

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 10, 2023**

At 6:00pm 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 Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Council President Polistina deferred to Mayor Chau.

Mayor Chau greeted the audience; he said it is his honor and privilege to administer the Oaths of Office for the new Sergeants, they had worked hard for these very deserved promotions.

Clerk Canesi announced Sergeant Bentz, his wife Jill, and their son Jordan.

OATHS OF OFFICE

- Sergeant of Police Geoffrey Bentz

Mayor Chau administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant Bentz.

Sergeant Bentz thanked his wife and son for their love and support, he thanked Mayor Chau, Council, Chief VonColln, his co-workers and the administration for their support. To his new co-workers, he was looking forward to working with them. He thanked Detective Sergeant Buccafurni, his direct supervisor for the past eight years, for his leadership and guidance.

- Sergeant of Police William VanPelt

Clerk Canesi announced Sergeant VanPelt and introduced his wife Jamie, his mother Lori, and his in-laws, Jim and Barbara, Tracy, and Ian.

Mayor Chau administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant VanPelt.

Sergeant VanPelt thanked his mom and wife for their support, and family members as well. He recognized retired Captain Clark, and Lieutenant Dettinger, both of

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 10, 2023**

whom were in attendance, for their previous support. He thanked Chief VonColln, and his co-workers as well.

- Sergeant of Police Justin Heller

Clerk Canesi announced Sergeant Heller; he introduced his wife Jamie, and his sons Jacob and Zach.

Mayor Chau administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant Heller.

Sergeant Heller thanked his wife and kids for their support, his parents for making him the person he is today, his co-workers and Chief, as well as Council. He promised to do the job to the best of his ability.

At 6:11pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of a brief recess.

At 6:21pm, Council President Polistina called the meeting back to order.

Clerk Canesi announced that Councilman Dewees had departed during the recess and would not be returning.

Council President Polistina moved to Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Leeds – Fire Department/EMS; Planning Board

Councilman Leeds had no report. He thanked all involved for their efforts with Trunk or Treat, the turnout was impressive, a fantastic job by all.

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

Councilman Dewees was absent.

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

Councilwoman Bucci congratulated all three Sergeants; it was a wonderful thing for our City. She thanked Deputy Clerk Campbell, the Municipal Alliance, the Northfield Police Department, and all who came for the Trunk or Treat event. It was perfect. There is a meeting with the Planning Board on the 18th to discuss the incorporation of the economic element into our master plan. She was also working with other area Economic Development Commissions to improve our business environment. She referred to offshore wind and how it related to a drop in tourism

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 10, 2023**

and potential adverse effect on our economy. She was in favor of renewable energy but not in favor of it, she suggested a resolution in opposition to offshore wind. She would like Council to consider it.

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

Councilman Smith congratulated the Sergeants, he knew they would serve faithfully and serve the City well, we were in good hands. The next Board of Education meeting was scheduled for October 23rd. Baseball was coming to an end for the Fall season, he wished them well. There was a meeting with the Central Municipal Court, Councilman Leeds attended in Councilman Smith's absence. He thanked Councilman Leeds for attending and sharing the information. We were supposed to be leaving the court and sharing with Hammonton as of the first of the year, he asked Solicitor Facenda to follow up on the topic.

Solicitor Facenda replied that he had not heard back but knew the Hammonton Solicitor sent a letter to Judge Blee.

Councilman Smith knew there were certain approvals pending and he would keep everyone informed.

Council President Polistina asked what if Superior Court does not approve us? We had already voted to exit the Central Court.

Solicitor Facenda replied; our options would be to open a court, or to rejoin the Central Court. He believed they wanted us to stay.

Councilman Leeds added that they have eliminated the Sheriff's Officers and have hired a private security company, who would have no powers of arrest.

Council President Polistina asked would the Sherriff's Officers still be in the building?

Councilman Leeds replied, no.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno congratulated Sergeants Bentz, VanPelt and Heller. She reported the family of Claire Kreutz Moyer shared a medal with the Cultural Committee that Claire earned for naming Birch Grove Park. The Cultural Committee was working on a proper display for the medal. She announced the details for Fall Flea Market and said paperwork would be available soon on the City website. She thanked all for their involvement with the Classic Car Show and Trunk or Treat events. It was a great job by all.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 10, 2023**

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

Councilman Notaro congratulated Chief VonColln and the newly sworn Sergeants, he knew all would continue to do a great job. He was unable to attend the Trunk or Treat; he thanked Deputy Clerk Campbell, the Police Department and everyone else involved.

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

Council President Polistina reported the Library meeting was this Thursday. He extended his sincere gratitude to the members of the Police Department for their service and specifically Sergeants VanPelt, Bentz, and Heller.

Council President Polistina moved to the ad hoc committee reports.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

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

Councilwoman Bucci announced an ordinance was under review.

- 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 Development of City Owned Properties: Block 66 Lot 11; Block 69 Lot 1.02; Block 121 Lot 1

Solicitor Facenda reported that surveys were on order for the two Dolphin Avenue properties; the parcel on Jackson we do not actually own. We have a few options but they need to be discussed with our COAH professionals. He will also discuss with our Tax Collector and Assessor to determine options for assessment and collection. He asked for Council's approval to reach out to the owner, JP Rail, to see if the lack of a recorded deed had been an oversight.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 10, 2023**

Council President Polistina suggested we wait for the COAH professionals to opine.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Engineer Nassar reported that he had a Zoom meeting this morning for the Safe Routes to Schools Grant and received some good guidance. Grant amounts range from \$350,000.00 to \$1,500,000.00. He explained a lengthy approval process was required, it could be between four and five years.

Council President Polistina asked when was it due?

Engineer Nassar replied it was due in November and the announcements would be in within six months.

Clerk Canesi noted that she would forward the template to Councilman Smith for the letter of support from the Northfield Board of Education.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

Council President Polistina made the 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 for the record and observe the five-minute limit per speaker.

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

At 6:41pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk