

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JANUARY 16, 2024**

At 5:59pm this meeting was called to order by Deputy Municipal Clerk, Shannon Campbell. 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

The flag salute was led by Councilman Polistina.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Bucci*; Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Polistina; Councilman Smith.

Absent: Councilman Dewees; Councilman Leeds**; Mayor Chau***

**Councilwoman Bucci was present via Zoom.*

***Council President Leeds announced himself via Zoom at approximately 6:09pm.*

****Mayor Chau arrived at 6:02pm but was not present when attendance was taken.*

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Mauro, and Chief VonColln were also present.

Councilman 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 was absent.

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

Councilwoman Bucci took a moment to congratulate resident Victoria Mozitis on her accomplishment in the Miss America Pageant. Councilwoman Bucci was sworn in as a member of the Planning Board at their January 4th meeting; this will coordinate well with the EDC.

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

Councilman Smith advised members that Solicitor Facenda sent all an email regarding the court, he asked all to review it.

At 6:02pm Mayor Chau arrived.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JANUARY 16, 2024**

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

Councilwoman Carfagno regarding MRHS, congratulated the girls track team on their recent Group 3 Championship win. She thanked Mayor Chau, Mayor Matik and Mayor Tapp for the proclamations they presented to the Mainland teams. She thanked the Hard Rock Casino for an amazing event; it was one for the record books. Councilwoman Carfagno announced January 22nd as the next Mainland Board of Education meeting.

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

Councilman Notaro announced the bid specs for the major league field were revised with the help of Jason Yard, he was hoping for a resolution on the February 6th agenda. Councilman Notaro advised he was asked by Councilman Dewees to take the lead on disc golf. Councilman Notaro would like to create a committee consisting of Councilman Polistina, Councilman Smith, and himself; all agreed. He also congratulated Victoria Mozitis and the Mainland teams, it was a great night and at the board meeting, he thanked Mayor Chau for his speech noting it was the best of the night.

Council President Leeds – Fire Department/EMS

Council President Leeds announced via Zoom that he did not have a report.

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

Councilman Polistina stated he did a walk through for disc golf, he found a few interesting things, he believes they have a good layout. He noted that Councilman Smith's brother was influential as well as Mr. Brady; there was still a bit of work to be done behind the scenes.

Councilman Polistina moved to Ad Hoc Committee reports, he did not believe there were any updates.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Councilman Notaro did note that the electric vehicle committee needed to meet with the Engineer.

Councilman Polistina confirmed they would meet in the next couple of weeks.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JANUARY 16, 2024**

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

There were no updates on the work session topics.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities
- FY2024 Local Recreation Improvement Grant – *Req. by Municipal Engineer*

Engineer Mauro stated she would discuss the grants during her report at the regular meeting.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Councilman Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda noting the addition of Resolution 42-2024.

Councilman Polistina made the assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION / FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Councilman 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.

Jason Yard, Northfield, President of Northfield Little League, announced he had spoken with Council members, he asked to advise Council on how they start their season. The field use request received was prior to his request. He stated Northfield Little League has operated in the same location from March to July, he understands the concept of the field use request, over the years travel organizations have shown interest and need a place to play. They have been working together with the travel teams, they put their request in for March to July, they need to wait for registrations to come in, they cannot create the schedule until end of registrations. They cannot give the exact dates when they submit their field use. They provide insurance from Little League International and have to pay them after registration is complete. If someone puts in field use before NLL the other organization gets precedent, he does not think that is fair, a small fraction of players are from area towns, NLL should get priority. The field belongs to the City, equipment – bases, mounds, lime etc is NLL property. He felt there should be a better way to put a request in for perpetuity, has been a part of the organization for 16 years. He has been the president for 8 years, will be here at least 9 more years. He does it for all kids, we need to figure something out, an outside organization should not be able to take NLL time. He thanked

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JANUARY 16, 2024**

Council for the possibility of the field rehab on the major field, he was hoping to be done this year, the field will be able to be utilized for more play as an interchangeable field; 13-year-olds will be able to use the field. He noted that teams that request use have typically contacted them first, this team did not, he will work with teams.

Councilman Polistina stated they are City fields; they are open to all.

Mr. Yard questioned some of the questions on the form and why they weren't being vetted?

Councilman Polistina stated we were trying to work on something.

Councilman Notaro added we will figure something out, maybe organizations could request field use through NLL.

Councilman Smith advised he spoke with Mr. Yard, as the Little League Liaison, he agreed this should be for Northfield athletes, they should be first, he asked Solicitor Facenda to review the application and ordinance to get clarity on it, NLL should have precedence, he felt we needed to look at modifying the process.

Mr. Yard thanked Council.

Solicitor Facenda asked was there an issue with the non-profit nature?

Mr. Yard recalled when they first started this, he, Pat McCarthy, and others went over some ideas. He recalled if they were for profit, they may not get the field.

Solicitor Facenda asked are he was questioning the other application's accuracy?

Mr. Yard replied not the accuracy, but, their response that they are not for profit, was misleading.

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

At 6:25pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Campbell, RMC, Deputy Municipal Clerk