

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 14, 2021**

At 6:07pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 9, 2021, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), will be held in-person and as a remote public meeting (live-streamed) using Zoom conferencing service. Due to continued social distancing requirements related to Covid-19, there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public. Visit the event calendar page for December 14, 2021 at www.cityofnorthfield.org to determine current seating availability. Social distancing will be required for in-person attendance. To reserve an available seat, contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 609-641-2832, ext 125, no later than 4:00pm on December 14, 2021. Once all available seats have been reserved, virtual attendance will be required using a web-browser to Join the Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88220130187> or by telephone using One tap mobile +16465588656,,88220130187# or direct dial +1 646 558 8656 using Meeting ID: 882 2013 0187. For those wishing to comment during the dedicated public comment portion of the meeting, but who may be unable to attend (in person or via Zoom), public comments may also be submitted in advance via email to mcanesi@cityofnorthfield.org, or by written letter to the Office of the Municipal Clerk, 1600 Shore Road, Northfield NJ 08225, or by hand delivery to the drop box in the parking lot at the south corner of the municipal building, addressed to the attention of the Municipal Clerk. Comments shall contain the name and address of the author, will be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting, and must be received by 2:00pm on December 14, 2021.

Municipal Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“Based on CDC guidelines related to Covid-19, the City of Northfield has suggested that everyone 2 years or older who is not fully vaccinated should wear a mask in indoor public places, and visitors are made aware of this decision with signs at the entrances to the building.

To ensure the health and safety of our employees and visitors, we are also continuing to adhere to social distancing requirements in our indoor public spaces, and as a result there are limited seats for in-person attendance by members of the public this evening. In order to ensure that the public may fully participate despite the limited in-person capacity, this meeting is also being presented simultaneously as a remote public meeting, live-streamed, using Zoom conferencing service.

Zoom meeting participants can dial in by telephone and listen to the proceedings, or they can access the meeting using a web-browser, and be able to view and listen. Instructions on how members of the public could reserve one of the limited seats, as well as how they can access Zoom have been made available on the municipal website and were published in the Press of Atlantic City. The full text of the public meeting notice has been posted at the entrance to the municipal building and includes

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 14, 2021**

Zoom instructions, information on where to find the meeting agenda and relevant documents, as well as instructions on how members of the public could submit comments in advance of tonight's meeting.

For those participating via Zoom, all participants will be 'muted' upon entry to the meeting. Web-browser participants will not be able to share their screens or see the camera-view of anyone other than the host, which is the City of Northfield.

Zoom participants wishing to exercise their right to participate during the public comment portion of the meeting should wait until the specific announcement is made to open the public comment period. At this time, one by one, any telephone users will be asked to identify themselves and will be unmuted to permit commentary. For web-browser participants, comments or questions may be submitted via the chat function and will not be acknowledged outside of the designated public-comment portion of the meeting; chat-users must also provide his/her name and address for the record in order to be heard.

Any written comments submitted in advance will be read aloud and addressed during the public comment portion of the meeting."

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present (in person): Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Perri; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Polistina; Mayor Chau.

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

Mayor Chau announced it was his honor to recognize members of City Council this evening who have served. Regardless of political party, Mayor Chau knew everyone was seeking to serve our residents. Mayor Chau learned early on in his political career that you can't please everyone, and he knew the individuals being honored this evening have their hearts in the City. He presented a plaque to Councilwoman Barbara Madden and thanked her for her service.

Councilwoman Madden thanked Mayor Chau.

Mayor Chau stepped down from the dais for the next award, because this person was very special. He remembered this individual when he was in High School, when Mayor Chau was a teacher at Mainland. This person had become a tremendous asset

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 14, 2021**

to the City of Northfield and he knew that, for Councilman Perri, that this was not the end. He called Councilman Perri forward.

Mayor Chau noted that Councilman Perri had never missed a City Council meeting in his entire career, which was incredible. Mayor Chau presented Councilman Perri with a Proclamation, and an inscribed clock, reading the text of both before doing so. The Proclamation read as follows:

“WHEREAS, Frank Perri, Jr. has devoted twenty-nine years of public service as an elected official to the City of Northfield and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Northfield wishes to recognize him for this remarkable contribution; and

WHEREAS, included among his many accomplishments are:

- ◆ Elected by the people for twelve years as Mayor of the City of Northfield, the second longest Mayoral term of office in the City’s 116-year history
- ◆ Elected by the people to serve for seventeen years as a member of the Common Council of the City of Northfield
- ◆ Served eighteen years as a member of the City of Northfield Planning Board
- ◆ Served as Council President; and Council Chairman for the Sewer Interlocal, Public Works Department, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services, and Insurance and Safety Departments
- ◆ Perfect attendance at every Governing Body meeting throughout his long and distinguished twenty-nine-year career as a City of Northfield elected official
- ◆ Founder of the City of Northfield Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- ◆ Chairman of the City of Northfield 2005 Centennial Celebration
- ◆ Chairman of the Memorial Day parade during each of the twelve years he was Mayor
- ◆ Past President of the Atlantic County League of Municipalities

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Erland V. L. Chau, Mayor of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, do hereby honor and recognize Frank Perri, Jr., for his incredible contributions.”

The clock inscription read: “City of Northfield, NJ, Frank Perri, Jr., With sincerest appreciation and gratitude for your dedicated service to the City of Northfield and its residents, Mayor 1996-2007, City Council 1991-1995 and 2010-2021.”

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 14, 2021**

Councilman Perri thanked his family for their support, he thanked the voters. It was a wonderful and rewarding experience. When you are the head of a \$13M municipal corporation, it's amazing what you learn, and he recommended people get involved. He never dreamed, going through Mainland Regional High School, that he would be a Councilman or Mayor. There were people steering him, including Councilman Ben Mazzeo, and Councilman Perri's own father. He thanked the employees, former administrations and employees, and staff. No man is an island, it takes a lot to get this job done. He had no regrets. He knew he was forgetting someone. He laughed. He introduced his wife Lynn, son Frank and daughter-in-law Michelle, along with their children Frank and George, as well as his son-in-law Anthony and niece Jaycee.

Mayor Chau, to Councilman Perri, stated: what you have done these many years is permanently engraved in the City's history.

Council President Polistina announced Committee Reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri– Public Works: Roads, Engineering, Sewer Operations; Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri reported for he would pass along information to Solicitor Facenda and Councilman Dewees for the sump pump issue. He recognized the passing of Mrs. Rosemary O’Dowd and Maryann Rudisill.

Councilman Utts - Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Technology / MRHS Channel; Planning Board

Councilman Utts reported there were two applications before the Planning Board, one was the approval of the subdivision for our pump station, the other is a new facility to try to address some of the brown water issues that NJ American has been having, it would look like a residential structure and no harmful chemicals were involved.

Councilman Notaro - Fire Department/EMS; Northfield Sports (FAN); Cultural Committee / Veteran Liaison; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilman Notaro thanked Councilwoman Madden for her service. He acknowledged Councilman Perri's remarkable attendance record and thanked him for his service. FAN held a car parade for the three football championship teams, they all had an undefeated season. Mayor Chau was in attendance and had a proclamation for them; he thanked Mayor Chau. It was a good community event, he thanked the Police Department, Fire Department and EMS for their participation in the parade. He read the following EMS report for November: 165 calls for service with an

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 14, 2021**

average response time of 5.44 minutes. He noted minimal mutual aid in (12), but still significant mutual aid out (55).

Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields; Birch Grove Park, Bike Path, 1st Street Playground, Veterans Park

Councilman Dewees had no report.

Councilman Smith - Court / Violations; Little League and Babe Ruth, Northfield Community School; Shared Services

Councilman Smith thanked Councilman Perri and Councilwoman Madden for their service. As a History and Government teacher at Mainland, Councilman Smith stressed the need to get involved. He echoed Councilman Perri's sentiments regarding the passing of Mrs. O'Dowd, she contributed a great deal to the community. He offered thoughts and prayers to the O'Dowd family; she would be sorely missed.

Councilwoman Madden – Insurance and Safety; Library; Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Madden read the following Library statistics for November: attendance 326; materials in circulation 955; e-books 36; audio-books 51 and fines and fees collected \$95.75. The Library budget was approved at the last meeting. Councilwoman Madden read the following names for Mainland students of the month: Grade 9 – Purnima Sarker; Grade 10 – Dylan Ireland; Grade 11- Salvatore Christaldi and Alexis Shanks; 12th Grade – Mia Gagliardi and Julia Thornton. There was a presentation by Mr. Curt Foy, Mainland would be hosting NJ Thespian All State Theatre Performance, they will have a show with a theme of 'We Will Rock You'. Mr. Dorsey Finn gave a presentation on the standardized testing results. She announced it had been an honor to serve the citizens of Northfield, it had been a great learning experience, she always took her vote seriously and tried to vote for what the residents seemed to be looking for. Thank you.

Council President Polistina – Finance and Collections; Municipal Alliance

Council President Polistina thanked Councilwoman Madden for her time on Council and her dedication. He thanked Councilman Perri again for his hard work. It does get called a thankless, job, but it is obvious that Councilman Perri didn't treat it that way.

Council President Polistina moved to old business.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

- Zion Road Pump Station Easement – *Update from Engineer Nassar/ Solicitor Facenda*

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 14, 2021**

Solicitor Facenda reported that he and Engineer Nassar appeared before the Planning Board to unanimous approval, he expected to get the decision and resolution in January and thereafter publish the decision, which will begin the 45-day appeal period. He expected we may be able to close in mid-March. He thanked Councilman Perri and Councilwoman Madden, it had been a pleasure to work for and with both of them.

- Northfield Avenue at Rt 9 Drainage –*Update if available from Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar was still waiting for a response.

- Sump Pumps discharging into Storm Drains – *Ordinance Pending*

Councilman Perri presented recommendations to Solicitor Facenda.

- Stormwater Facilities Shared with the County of Atlantic – *Update from Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar has a meeting coming up and hoped to report at the next meeting.

- Potential Acquisition of Fire Truck – *Bid Specifications Pending from Chief Cummings*

Councilman Notaro reported that Chief Cummings had been working for six months on the specifications for the vehicle, the specs were complete and Chief Cummings met with finance last week. It looked like it would be ready for capital discussions in March. If Council approved the vehicle, we likely wouldn't see it until summer 2023 or into 2024.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

Council President Polistina moved to New Grant Opportunities.

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

No new grants were presented.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina asked all to refer to their agenda packet.

Council President Polistina noted an item not on the agenda; everyone was emailed the Government Workers Union Memorandum of Agreement for the Blue-Collar Unit. Resolution 215-2021 to approve the agreement would be added to the agenda.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 14, 2021**

All have had the opportunity to review the MOA and Council President Polistina understood there were no questions. This contract would be effective back to 1/1/2021 and will run through 2024.

Clerk Canesi confirmed that the resolution would be read in full into the record by Solicitor Facenda.

Council President Polistina made the assignments.

Councilman Smith announced he had received a question from a member of the public, who emailed him regarding a four-way stop sign at First Street and Davis Avenue. The resident wanted a four-way stop at First Street and Jackson Avenue, because it is busier. He asked if Chief Newman could address that at some point.

Mayor Chau replied that he has had conversations with Chief Newman, and we have had a patrol car there at times. Chief Newman would review with the traffic officer. He thanked Councilman Smith for bringing it up.

Councilman Perri thanked Councilwoman Madden for her service to the community.

PUBLIC SESSION/ FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Polistina opened this portion of the meeting for any member of the public to speak on any topic; he noted a five-minute limit per speaker.

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

At 6:44pm, on a motion of Councilman Utts, seconded by Councilman Smith, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk