

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 26, 2024**

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 6, 2024, and in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Chau led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Mauro, and Chief of Police VonColln were also present.

6PM PRESENTATION: Sherri Lilienfeld, Microplastics In Construction

Councilwoman Bucci announced Steve Jasiocki. He spoke in place of Ms. Lilienfeld.

Steve Jasiocki is a resident of Margate. He felt there were irresponsible practices on the part of construction contractors. They were cutting Trex and other similar materials that allow microplastics to enter the environment. Many cities have adopted resolutions to address these, he believed it should be a state law but isn't. This includes fiberglass, asphalt and other materials and his suggestion is an amendment to our building code to address collecting these microplastic particles and keeping them out of the environment and out of the air. He provided Councilwoman Bucci with a sample ordinance. He showed examples of flyers that can be distributed to explain the principles of responsible construction. As far as enforcement, he has found that once the contractors are aware, they self-regulate.

Councilman Dewees asked if these materials can be disposed of like any other material, or do they have to be processed in some other way?

Mr. Jasiocki replied that like any other hazardous material, such as lead, no. He felt it would be wonderful to collect this material and recycle it into other materials.

Mayor Chau asked did this apply just to contractors or to homeowners as well?

Mr. Jasiocki replied that it was up to the municipality. He encouraged building awareness.

Councilman Dewees stated he did see contractors operating responsibly with collection bags, etc., but there was work to be done.

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Mr. JasiECKi said Margate, Longport, Ventnor, Mays Landing, and Egg Harbor City have adopted the Ordinance. He was on Margate's Green Team.

Solicitor Facenda asked if the State was looking at it at all. If all towns are adopting regulations, they may be different, it would seem to make sense that the State should regulate it so it would be consistent.

Mr. JasiECKi replied that was the goal.

Solicitor Facenda asked if there had been any discussion with the State?

Mr. JasiECKi replied, not yet.

Councilman Smith asked were there recommended ways of disposing of the microplastics, and what were they?

Mr. JasiECKi replied; he wished there were, they would be going into the trash, but at least it's not the air.

Councilman Notaro asked what were other towns doing for enforcement?

Mr. JasiECKi replied, just talking to them, they were not issuing fines yet.

Councilwoman thanked Mr. JasiECKi; Council would discuss.

Council President Leeds also thanked Mr. JasiECKi and moved to Committee Reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Dewees announced Public Works was closing the bathrooms and shutting down the irrigation systems.

Councilwoman Bucci – Insurance and Safety; Planning Board; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilwoman Bucci did not have a report.

Councilman Polistina – Finance and Collections; Inspections, Housing/Zoning; Library; Municipal Alliance Senior Citizens

Councilman Polistina announced, for the Alliance, Cookie with a Cop was scheduled for December 14th at Birch Grove Park. Space was limited, contact Shannon Campbell in the Clerk's Office. For the library, they have been doing some

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renovations, it looks like a new building. They have \$376,000 in their treasury and are looking at some furniture and shelving upgrades to keep current with the times. There is a new director. They are working on their budget right now.

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

Councilman Smith, regarding Court, said we are moving forward. He did not have any updates for Little League, although he believed the issue of meetings may need to be addressed. The Board of Education meeting was quick, there was nothing new.

Councilman Dewees added, for frisbee golf, they were in the process of setting up meetings after the holidays to move the project forward.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno extended thanks Joan Brennan, Roy Clark, and Eleanor Webb for setting up a successful flea market and to Superintendent Bretones and staff for opening the doors to the community. Mainland Regional High School football team is going to the State Championships again. The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for December 16th at 6m. Regarding Hometown Heroes, the Google form was not a good idea so she has created a manual form.

Councilman Dewees asked what we needed to do to move forward, they were supposed to be on the inside of the sidewalk.

Solicitor Facenda recalled that it appeared we may not have completed the approval process.

Mayor Chau added that the banners and flags need to be on the inside of the sidewalk, other towns were grandfathered and Mayor Chau believed we should be as well. He wanted them on the outside of the pole because they are less visible on the inside.

Councilwoman Bucci suggested the Bike Path.

Councilwoman Carfagno would speak with Councilman Dewees, there were concerns about them being so close to the ground, they could be at risk of vandalism.

Councilman Dewees believed we could make it work.

Mayor Chau asked who pays for the banners?

Councilwoman Carfagno replied the sponsor pays; they pay for the bracket as well. It would be for two years and we'd put them up in the summer.

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

Councilman Notaro reported he met with the County officials regarding the slip line project, Engineer Mauro would provide an update during her report. FAN had their last home game, the field held up well and whatever we were doing was working; he received many compliments. He congratulated Mainland High School Football, again.

Council President Leeds – Fire Department/EMS

Council President Leeds thanked the career Firefighters for their work on the updates to the Firehouse, he thanked Captain Nixon as well, who was in attendance in the audience.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Electric Vehicles – *Councilmen Polistina and Notaro.*

Councilman Notaro advised that Clerk Canesi was working on the electric vehicle ordinance.

Special Events Ordinance – *Councilwoman Bucci, Councilman Dewees.*

Councilwoman Bucci announced she distributed a packet to all of Council, it was a draft ordinance to create a special events permit process, and to allow alcoholic beverages at the park. She asked all to review it for discussion at the December 17th meeting.

Affordable Housing – *Councilwoman Carfagno, Councilman Polistina*

There was no update.

Road Opening Ordinance – *Councilmen Dewees and Notaro.*

Councilman Notaro did not have an update.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

(there were no topics listed)

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

There were no new grant opportunities.

- Selection of Date for 2025 Annual Reorganization Meeting

Council President Leeds suggested January 7th at 7pm. All agreed.

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REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Leeds reviewed the agenda and made the assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION / FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Leeds opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to comment on any subject, he asked that all persons state their name and city of residence for the record and observe the five-minute limit per speaker.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Council President Leeds closed the public session.

At 6:26pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk