

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

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 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 September 28, 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 September 28, 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/88047302522> or by telephone using one tap mobile +13126266799,,88047302522# or direct dial +1 312 626 6799 using Meeting ID: 880 4730 2522. 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 September 24, 2021.

Municipal Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“As you may know, in late May, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 242, related to Covid-19 and which eased restrictions on face coverings in indoor public spaces, under certain conditions. The order permits employers to impose stricter requirements regarding face coverings in indoor settings, which, in the best interests of our employees and visitors, the City of Northfield opted to do in May, and continues to do. Based on CDC guidelines, the City of Northfield continues to require face coverings and social distancing in our indoor public spaces, and visitors are made aware of this decision with signs at the entrances to the building.

Due to the continued social distancing requirements, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public this evening. 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, 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.

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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 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.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilman Smith*

**Councilman Smith was not present when attendance was taken, but arrived at 6:08pm.*

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

Council President Polistina announced Committee Reports.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Perri stated the contractor started cleaning and slip lining of the sanitary sewer system; the project was underway. He thanked the Police Department and all involved for the bike rodeo, it was a nice event. He expressed concerns with the ACUA pick up in the northern sector of town, he called Deputy Clerk Campbell to report it. There was no pick up at all the week of the 13th and, then it was not picked up until the 20th. Councilman Perri planned on suggesting an alternate schedule with the other sector. The commercial sectors were also not being picked up regularly. He would follow up with the ACUA. He noted at least five times the yard waste had not been picked up.

Councilman Notaro added that leaves were also an issue.

Councilman Perri confirmed that yes, yard waste had been an issue. He understands there were staffing issues, but they should rotate, let the south end sit and do the north end.

**Councilman Smith arrived at 6:08pm.*

Councilman Perri reported that he attended a service for Elaine St. John as well as the internment for Marie McGlynn. He was unable to attend the service for Howard Thomson, and offered condolences to all of the families.

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

Councilman Utts had nothing to report for Zoning and Code Enforcement. There was nothing on the docket last month for the Planning Board; there was one variance on for the next meeting.

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

Councilman Notaro thanked the Police Department and Deputy Clerk Campbell for their hard work on the rodeo and other events. He thanked Councilman Dewees for his work on the bike trails, it is a great asset to the City. Regarding FAN, all levels were doing well. There was an unfortunate event in Middle Township, a taxi-level child was injured, he wished his best for a speedy recovery. He thanked Inspira for great service to the City and our fields. The FAN Board President had expressed interest in the hayrides and letting FAN do that as a fundraiser next year. He recognized the passing of Howard Thomson, and read details from the obituary

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highlighting his service to the community. It was a busy week for police and fire. He had received feedback that our staff are very professional.

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

Councilman Dewees thanked the Police Department and Deputy Clerk Campbell for the bike rodeo.

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

Councilman Smith said he would hold off on court discussions, as that will occur later in the evening. He attended the Northfield Community School Board of Education Meeting; it was quick. He did ask about the preschool. There were 12 classes, one was at the old Owl Tree and the money was state and federal. The facility across the street was not part of that.

Councilman Perri asked how many others there were?

Councilman Smith replied there were two classrooms in the school and ten others. They were not all full and they need to get approved each year. He believed there were four locations throughout the town.

Councilwoman Madden – Insurance and Safety; Library; Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden had nothing to report for her committees. She was unable to attend the Mainland Regional High School Board of Education meeting. She did attend Atlantic County League of Municipalities dinner, and commented that they had two very good speakers, one for County court and one for shared services.

Council President Polistina – Finance and Collections; Municipal Alliance

Council President Polistina thanked Sergeant DiMarco and Deputy Clerk Campbell for getting the rodeo organized, he also thanked all Police Officers and Chief Newman for participating.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

- Zion Road Pump Station Easement – *Update from Engineer Nassar/ Solicitor Facenda*
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Solicitor Facenda reported he should have the subdivision application filed within the week.

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Engineer Nassar asked to add shrubbery; nothing that required a lot of maintenance and we also needed to be wary of sight lines.

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

Engineer Nassar did not have an update.

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

The Committee had nothing new to report.

- Sump Pumps discharging into Storm Drains – *Ordinance Pending*

Councilman Perri asked would the prohibitions he'd referenced at the last meeting apply?

Solicitor Facenda replied he would take a look and report back within a week.

Councilman Perri reported that he did additional research; it seemed like other municipalities had addressed this, but with limits of 100'. If ice or health hazards were created the City can move in and address. He had a lot of material he had printed out.

- Potential Acquisition of Fire Truck

Councilman Notaro reported there was a fire truck meeting at the Wildwood expo; he believed they would have the specifications sheet in November.

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

Engineer Nassar did not have an update.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Council President Polistina moved to New Grant Opportunities; none were presented.

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- Potential Public Auction of City Owned Property Block 66 Lot 11

Clerk Canesi announced this would be discussed in a future closed session; she was awaiting information from the Planner with regard to Habitat.

Councilman Perri asked for metes and bounds and a description of property, when it becomes relevant.

Clerk Canesi agreed.

Councilman Smith, regarding 301 Shore Road, the parcel that someone would like to donate to the City. The party has provided proof that they believe indicated there was no oil tank.

Mayor Chau asked was it a buildable lot?

Clerk Canesi advised that there used to be a home on the parcel, a nonconforming use that had since been demolished. Planning Board approval would be required.

Councilman Smith replied we need to decide if we want to accept it.

Solicitor Facenda responded we would need to order title work.

Councilman Perri suggested possible future use for affordable housing.

Engineer Nassar advised Council that we had a biannual contract for maintenance and repair of our sanitary and storm sewer systems, he would bring to the Council at the next meeting for approval. The current contract expires at the end of this year.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina asked all to refer to their agenda packet.

Council President Polistina made the assignments.

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.

Christine Camp, 701 Burton Avenue, stated that on September 19th a dog was attacked on the bike path. She asked was Northfield going to step up and make an owner pay the vet bill?

Solicitor Facenda asked Ms Camp if she had filed a complaint; he explained the

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adjudication process.

Ms. Camp replied that it was not her dog, she was representing a friend. The police came and a complaint was signed. Nothing was done. She felt signs needed to be on bike path.

Solicitor Facenda advised that the aggrieved person could file their own complaint. The redress is with the municipal court.

Council President Polistina replied he would look into posting signs and would follow up with Ms Camp.

Ms Camp added that this was not the first time it happened. There should be a sign. There was no common sense.

Councilman Dewees was considering posting rules that were consistent with the ordinance.

Mayor Chau stated that he had received complaints over the years with regard to dogs on the bike path, bicyclists, motor cycles. He has no problems putting signs there but if people can't control their dogs that was his concern. This was Mayor Chau's concern with the dog park. There were people who don't read signs and don't care.

Ms Camp believed there should be a fine.

Clerk Canesi responded that she believed there was already a fine associated with violations of the related ordinance; the trigger is someone actually filing a complaint.

Tom Boyd, 117 Northfield Avenue, had a question about regulations governing the use of e-bikes, electric bikes, and battery powered motor scooters on the bike path. In the last three days he had witnessed several issues, a child with no helmet was doing in excess of 20mph on the bike path. Yesterday, he was bicycling on the bike path at Zion Road and was almost hit by an adult on an electric bike who was towing another cyclist with a 12- to 15-foot-long strap, taking up the entire width of the bike path. Mr. Boyd encountered another individual who had seen the same individuals and had shared that she had to move out of their way.

Solicitor Facenda read the definition from the code for motor-driven vehicles.

Council President Polistina replied those were battery operated, not motor driven. He asked Chief Newman for clarification.

Chief Newman announced our ordinance was written before e-bikes. He believed there was a statute on e-bikes.

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Solicitor Facenda asked Chief Newman to forward it to him.

Councilman Dewees urged caution, children were using these types of vehicles to get to and from school.

Mr. Boyd was not necessarily suggesting they be banned, but some rules and regulations. He suggested possibly a bike rodeo for the scooters for the youngsters. He felt e-bikes were typically adults.

Mayor Chau suggested we check with Linwood and Somers Point, since we all share the same bike path.

Solicitor Facenda added that the State statute was signed into law in 2019, it appeared to have definitions. He could look at it and report back to Council.

Clerk Canesi announced there was no one in Zoom wishing to speak.

Responding to an earlier inquiry, Clerk Canesi advised that the assessed value of 301 Shore Road was \$54,900.00 and the taxes are \$1,896.00 annually and were current.

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

At 6:50pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Utts, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk