

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
OCTOBER 24, 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 Dewees; Councilman Leeds; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

Solicitor Facenda and Engineer Nassar were also in attendance.

Council President Polistina announced the ceremonial oath of office for Patrolman Garofalo has been moved to 7pm.

**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 that the stair project for the football snack bar was moving forward, the new playground equipment was delivered, and the vector truck had also been delivered.

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

Councilman Utts reported the recent Planning Board application was approved; he noted that a certain necessary parcel of land had already been vacated by the City.

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

Councilman Notaro recognized Mike Adamson, who would be retiring at the end of November, for his dedication and hard work.

**Councilman Leeds** – Fire Department/EMS

Councilman Leeds explained the Fire Department's 'Lifeline Program'. He applauded Captain Nixon for service recently provided to a 'Lifeline' program participant, who, when they did not respond to the daily call, Captain Nixon went over and rendered very necessary assistance. He congratulated Councilwoman Bucci for attending the Fire Department's live-burn activity, in the rain, last night.

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

Councilman Smith attended a meeting last week with Mayor Chau and Council President Polistina regarding the Regional Court; the preliminary numbers were not favorable and this concern was expressed. We want to keep our costs down. The Northfield Community School Board of Education meeting was last night; the school contracted with an outside security firm to have an armed guard present at the school 180 days per year. More details were forthcoming, they did make a statement that they would coordinate with the Police Department, with the goal to provide immediate assistance if needed at the school. Councilman Smith has been pursuing a shared service concept with Ocean City for dispatch; as part of that, Ocean City was looking to do an analysis of the software issues. Councilman Smith would share information as it becomes available.

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

Councilwoman Bucci announced being at the live-burn drill was very interesting, she commended all first responders for their hard work: Police, Fire and OEM, adding that we are very fortunate. The next Safety Meeting is November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Alliance will be hosting a holiday craft on December 17<sup>th</sup> along with a visit from Santa at the Library. She commended the Board for the great job they have done in the past year in organizing the library. The Northfield Community School representative has been attending the Board meetings. Councilwoman Bucci read the attendance figures for September, and stated they were working on a maintenance agreement for the City. She urged all to look at survey on the Library's Facebook page. Regarding the Economic Development Commission there was a launch event at the Republic Bank, hosted by the bank, with 27 responses. The next thing will be a focus group so they can determine where the group wants to go.

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

Council President Polistina stated, as Councilman Smith mentioned, the Court numbers have increased substantially. It was still in its infancy, hopefully other towns would join, and hopefully the court can tighten some of the costs. Our original projected savings weren't much because our Court wasn't that costly. Council President Polistina suggested they allocate future costs based on current caseloads. There was a current backlog of cases. He attended the grand opening of Garden State Academy; they'd actually opened some time ago but couldn't have a grand opening because of Covid. It was a nice event and Council President Polistina wished them well.

Council President Polistina announced that he, Mayor Chau and Business Administrator Canesi conducted interviews for the Police Chief's position, and that

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he and the Mayor would have a recommendation for Council. He would like to schedule a Special Meeting for November 2<sup>nd</sup> to appoint the new Chief. He asked for availability at 4pm on that date; all members present were available.

Clerk Canesi announced the agenda is limited for Special Meeting, discussion on the part of members of Council would be limited to the appointment of the Chief, based on the published agenda.

Mayor Chau asked to do his report because he has to leave early. He did not have information on Halloween yet. Regarding the Court, it was felt that the data was not perhaps up to date; they were working through staffing challenges. There was also a directive from the State that the Central Court picked up the costs of municipalities that are serviced by the state, such as Atlantic City, Hamilton Township, etc. The savings were not what we thought they would be but Mayor Chau felt we can all agree we are still better off, financially, than if we operated our own Court. Some municipalities were reluctant to join the Central Court because of loyalty to long-time staff. Mayor Chau, Councilman Notaro, Councilwoman Bucci and Councilman Leeds attended another grand opening for a new business – it was very nice to have them. He thanked Councilwoman Bucci for revitalizing the Economic Development Commission.

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

- Stormwater Facilities Shared with Atlantic County–*Update if available, Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar did not have an update.

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

Councilman Utts reported we were waiting to hear from two interested parties.

- Changes to Sign Ordinance – *Pending*

Nothing to report.

- Joint Court – ACPO Proposal to Provide MCP Services

Covered under committee reports.

- Fire Pit Ordinance – *Update if available, from Fire Pit Ordinance Committee*

Solicitor Facenda would have something on fire pits at the next meeting.

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

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Nothing new to report.

**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; there were no replies.

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.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, he closed the public session.

At 6:23pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Smith, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk