

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MARCH 24, 2026**

At 6:00pm 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 10, 2026, and in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Council President Pro Tempore Dewees.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Kern; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Polistina; Council President Bucci.

Absent: Mayor Chau; Councilman Smith*

**Councilman Smith was absent when attendance was taken but arrived at 6:06pm.*

Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Nassar, and Chief Pollak, were also present.

Council President Bucci announced it was great to have Cardinals in the room and deferred to Councilwoman Kern.

**CAPE ATLANTIC JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE VARSITY CHAMPIONS
– NORTHFIELD CARDINALS FOOTBALL TEAM AND CHEERLEADING
SQUAD**

Councilwoman Kern read the following achievement:

“In recognition of outstanding achievement during the 2025 football season, the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Northfield, NJ would like to congratulate Coach Jason Barretta, Assistant Coaches, and the Northfield Cardinal Varsity Football Team.

#1 - Carter Graves	#22 - Dominic Buccafurni	#41 - Rodrigo Cachey
#5 - Michael Naman	#24 - Domenick Hoffecker	#48 - Steven Moreno
#7 - Jake Guerrieri	#25 - Logan Kallen	#60 - Max Dabundo
#9 - Gavin Sutley	#26 - Jack Smith	#73 - Shane Foley
#11 - Oliver Ford	#30 - Michael Pepper	#75 - Lucas Deccio
#12 - Cole Levinson	#36 - Steve Blair	#80 - Drew O’Neil
#15 - Benjamin Perez	#40 - Brian Mooney	#99 - Angelo Decicco
#17 - Cash Giles		

Assistant Coaches: Mike Bach, Justin Barretta, Ryan Buccafurni, Sonny Fraser, Gabe Guerrieri, Dan Kallen, Tyler Nehl, Bob Varndadore”

Councilwoman Kern called forward the coaches and congratulated all. She then called forward each player and presented each of them with a certificate. She

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congratulated them once again.

At 6:06pm, Councilman Smith entered the meeting.

Councilwoman Kern read the following achievement for the Cardinals Cheerleaders:

“In recognition of outstanding support to the 2025 Cape Atlantic Junior Football League Varsity Champions, The Northfield Cardinals, during the 2025 football season, the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Northfield, NJ would like to congratulate Cheerleading Coach Leslie Rhodes, Assistant Coaches, and the Northfield Cardinals Varsity Cheerleading Squad.

Amelia Ammann	Hailey Gamberg	Penelope Hendershot
Anna Kreuz	Jillian Vinci	Reece Lockhart
Ariella Davenport	Kinley Mrugalski	Savannah Barone
Ava Boland	Madison Peters	Sophia Wilson
Bella Fuhrmeister	Marion Andrien	Stella Bilotta
Brooke Watson	Meadow Chestman	Thora Pendergast
Brynn Dickerson	Milania Maglione	Vivian Ford
Caliana Giangiulio	MK Rendon	Zion Trask
Emily Infante	Naya DeRias	
Grace Brown	Paige Rhodes	

Assistant Coaches: Mandie Gamberg and Maribeth Mrugalski”

Councilwoman Kern called forward Coach Leslie Rhoades.

Councilwoman Kern then called forward each cheerleader and presented each of them with a certificate. She congratulated them once again.

At 6:12pm on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of a brief recess.

At 6:14pm Council President Bucci resumed the meeting.

Council President Bucci moved to Safety on the Agenda and announced Joe Henry.

SAFETY ON THE AGENDA – PRESENTATION BY JOE HENRY, HARDENBERG INSURANCE

Joe Henry, Hardenberg Insurance, introduced himself as a member of our Risk Management Consulting Firm, he was here for an annual presentation of “Safety on the Agenda”. He announced that Northfield was recognized earlier today at the JIF Safety Breakfast and received an award, hats off to the Safety Committee. This was Joe’s 30th stop this year, he referred to a handout presented to all of Council, A

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Guide to Service Dogs and Emotional Support Animals. He explained what is considered an ADA service animal adding that most will have an identifiable jacket. This was a strong law and could be taken into the workplace – they are considered medical equipment. He referred to questions allowed to be asked and not asked. Lastly, emotional support animals do not fall under the ADA. People are pushing the boundaries, he listed government resources available and asked if there were any questions.

Councilwoman Carfagno referred to questions allowed to be asked, people can register for a vest, is there a well to tell where they got it?

Mr. Henry replied, no, you can't ask, and they don't have to provide it, you should be able to tell if the animal has been properly trained. He noted that ADA refers to public space only.

Councilwoman Kern felt they should have a vest.

Mr. Henry added, if it is a service animal they will have a vest, the animal will also stay by the handler.

Council President Bucci asked if there were any further questions, there were none. She thanked Mr. Henry for coming.

Council President Bucci moved to committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Polistina – Finance and Collections; Library; Municipal Alliance; Senior Citizens; Affordable Housing

Councilman Polistina announced the introduction of the budget was on the agenda tonight. Municipal Alliance would hold Coffee with a Cop on April 14th and Sponge Bob movie at Birch Grove on May 2nd at dusk.

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

Councilman Dewees reported the parking lot at Birch Grove Park started on Monday, the crew was clearing the site now.

Councilwoman Kern – Inspections, Housing/Zoning; Northfield Sports (FAN); Library; Mainland Regional

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Councilwoman Kern attended the library meeting last week, there were a lot of activities for all ages. The library was interested and participating in the parade, she directed them to the Cultural Committee, they are also looking to replace their sign out front and are looking for local Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts who were looking for badges. The library is also going to show Hamilton sometime in May for the 250th celebration. For Mainland, the 18-21 Work program hosted a reverse job fair which they highlighted their jobs to the local employers in the community. Just a reminder the spring musical is March 26, 27, and 28. She referred to a grant on the agenda for ADA at the park.

Engineer Nassar replied that he would discuss this during new business.

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

Councilwoman Bucci congratulated Safety Coordinator Campbell on the JIF award. Regarding EDC she has met with over 30 businesses on Tilton Road, they were happy the City was reaching out.

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

Councilman Smith had no report.

Councilwoman Carfagno - Fire Department / EMS; Technology / MRHS Channel; Cultural Committee / Veteran Liaison

Councilwoman Carfagno announced the Cultural Committee Flea Market on March 28th at the community school. She announced the next 250th committee meeting will be tomorrow at 5:00pm. Hometown Hero banners were in; she was still collecting orders and would like to place an order for Memorial Day. Councilwoman Carfagno read the Fire Department report for February; the Fire Department completed their second demo on extraction equipment.

Council President Bucci announced there would be food trucks and an entertainer at Birch Grove Park on June 25th from 4-7pm.

Councilman Notaro – Sanitary Sewer Operations

Councilman Notaro had no report this evening, he congratulated Ms Campbell as well.

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AD HOC COMMITTEES

Regulations regarding Keeping of Chickens – *Councilwoman Carfagno, Councilman Notaro*

Councilwoman Carfagno reported she met with Solicitor Facenda and would be moving forward.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

- Increase in Tax Map Revision Fees for Subdivided Properties (Pending Planning Board Input)

No update.

- Changes to Road Opening Ordinance Fees – *will be adopted in 2026*

Council President Bucci advised this was still under review.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

Council President Bucci, regarding plumbing inspections, our new construction official also has his plumbing license. We currently have a vendor, CFO Stollenwerk analyzed the and advised that the construction office would be less expensive for us to do the inspections inhouse, we have to decide as a Council if that was something we wanted to do, we would have to give the vendor 30 days' notice.

Council President Bucci called for a straw poll vote to move forward with Mr. Kohler accepting the roll of the plumbing subcode official/inspector.

All members present were in favor of moving forward.

Solicitor Facenda would prepare a letter to the vendor.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Bucci asked all to take out their Regular Meeting agenda. Before she made any assignments, she asked were there any resolutions that anyone had questions about or would like to discuss?

There were none.

Council President Bucci made the assignments.

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PUBLIC SESSION / FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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

Rob Patrick, Northfield, on behalf of the Cultural Committee, regarding the ordinance on the agenda tonight, they were concerned about the funds that they raise, they put a lot of time into raising the money, they only have 4 members, he wanted to know how secure the money was. He referred to Chapter 49 section 7 of the municipal code, he felt they don't get the same protections as the park. He was hoping a line is added to the ordinance that money donated to them is used exclusively for the Cultural Committee.

Councilman Polistina was not sure whether there was a restriction or not.

Councilman Notaro believed money raised goes into an account and is separate.

Joan Brennan, Northfield, noted there were two accounts, one from when her mom passed away and the trust, she was not sure of the amount in both. She did not want that money touched, money had been taken out before and used for other things.

Councilman Dewees added the building is the responsibility of the City.

Ms Brennan wanted a line added that money can only be used for the museum. She was concerned about losing those funds.

Councilwoman Kern stated Council appreciated all that the Cultural Committee has done, she deferred to Solicitor Facenda.

Solicitor Facenda advised that all this ordinance did was establish the actual committee since they expend public fund. Council could run it by the CFO. Council could approve the ordinance tonight and add wording later if needed.

Deputy Clerk Campbell noted that the processes would not change, the money in their account was to be used by the Cultural Committee it would not be used for or by other departments.

Councilwoman Carfagno offered to look at the old ordinance.

Solicitor Facenda reiterated that Council could modify the ordinance after checking with the CFO.

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

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At 6:48pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Campbell, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk