

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MAY 7, 2024**

At 6:02pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi. 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 Council President Pro Tempore Dewees.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Mayor Chau*

**Mayor Chau arrived at 6:11pm but was not present when attendance was taken.*

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

Council President Leeds welcomed all and 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 announced the vector truck is up and running; Public Works was working on cleaning the storm system on Cedar Bridge Road; he would report at the next meeting. Public Works was also using the vector truck to power wash benches and light poles on the bike path, which they do annually.

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

Councilwoman Bucci congratulated Captain Steinecke on his retirement, she was happy to see promotions on the agenda. She congratulated the 2024 graduates.

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

Councilman Polistina announced the Cyber Savvy Seniors event at the library. The promotion of Robin Atlas to Tax Collector was on tonight's agenda; he was very happy for Robin; she had been a long-time employee and Councilman Polistina has gotten positive feedback from many residents. We were also hiring a Deputy Tax Collector.

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Councilman Dewees asked was it advertised?

Councilman Polistina replied yes, and we found a qualified candidate quickly. He announced upcoming Municipal Alliance events.

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

Councilman Smith announced there was a meeting on the schedule for the Central Municipal Court on the 16th, he hoped to have information to share at the next meeting. He thanked Northfield Little League for their support of the Mainland “Pink” game, they took care of the field and provided the announcer. He also thanked Darren Boyd and Jason Yard. Northfield Community School has posted their budget, it was available on their website. He met with Mayor Matik of Linwood and reviewed the RFP’s for EMS; Councilman Smith was making the recommendation to award to AtlantiCare on next agenda.

Councilman Notaro asked was Linwood voting on that tomorrow.

Councilman Smith replied, yes.

Councilman Notaro asked, so if we don't vote on that we lose EMS?

Councilman Smith replied, yes; the contract was up June 12th.

Council President Leeds felt Council should look for further clarification as to response times.

Councilman Smith suggested and discussed with Mayor Matik that they should resume the meetings with the EMS providers.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno announced yesterday she observed Holocaust Remembrance Day, it had been 79 years since that event. She congratulated the Mainland Boys Golf Team for winning the Group III State Sectional Tournament and moving on to the state championship. The next Board of Education meeting was scheduled for May 20th at 6pm. After Prom was looking for volunteers from 11pm-3am; it was a great opportunity to see the kids.

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

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Councilman Notaro reported the football field was looking great. He received a bid for the football tower, it came in a little higher than expected; Councilman Notaro would meet with finance.

**At 6:11pm, Mayor Chau arrived.*

Council President Leeds – Fire Department/EMS

Council President Leeds met with Fire Captain Nixon and Chief Cummings yesterday to discuss the ladder truck; they were anticipating a July delivery but this was not firm. He congratulated Captain Steinecke on his retirement. He also congratulated the officers being promoted this evening. He then moved to Ad Hoc Committees.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Electric Vehicles – *Councilmen Polistina and Notaro.*

Councilman Polistina reported he did some research to find other town's ordinances, he hoped to be able to report at the next meeting.

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

Councilwoman Bucci advised that an ordinance has been circulated, the committee would meet to discuss.

Affordable Housing – *Councilwomen Bucci and Carfagno, Councilman Polistina.*

Councilwoman Carfagno announced the committee was meeting tomorrow.

Insurance Requirements Review – *Councilman Polistina, Councilwoman Bucci.*

Councilwoman Bucci asked Solicitor Facenda to comment on the insurance ordinance change.

Solicitor Facenda felt the number may be too large, things could be considered sedentary and could turn into something else. He gave the example of a birthday party, but there is dancing. It was more of a definition issue and an enforcement issue. He offered to put together a formal memo. If the Council wanted to do that, it's fine but there were concerns. We may be losing control of events of a certain number of people, and we do have that control now. He recalled the issue may have had to do with the library, but the library was autonomous.

Solicitor Facenda added this only applied to reserved use; the issue was the desire to change the definition of a group from 10 to 30. That is the trigger for insurance. He explained that the JIF would want us to shift the liability. He would suggest the recommendation of our risk management consultant.

Councilman Smith felt groups should be able to meet without the burden of insurance.

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Solicitor Facenda asked what groups we were trying to accommodate?

Councilwoman Bucci suggested the use of the gazebo as an example and responded that there were no groups in particular we were trying to accommodate. Just residents of Northfield.

Solicitor Facenda reiterated that definition needed to be clear.

Councilman Polistina noted that park center was only accessible from dawn to dusk, the gazebo was the same. He suggested the library may have latitude.

Solicitor Facenda suggested that someone talk to the library.

Clerk Canesi suggested modifying the ordinance to reflect that use of the sports fields by groups of 10 or more, as well as disc golf, trigger the need for insurance. Other reserved uses would not need insurance for fewer than 30. All members of Council generally agreed with this proposal.

Road Opening Ordinance – *Councilmen Dewees and Notaro.*

Councilman Dewees advised the committee met to discuss; hopefully he would be able to report at the next meeting.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

There was no ongoing business.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Engineer Mauro announced the City would be applying for the DOT Local Projects Fund, there were additional opportunities for projects such as walking and bike safety. Juniper Drive had been identified but should be paved before striping. There was a July 1st deadline; also, a plan for new bikeways.

Councilmen Polistina, Notaro and Dewees suggested Zion Road, a sidewalk or walking lane, also Cedar Bridge Road.

Council President Leeds asked Clerk Canesi to send a letter to County Executive Levinson to request stop signs at bike path intersections of County Roads.

- Request to County to Replace Sign at Oxford Circle Cemetery – *Req by Councilman Dewees*

Councilman Dewees reported that a few months ago Mike Wallace inquired about the sign at the Oxford Circle Cemetery, he thanked Deputy Clerk Campbell, Clerk

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Canesi and Bob Bishop for their work on identifying the history of the cemetery. He asked that the City send a letter to the County requesting the sign be replaced. Mr. Bishop would be coming in to give a presentation on the history of the location. It was still unknown as to who currently maintains it.

Clerk Canesi explained the property is currently owned by the Estate of Ella Collins. Mr. Bishop had offered to do pro-bono research to determine if Ms. Collins has heirs; there is a statute that provides a means for a municipality to assume ownership of an abandoned cemetery. If that were to occur, perhaps the City would then donate it to the County, or the Historical Society. She also advised Council that Mr. Bishop had donated the map of 1903 Bakersville (on the wall in Council Chambers), she explained the desire of she and Deputy Clerk Campbell to have a plaque made to thank Mr. Bishop.

All members present were generally in favor .

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Leeds made the assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION / FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Leeds 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. He explained that answers to any questions would be at the end.

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

At 6:46pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk