

CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
APRIL 22, 2025

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 11, 2025, and in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilman Smith*

Councilman Smith was not present when attendance was taken but arrived at 6:31pm.

Mayor Chau (via telephone), Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Mauro, and Chief VonColln were also present.

Council President Bucci announced the honor for Crossing Guard Sue Poley and called forward Chief VonColln.

6PM – RETIREMENT RECOGNITION, CROSSING GUARD SUE POLEY

Chief VonColln read the following statement:

“In Recognition of Sue Poley for 50 Years of Dedicated Service as a School Crossing Guard in Northfield, New Jersey

Sue Poley was, born and raised in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. She moved to Northfield in 1967, where she raised her son, Jeff. He attended Northfield schools and was active in the Cardinal's football program and graduated from Mainland High School. Sue has three stepchildren, Chuck, Chrissy and Eddie with her husband, Charles, "Chuck" Poley and numerous grandchildren, whom she adores.

Sue became a crossing guard in January of 1975 partly because of her girlfriends, policemen's wives, who had already chosen to be guards. Her first permanent post was at the old Kohr Brothers on the corner of Tilton Rd. and Burton Ave. When another guard retired, Sue relocated to Cedar Bridge and Wabash along the bike path. It remained her favorite post until the end.

Sue has crossed three generations of many families. She would often hear a parent proudly tell their child, that "Miss Sue" crossed them and their grandmother or grandfather when they were little. She was also affectionately known as the "dog

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lady", because she was always prepared to treat each dog with a biscuit as they passed by.

Sue moved to Egg Harbor Township in 2003 but continued to faithfully commute to her beloved job. She willingly worked additional hours each day during covid to accommodate the children's needs.

Sue made many dear friends over the years and continues to keep in touch with them. Many were children, their parents, dog walkers, joggers, exercise fans, people from the neighborhood and daily commuters. They all cherished Sue and always stopped to say hello or beeped their car horns. Sue absolutely loved her job, and it was with a heavy heart that she decided to retire as of February 1, 2025, after fifty years. She plans to enjoy her hobbies of antiquing, doing crafts, gardening, and spending time with her husband, children, and grandchildren.

We are very grateful to you, Sue, for your fifty years of service, protecting and touching the hearts of countless children and their families. We admire you and hope and pray that you enjoy a much-deserved retirement. May the days ahead be filled with new adventures and opportunities to experience the desires of your heart. May God bless you always.

With much gratitude from the Citizens of Northfield, New Jersey.”

On behalf of City Council and the Police Department, Chief VonColln presented Mrs. Poley with a clock in recognition of her years of service.

Mrs. Poley stated she never thought she'd make it, but, she did. She thanked Chief VonColln.

Councilwoman Kern said she'd worked with Sue starting in 1982; they used to have breakfast together. She always very respectful. She offered congratulations to Sue on 50 years.

At 6:06pm on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor a of brief recess.

At 6:11pm Council President Bucci resumed the meeting.

Council President Bucci announced Joe Henry.

6:15PM PRESENTATION: Joe Henry, Hardenberg Insurance Group, ‘Safety on the Agenda’

Joe Henry, as a side note, advised that PEOSH is doing inspections this year, they are going to all municipalities, crossing guards are on their list, due to some serious

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incidents. He introduced himself and explained the purpose of the Safety Committee, led by Deputy Clerk Campbell. He said ours is very active and does a tremendous job. He reviewed a presentation on heat injury and stress prevention. He discussed administrative controls, provided examples, as well as an explanation of the supervisor's responsibilities, available training, importance of monitoring weather, hydration, problems to watch for, and more. He offered to answer any questions. There were none.

Council President Bucci moved to committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Polistina announced for Finance that we've all signed that we received the audit and we'll sign another document later this evening. The budget adoption was on the agenda this evening. On a somber note, he mentioned the passing of library employee Harvey Coopersmith and offered condolences to the family.

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 Kern – Northfield Sports (FAN)

Councilwoman Kern did not have a report.

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

Councilwoman Bucci announced the Master Plan was completed. The Planning Board was meeting next month to review it, and it will then be sent to Council for review.

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

Councilman Smith was absent.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno announced the next Mainland Regional High School Board

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of Education meeting is scheduled for May 1st, the Cultural Committee was still looking for the 1st Baby, Citizen of the Year, and Mr. or Miss 4th of July. The Hometown Heroes program was up and running, she encouraged participation. She noted the Memorial Day event date and time. Ladder training continues and the truck should be in service soon - they've completed 200 hours of service so far. She read the Fire Department report for March.

Councilman Notaro - Sewer Operations; Inspections, Housing/Zoning.

Councilman Notaro said he'd sent revisions for the microplastics ordinance to Solicitor Facenda, Clerk Canesi, and Council President Bucci.

Solicitor Facenda asked Council President Bucci if she was ok with the changes.

Council President Bucci replied yes, she thanked Councilman Notaro and stated we'll have it on the next agenda.

Clerk Canesi requested that she be provided with the final version for the next agenda. Solicitor Facenda confirmed.

Councilman Notaro continued; he read the March Sewer report: 17 calls for sewer emergencies, 84 utility mark outs including 1 emergency, 9 routine pump station inspections, 27 manhole inspections, all of which were structurally sound, the inspection and washing of 7000-plus linear feet of gravity sewer main, with no major problems discovered.

Council President Bucci moved to ad hoc committee reports.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Electric Vehicles – *Councilmen Polistina and Notaro.*

Solicitor Facenda announced he sent it out in early April.

Councilmen Notaro and Polistina replied they would review and respond.

Special Events Ordinance – *Councilwoman Bucci, Councilman Dewees.*

Council President Bucci would reach out to Solicitor Facenda.

Road Opening Ordinance / Remaining Proposed Amendments – *Councilmen Dewees and Notaro.*

Councilman Notaro stated he and Councilman Dewees had to meet again with Engineers DeBlasio and Mauro.

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WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

There was no ongoing business.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Councilwoman Carfagno advised she was looking into a grant opportunity that Joan Brennan found, she hoped to find assistance with the bandstand.

- Selection of Bid Award - Various Sanitary Sewer Main and Manhole Rehabilitations

Engineer Mauro explained that we had the project out for more than two weeks and still only received one bid, from the same bidder, Mobile Video and Dredging. This time there were several alternate bids; she reviewed the options in the alternate bid. The City Council needed to decide which scenario fits their budget and needs and the Engineer could move forward with a letter of recommendation.

Councilman Notaro suggested alternate bid three was the best option.

Engineer Mauro noted that this is the same scope of work as last year, but for a lesser amount.

Councilman Notaro added bid three is more slip lining.

Councilman Polistina asked what is difference in bids three and four; how much are we slip lining would we be foregoing if we do option four?

Engineer Mauro didn't have the exact number.

Council President Bucci took a straw poll to see what option Council preferred.

At 6:31pm Councilman Smith entered the meeting.

All members present chose option three in the amount of \$288,325.00.

Council President Bucci asked Engineer Mauro for formal letter of recommendation.

- MapLink – *requested by Business Administrator Canesi*

Business Administrator Canesi explained that the money for this project had been encumbered last year, it was in the budget. MapLink would be an add-on to our online municipal code. The program allows residents, employees, businessowners,

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etc., to identify a property by block and lot, and see the permitted zoning, on a self-serve basis. She wanted to confirm as to whether Council still wanted to move forward, due to the tight budget.

Councilman Notaro asked for the total price.

Clerk Canesi, replied the initial cost was around \$10,000.00 with annual costs of around \$2,000.00. She explained the process as cumbersome now; we don't provide guidance or advice. Interested parties need to read the code and figure it out themselves, this allows them to do it in a more efficient basis. It would be more resident and business friendly.

Councilman Smith asked if it was a contract or a renewal.

Clerk Canesi responded, once we buy it, we own it, but we would have to make sure it stays up to date.

Clerk Canesi offered to re-send the demo.

Councilwoman Kern asked if other municipalities use it?

Clerk Canesi replied, we would be one of the first in this part of the State, General Code is huge.

Council President Bucci took a straw poll, all members present were in favor of proceeding with MapLink.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Bucci reviewed the agenda and made the assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION / FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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

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

At 6:37pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk