on Dolphin, we do in fact own both, it would appear, with clear title. Block 69 had two easements of record, one was a utility easement, he did not anticipate they would affect the development of the property at all. He would forward them off to Habitat.

Council President Polistina asked what happens with Jackson Avenue?

Solicitor Facenda could inquire with the title company if they have any further suggestions. He offered to get a number to see what it would cost to further research.

- Possible Zoning ordinance to regulate Cooperative Sober Living Residences - no update.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities
- 2023 Safe Routes to Schools Grant – *Requested by Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar explained the Safe Routes to School Grant, there was an emphasis on bicycling and walking to school, he was looking at the section of the Bike Path from Zion to Tilton, to Mill, to Cedar Bridge Road. He would like to do traffic calming measures and flashing beacons. He would like the Council’s approval to move forward with this project.

Councilman Leeds asked what do we do for the people who live on the west side of Route 9?

Engineer Nassar explained the challenges of installing new sidewalks and in obtaining the necessary rights-of-way.

All members present were generally in favor of Nassar’s suggested project.

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REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda and made assignments.

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.

Tom Boyd, 117 Northfield Avenue, asked Engineer Nassar to elaborate regarding the realignment of the Bike Path at Zion Road, under the grant mentioned earlier.

Engineer Nassar explained the design would make the bike path perpendicular to the road, instead of at an angle.

Mr. Boyd expressed concern about visibility in that area.

Engineer Nassar noted the plan would also include flashing beacons.

Mr. Boyd agreed with this plan.

Mr. Boyd continued, regarding Habitat, he knew revenue was important, but in his experience with Habitat, he suggested the Council consider donating the lots.

Council President Polistina replied that was definitely an option.

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

At 6:29pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk