

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 12, 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 moved to Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Leeds – Fire Department/EMS; Planning Board

Councilman Leeds read the Fire Department and EMS calls for November.

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

Councilman Dewees did not have a report.

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

Councilwoman Bucci announced the details for Cookie with a Cop and thanked Christine's pastry for donating for the event. The next Municipal Alliance event is Hooked on Fishing, in June. Councilwoman Bucci recommended we join the ACEA again next year. She had a recent meeting to develop the next steps for our economic element.

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

Councilman Smith reported that Northfield Little League registration was open. He asked Solicitor Facenda to give an update on the court.

Solicitor Facenda announced an update was sent in an email to the Council, he has not heard anything from Judge Blee's chambers regarding our request.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 12, 2023**

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

Councilwoman Carfagno reported the next Mainland Regional High School Board of Education meeting was the 18th at 6pm, there would be a special meeting on January 4th at 6pm and all three towns were sending their Mayors to honor the football team, cheer squad, and marching band. She encouraged all to attend.

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

Councilman Notaro did not have a report.

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

Council President Polistina had no committee reports.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Council President Polistina reported there were no updates.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

- Stormwater Facilities Shared with Atlantic County–*Update if available, Engineer Nassar*
- Potential Sale / Development of City Owned Properties: Block 66 Lot 11; Block 69 Lot 1.02

Engineer Nassar advised there was no update on the Stormwater facility issue.

Council President Polistina announced we were waiting to hear back from Habitat for Humanity with their plans and response to the surveys.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

No new grant opportunities were announced.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

Council President Polistina made the assignments.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 12, 2023**

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 City of residence for the record and observe the five-minute limit per speaker.

Paul McSorley, Northfield, stated he has a property at 614 Dolphin Avenue, which abuts a property slated for use by Habitat. If possible, he would like to get the strip of land on lot 11 for his use as a driveway and put a house on the back end of his property.

Council President Polistina stated the property has been slated for use by Habitat.

Councilman Notaro asked would this be a subdivision.

Clerk Canesi stated that we would also need to offer the land to adjacent landowners, we cannot just give or sell to Mr. McSorley. She advised we have just presented Habitat for Humanity with the property surveys; we do not yet know how they intend to use the land, and whether this piece is disposable, or not.

Council President Polistina stated we would inquire if they were going to use it.

Ian Brady, Linwood, appreciated the phone calls over the weekend, he understands a city employee would need to be present, does that cover just strictly motorized tools? What if they just brought rakes out and simple maintenance?

Solicitor Facenda explained we are dealing with labor law, a lot of what we are talking about are union employees, and we need to examine all the issues. Volunteer labor, unionized labor, insurance issues, indemnification issues, expenditure issues and certain donation issues. He believed the Council was very interested and hopeful that we would get there, but we must be careful that we do not create litigation along the way. He was not comfortable allowing Council to answer, because labor counsel would need to weigh in.

Mr. Brady referred to ongoing maintenance, raking, etc.

Solicitor Facenda hoped to have answers by the middle of next month, before we have a Resolution, but that would still give plenty of time to get course done before spring.

Councilman Dewees added that we also need to identify how many trees need to be removed.

Mr. Brady noted some areas can't even be walked in.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 12, 2023**

Councilman Dewees stated we need a clearer and more specific plan so we can submit it to the public as well.

Solicitor Facenda asked, in general, how wide is the fairway on a disc golf course?

Paul Rader Hammonton, responded that the typical course can be 20 feet wide, they do throw through the trees.

Councilman Dewees asked, what is heaviest frisbee?

Mr. Brady replied, 178 grams.

Solicitor Facenda asked, how long is a hole on average?

Mr. Brady replied, 200 to 800 feet, depending on the par.

Solicitor Facenda asked, what was the plan for tee boxes?

Mr. Brady explained it was the same turf as in a high school football field, attached to a four-by-four piece of wood; the tee boxes were not permanent.

Councilman Dewees asked, were the baskets sunk in concrete?

Mr. Brady replied yes, two feet down, attached with padlock, galvanized, there was a 25-year lifespan, they can be left out year-round.

Mayor Chau asked was this going to be supervised and who was responsible for maintenance.

Mr. Brady replied no, and he would love to have volunteers responsible for maintenance.

Councilman Dewees noted it would be like maintaining the bicycle trails.

Mayor Chau asked, where were some of these courses?

Mr. Brady stated Upper Township, Stockton University, Rio Grande, Cape May Zoo, and Ocean County.

Council President Polistina appreciated all of Mr. Brady's work.

Councilman Leeds, stated, as far as them going out and doing clean up, there was a political party who did a cleanup. He wanted to know why was that different.

Solicitor Facenda replied he couldn't answer that, he was not aware.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 12, 2023**

Councilman Dewees reiterated that we need to get a better, clearer plan.

Solicitor Facenda would like to join in the walk through.

Councilman Smith would like to be included in any discussions, since he proposed this originally, three years ago. He asked for a preliminary map, he would like to see it.

Mr. Brady stated he had a revised plan and would send it.

Council President Polistina will forward the revised plan to everyone. He thanked Mr. Brady.

Mary Foltz, Northfield, announced she was the President of Northfield Business Association, and said they were thriving, with 40 members and are part of seven other associations. She was working to submit a proposal for state appropriation funding to Senator Polistina; she had been asking members of Council what the Business Association can do by way of support, adding that they would like to support the frisbee golf course as an opportunity to bring business to the City. She would like to collaborate with the Council and the school. They were going into 2024 with a greater vision.

Council President Polistina announced as Councilwoman Bucci asked, Council would discuss at budget time.

Mrs. Foltz asked that Council reach out to her if there was something outside of the reach of the Council, she wanted to continue to grow their vision.

Tom Boyd, Northfield, thanked all for their continued service to the City, and wished all a happy and productive new year. Go Habitat!

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

At 6:30pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk