

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

At 6:01pm 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 Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

Absent: Councilman Dewees

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 was absent; Councilman Leeds reported on his behalf and stated that the roof at the refreshment stand had been started and it should be a one-day job. The purchase order for stairs at the scoring tower would be discussed tonight.

Councilman Leeds – Fire Department/EMS

Councilman Leeds reported that EMS was busy in August with 240 total calls to Linwood and Northfield; he read the balance of the reports. The new EMS director was working on reporting to make it more accurate. He also read the Fire Department Report for August.

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 last month, the docket for October was filling up. Clerk Canesi has provided letters to be mailed out to see if we have interest in developing the affordable lots.

Councilman Leeds asked if the eye doctor withdrew their application?

Councilman Utts confirmed that to be true.

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

Councilman Notaro had no report.

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

Councilman Smith reported that Northfield Community School was back in session, and Back to School Night was tonight. Councilman Smith noted he was missing Back to School Night at Northfield and at Mainland to be here this evening. Dispatch had been the focus of shared service meetings; he would be setting up another meeting with Ocean City, along with Linwood. There was no firm proposal yet.

Council President Polistina asked was there any involvement with end users at this point?

Councilman Smith replied discussions were preliminary, they were not at that stage yet.

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

Councilwoman Bucci reported that attendance at the library continued to increase, there was still one vacancy on the Library Board. There was a tax ID issue and bank account issues; they have been updated. She announced the date of Trunk or Treat, interested parties should contact Shannon Campbell.

Council President Polistina – Finance and Collections; Senior Citizens

Council President Polistina reported for finance and collections, it seems as though we may be doing better than last year, but it may be too early to say. The previous Tax Collector left but went above and beyond to ensure we stayed on track until the new Tax Collector, Laura Cohen started. Laura hit the ground running and was doing well.

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 reported there didn't seem to be any more issues.

Engineer Nassar replied that the area was still low and needed to be addressed.

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

There was no update.

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

Council President Polistina noted that Councilman Utts had given an update during his committee report.

- Changes to Sign Ordinance

Councilman Bucci did not have an update.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities
 - Appointment of Special Projects Engineer

Engineer Nassar replied that he was working on the Transportation Set-Aside grant.

Council President Polistina noted there had been discussions of special projects grants, such as City facilities including the public works building. We will evaluate all opportunities.

Councilman Utts would like to see a professional master plan for Birch Grove Park.

Councilman Notaro suggested the bike path and recreation.

Council President Polistina advised that Engineer Nassar was working on the bike path, recreation would be included in the master plan being proposed.

Councilman Smith noted a grant opportunity he saw.

Councilman Utts mentioned charging stations, for the public, as a desired project for grant funding.

Mayor Chau announced that ACUA has an upcoming information session.

- Stadium Seating for Council Chambers

Council President Polistina moved to seating for Council Chambers. The project was discussed during budget talks; if all generally approve it will be on the next agenda.

There were no concerns.

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- Further Discussion of Fire Pit Ordinance

Councilman Notaro will meet with Chief Cummings to finalize a draft of the ordinance for the next meeting. If anyone has suggestions, please provide them to Councilman Notaro; at present, the pending changes are to allow commercial entities to have firepits, and all to have certain gas appliances.

Engineer Nassar advised Council that regarding Resolution 171-2022, South Jersey Gas would be able to do the work behind the curb so the hardship waiver request was not needed.

Solicitor Facenda suggested Clerk Canesi get confirmation that Mr. Luciano would like to withdraw the application. He announced that Resolution 171-2022 would not be moved this evening.

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.

Councilwoman Bucci requested this option for Resolution 188-2022.

Council President Polistina made the agenda assignments.

Solicitor Facenda announced he did not believe this individual had been issued a Rice notice, Council cannot discuss the merits of his employment. Council would need to do that in executive session. Council could discuss the resolution in general.

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, regarding Block 66, Lot 11, asked if someone withdrew an offer?

Councilman Utts replied we are just sending letters now to gauge interest.

Mr. Boyd asked if Habitat was still interested?

Councilman Utts replied they are one of the letter recipients.

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Mr. Boyd continued, the plans for the ice cream parlor at Tilton and Zion has an exit on to Zion Road, there were construction vehicles parked along Zion Road. He knew it was a County road. He asked could the City have it posted as no parking before they open?

Mayor Chau noted it did go before the County Planning Board.

Council President Polistina replied that we could check with the County to see if it's a no parking zone.

Mr. Boyd was concerned about the increase in traffic as a result of the turn onto Zion. He felt future development in this area should consider this, especially due to proximity to the bike path.

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

Councilman Smith mentioned 190-2022, he asked would it will there be discussion.

Solicitor Facenda issued the same advice as to 188-2022.

At 6:29pm, on a motion of Councilman Utts, seconded by Councilman Notaro, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk