

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

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 8, 2022, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilwoman Bucci; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Dewees reported the purchase order had been cut for the replacement of the roof at the football snack bar. The stair project would be pushed off until the next meeting, the company had not provided all required documentation to the CFO.

**Councilman Utts** - Inspections, Housing/Zoning; Cultural Committee, Veteran Liaison, Mainland Regional; Technology / MRHS Channel; Planning Board

Councilman Utts reported things were quiet for the Planning Board. Inspections were about the same as last year, not up or down.

**Councilman Notaro** - Sewer Operations; Northfield Football, Cheer, Basketball (FAN)

Councilman Notaro reported Northfield had two losses recently, Officer Scull and volunteer Doreen Nuttall. He congratulated Lieutenant Dettinger on his pending retirement after 26 years.

**Councilman Leeds** – Fire Department/EMS

Councilman Leeds reported on EMS; Councilman Notaro, Business Administrator/Clerk Canesi, himself and others recently met with new the EMS operations director. Councilman Leeds read the call and response time information as provided by Inspira.

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

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Councilman Smith thanked Councilman Notaro and offered condolences to the Scull and Nuttall families, and to Chief Newman and the members of the Police Department. Northfield Community School opened today he urged all to use caution on the roads. Ocean City was in the process of crafting a proposal for dispatch; he hoped to have it for the next meeting.

Mayor Chau asked had other towns expressed interest?

Councilman Smith advised we've put out feelers out but Ocean City was one who responded and showed interest.

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

Councilwoman Bucci extended condolences to the Nuttall family and to the Scull family. John was a friend of her son Dante's since kindergarten and was a big part of their lives. She extended condolences to the Police Department as well. There will be a library meeting on Thursday, she had no report for Insurance and Safety. The next Alliance meeting will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Trunk or Treat was coming up on October 8<sup>th</sup>; interested parties may contact Shannon Campbell for details. The Economic Development Committee had been meeting regularly, and had experienced speakers at their last meeting, including Tony Coppola from Galloway. Michael Grossman from Kensington and Roseanne Desanna from Republic Bank have been involved. The group was working on social media. The diocese project plans were moving along; once boundaries have been identified they would commission a ground penetrating radar study to ensure no bodies are buried.

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

Council President Polistina offered condolences to the Scull and Nuttall families. He noted the tremendous show of respect and support from other area law enforcement agencies, he thanked the Sherrif's Department for covering our town so the members of our Police Department could attend services. The new Tax Collector was being hired this evening and she'll start tomorrow.

Council President Polistina moved to ongoing business.

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

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

Council President Polistina noted flooding today due to heavy rains and that the Northfield Avenue issue may be resolved. He asked Engineer Nassar to speak regarding Herbert Drive.

Engineer Nassar responded, and explained that a new water main was installed on

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Herbert and adjacent streets. The water company only has to do restoration in the areas where they did work, which leaves certain sections in their current state. Engineer Nassar reached out to the contractor and it would cost \$38,000.00 to pave the remaining portions - this would make the entirety of Herbert and Shepherd new paving. It would save money in the long run. There would be no inspection fees or engineering fees. Outside of this option the cost would be \$75,000.00.

Council President Polistina stated based on availability of funds, a voice vote indicated all were generally in favor.

Solicitor Facenda later commented that if funds are certified as available, Council will need to formally vote to authorize by Resolution.

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

There was no update.

- Potential Public Auction of City Owned Property Block 66 Lot 11 – *Pending \* if available*

There was no update.

- Changes to Sign Ordinance

Council President Polistina asked if all have reviewed the sign ordinance changes; he reviewed proposed changes.

Mayor Chau asked what was the mechanism to determine when the 90 days was up? He recommended a permit process. He also asked if the blower-waving-man type signs were included as permitted?

Discussion ensued between Mayor Chau and Councilwoman Bucci with regard to methods to ensure business owners were aware of the sign ordinance.

Councilwoman Bucci recommended a reminder card directing businesses to the ordinance, to be issued with their mercantile license.

Council President Polistina continued to review recommended changes, and discussion continued amongst all.

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

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

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Engineer Nassar replied that he was working on a new grant for the bike path due in November.

- Joint Court – ACPO Proposal to Provide MCP Services

Council President Polistina moved to Joint Court and a proposal for prosecutor services.

Mayor Chau noted he sent an email to Council President Polistina and Councilwoman Bucci.

Councilman Smith believed they were waiting for more information.

Solicitor Facenda stated he'd received information from County Prosecutor Reynolds that the current budget was about \$350,000.00 with a proposal for \$402,500.

Councilman Leeds asked if staff would be County Prosecutors?

Solicitor Facenda replied, yes.

**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

Council President Polistina asked if anyone wanted anything voted on separately from the consent agenda.

Councilman Notaro requested this option for Resolution 176-2022.

Councilwoman Bucci requested this option for 174-2022.

Council President Polistina made the agenda 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.

Roseanne Desanna from Republic Bank introduced herself, and said she was in attendance to observe the meeting.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Council President Polistina closed the public comment portion of this meeting.

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At 6:57pm, on a motion of Councilman Leeds, seconded by Councilman Dewees, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk