

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
DECEMBER 13, 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 Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau

**Absent:** Councilman Notaro

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

Council President Polistina welcomed the crowd and asked Mayor Chau to speak regarding this evening's ceremony.

Mayor Chau called forward Firefighter Trench who was joined by his parents, Patrick and Karen, and his son Connor.

**6PM CEREMONIAL OATH OF OFFICE:** Firefighter Christopher Trench

Mayor Chau administered the Oath to Firefighter Trench.

Firefighter Trench thanked Council for their ongoing support.

Council President Polistina thanked Firefighter Trench and all of the Fire Department for what they do for our community.

Council President Polistina 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 reported there was still a bit of work to be done with the steps to the football tower; some electrical work which would be separate from the C Alexander project. The bleachers were on the agenda; Public Works would assemble them and the Engineer would inspect for safety. The new playground equipment was in, he would like to have an opening ceremony in the Spring. New columns for out

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
DECEMBER 13, 2022**

front of City Hall have been ordered; it will be the same company as the score tower steps, C Alexander.

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

Councilman Utts reported the Planning Board was mulling regulations for generators and a new tree removal ordinance with some teeth in it, and an ordinance with regard to electric vehicle charging stations. He urged all to attend the symposium on veterans' suicide; all received an invitation by email.

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

Councilman Notaro was absent.

**Councilman Leeds** – Fire Department/EMS

Councilman Leeds read the EMS report for November, including call volume and response times. He read the fire report for November which included mutual aid responses to the other area towns for large structure fires. He commended City mechanic Rob Blaine for his work done recently to ensure the Fire Department vehicles and equipment remained in-service after a breakdown. He commended the Police Department, and Chief Newman, for the recent actions of an officer at the scene of a call involving a cardiac arrest. The officer did not hesitate to assist with CPR. Councilman Leeds attended the recent Planning Board meeting as a visitor, and was pleased they were bringing back the flag salute in 2023. He noted the recent occurrence of a significant accident at Oak and Zion, and urged that Council contact the County to request a full traffic light at this location.

Councilman Dewees suggested a letter from Mayor Chau to County Executive Levinson requesting a traffic study.

Engineer Nassar suggested a four-way stop as a faster alternative, as opposed to a traffic light.

Council President Polistina asked if the illuminated, motion-sensitive stop signs deter more accidents?

Engineer Nassar believed they were affective; he could contact the County Engineer.

Councilman Smith asked if we had asked Chief Newman to comment?

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
DECEMBER 13, 2022**

Chief Newman stated there have been accidents, he did not have the figures off the top of his head, but they were usually the result of someone running the stop sign at Oak, or failing to yield.

Councilman Smith asked how long had the blinking light been there, and do we know the impact it has had?

Councilman Dewees believed the flashing light was the result of a fatality; he agreed that the quicker course of action may be to put the flashing stop signs at Oak.

Engineer Nassar offered to look at pricing.

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

Councilman Smith reported that Northfield Little League was engaging in early registration in anticipation of the Spring season and offering early bird discounts. The Mayor indicated he was attending a meeting at Northfield Community School which was their strategic planning meeting; Councilman Smith wished it was a different date so he could attend. He read a from the school letter sent to all parents; noting there were 2 additional meeting dates. Interested parties should RSVP to the school. He has been engaging in discussions regarding the building inspector and construction official - he has spoken with Galloway; their cost was a little bit more than we are looking for but that was still an option. There was a severe shortage of qualified individuals to fill these roles. Councilman Smith would continue to engage in discussions to try to get something in place before the end of the year. He passed condolences on to Marge Connolly's family; she passed away last week. She was a long-time teacher at NCS and was the wife of Bud Connolly, for whom the Connolly Run was named. She was very active in the community and a highly regarded teacher.

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

Councilwoman Bucci read the Library attendance for November, she commended Shannon Campbell for her work on the Alliance; she really goes above and beyond. She announced upcoming events, Cookie with a Cop this Saturday and Coffee with a Cop in February, there was a potential for movie night but there were licensing issues. Regarding EDC they would be naming their board and the bylaws were in the process of being approved. It had been very time consuming but Councilwoman Bucci was really enjoying it and the business community has been very responsive. She noted that the business community would be forming their own business association, separate and apart from the EDC, and they will be their own non-profit.

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

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
DECEMBER 13, 2022**

Council President Polistina thanked Councilwoman Bucci for her efforts on behalf of the EDC. He met with the ACUA recently for our annual budget meeting, wastewater, recycling, tipping, etc., it's all going up. The good news was that our flows were down and we believe the slip lining project has contributing to that. Our costs may end up being lower as a result. We would discuss these increases during the budget cycle. He added that the rates have been flat for several years.

Councilman Leeds asked were we getting credit for yard waste not being picked up? He shared that his neighbor has had their yard waste out for three and a half weeks.

Council President Polistina replied that this may be a 'one-off'; the ACUA did give us a heads up that there would be delays around the holiday. He asked Councilman Leeds to keep the Council informed.

Council President Polistina thanked Councilman Paul Utts for his years on Council, and said he has enjoyed working with him. He thanked Chief Newman for his years of service as well.

Council President Polistina moved to work session, ongoing topics.

**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*

Council President Polistina noted we were waiting for proposals to come back.

- Changes to Sign Ordinance – *Pending*

Councilwoman Bucci noted they were still working on the Ordinance.

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

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities
  - 2023 Local Recreation Improvement Grant – *Req. by Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar reported he was working on the 2023 Local Recreation Improvement Grant, there was a Resolution on the agenda tonight.

- Potential Sale of Block 9.01 Lot 24

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
DECEMBER 13, 2022**

Council President Polistina reported on the potential sale of Block 9.01 Lot 24. It was not buildable; he asked would Council like to put that up for sale? If so, we would offer it first to the adjacent property owners, and if they have no interest, we could put it out for public sale.

- Library Maintenance Agreement

Council President Polistina said he would not recommend voting on the Library Agreement this evening because the Council had not had the opportunity to review it.

Municipal Clerk Canesi stated it has just been received and only sent it to Council yesterday. She had tried to use the ‘compare’ function in Word, to compare it to the previous agreement but the new version was so different, this was unsuccessful. Clerk Canesi urged everyone to read it, she advised that she had made comments in the margins in the copy sent to Council.

Councilman Leeds asked wasn't there a committee to explore the library going to the County system? Absecon went to the County system and there were a lot more resources.

**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda, noting that Resolution 235-2022 would not be moved this evening.

Council President Polistina asked if anyone wanted anything voted on separately from the consent agenda. There were no responses.

Council President Polistina noted the amended change to the bill list and 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 and address for the record and observe the five-minute limit per speaker.

Renee Carfagno, 27 Fifield Avenue, congratulated Firefighter Trench, she thanked Councilman Utts for their conversation, and wished him the best in retirement. She asked if there was anything against having a blinking light on a stop sign in a neighborhood.

Engineer Nassar replied they were not that intrusive.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
DECEMBER 13, 2022**

Mrs. Carfagno liked them on the bike path as well, but did not know if they were an option in a residential area.

Peter Brophy, 11 Twelve Oaks Court, announced he was a member of the Planning Board. This was Councilman Utts' last meeting, and commented that Councilman Utts had been a terrific member of the board. He wished him well.

Joe Hasse, South Jersey Supervisor for Planet Networks, spoke and referred to 232-2022. If the Resolution is passed, the next step would be permitting. They would have to document every single power pole and telephone pole, including photographs. It may look like there was not a lot of activity, but there would be. Northfield would be the first town to get their services. He commended the municipal staff and officials for their responsiveness to emails. Mr. Hasse left a stack of business cards and offered to be available with any questions. He was hoping for late winter and early spring for local service.

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

At 6:40pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Leeds, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk