

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JULY 18, 2023**

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 7, 2023, and in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Council President Polistina moved to Committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Leeds – Fire Department/EMS; Planning Board

Councilman Leeds read the Fire Department report including Fire and EMS calls and mutual aid responses. He acknowledged the 4th of July parade as very successful and commented on a photo of child fist-bumping a police officer during the parade as evidence of the strong relationship between the police and the community. He acknowledged Tim Joo and Chief VonColln for their efforts in assisting in the search for a missing woman.

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

Councilman Dewees reported that the parts for the lights for our sign out front are schedule to be installed by Calvi. He met with Superintendent Vitale and Chief VonColln about closing the outer gates to Birch Grove Park. For safety reasons the gates will be locked around 11pm nightly and will reopen between 6am and 7am.

Councilwoman Bucci – Insurance and Safety; Municipal Alliance; Economic Development / Chamber of Commerce

Councilwoman Bucci stated that on behalf of the Economic Development Commission (EDC), she'd sent notes to the Council from a meeting with Triad. All were asked to respond to Councilwoman Bucci with comments. She was working with Triad on the EDC element of our master plan; the next step would be to work with local businesses. The EDC was hosting an event at the Atlantic City Country Club with the NJ Small Business Development Center, would include resources for

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small businesses, and would be open to all businesses in Atlantic County; the event would be funded by the Small Business Development Center.

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

Councilman Smith announced Northfield Little League would be hosting a free clinic on Sunday from 9am-12pm. He spoke to Darren Matik in Linwood regarding shared service for dispatch. For budget purposes Linwood would not be prepared to do anything until the next budget cycle.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno thanked all who participated in the parade, museum will be open during National Night Out. The next Board of Education meeting is August 21st. Project refit will be coming at the end of August.

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

Councilman Notaro reported that he spoke with Ashley Pushman from Atlantic Prevention Resources about the bike path signs; she would provide 30 initially and Public Works would install them. He thanked all people involved in setting up the parade, including the Cultural Committee, Police Department, etc. The lineup was very organized and was a great success. The Connolly Mile had doubled in size with 450 runners, and improvements were planned for next year. It was nice to have these things in our town.

Council President Polistina – Finance and Collections; Library; Senior Citizens

Council President Polistina was unable to attend the library board meeting; they did hire a new library director, Matthew Freund. The Senior Citizens Committee met at the end of last month, Police and Fire representatives were in attendance. Firefighter Trench spoke about smoke detectors and senior programs, and Officer Sundstrom discussed some of the scams that target seniors. There was a reminder that the I.R.S. would never call by telephone, and no utility company would ask you to pay with a gift card. A resident attendee also reported a squatter scam, where someone squats in your home while you are away, and you cannot get them out. There were questions about parks, and questions about cannabis also.

Councilman Notaro asked how many people attended?

Council President Polistina replied there were around 20 residents; there was room for more, he hoped to increase attendance going forward.

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Council President Polistina moved to the ad hoc committee reports.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

- Electric Vehicles (Councilmen Polistina, Notaro)

Council President reported regarding EV's, he and Councilman Notaro met and reviewed the state's ordinance template, they need to have a full committee meeting to go over certain specifics. They would need to include the engineer as well.

- Food Trucks (Councilwoman Bucci, Councilman Dewees)

Clerk Canesi reported they were waiting for feedback from the Police Department and Zoning Officer.

- Affordable Housing (Councilman Polistina, Councilwoman Carfagno) – there was no update.
- Insurance Requirements Review (Councilman Polistina, Councilwoman Bucci)

Council President Polistina reported he and Councilwoman Bucci were working on making changes.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

- Stormwater Facilities Shared with Atlantic County

Engineer Nassar reported the County has finalized the list of pipes we share. Engineer Nassar would redo his list and provide it to the Mayor and Council.

- Potential Sale / Development of City Owned Properties: Block 66 Lot 11; Block 69 Lot 1.02; Block 121 Lot 1

Solicitor Facenda announced that he received two of the three title reports; he would review them and send them to Habitat.

Clerk Canesi would touch base with Habitat as well to discuss next steps.

- Possible Zoning ordinance to regulate Cooperative Sober Living Residences

Solicitor Facenda spoke with Planner Morrissey, and she would like to drill that down a little bit and would provide Council with a proposal for her services.

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WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Council President Polistina reported that he and Councilman Dewees met with a consultant about different types of USDA grants. They were looking into grants that would pay for engineering services, but we would have to apply for that, which would cost about \$8,000.00 and another \$43,000.00 if we received the grant. We would need to get the \$8,000.00 grant that pays for the planning process; if we do not get the grant, we lose the money.

Councilman Leeds asked the total amount of the grant.

Council President Polistina replied this one would be \$51,000.00; we have not identified the specific streets.

Councilman Notaro asked what were the odds that we would get the grant?

Council President Polistina did not know.

Clerk Canesi asked what was the total money pool?

Council President Polistina responded that he would find out.

- Traffic Signal at Oak Avenue and Zion Road – requested by Councilwoman Carfagno

Councilwoman Carfagno believed she would need to talk to the County about the traffic signal.

Councilman Dewees replied that we have previously entertained a traffic signal and a 4-way stop; both were denied as they did not meet the criteria. Public Works Superintendent Vitale was in the process of getting costs for motion-activated, illuminated stop signs.

Engineer Nassar reminded the Council they would need County approval for that.

Councilman Dewees replied that he was aware.

Councilwoman Carfagno explained what she believed to be sight triangle issues.

Councilman Dewees explained that would be a whole realignment of the intersection, he did not see that happening.

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Council President Polistina requested a straw poll for Council to proceed with exploration of placement of a 4-way stop or traffic signal, and or approval for the motion activated illuminated stop signs.

Councilman Dewees asked Chief VonColln how many accidents there have been at this intersection in the past year?

Chief VonColln did not know but he would find out. He agreed with Engineer Nassar about the illuminated stop signs.

Engineer Nassar suggested we have the county put in flashing stop signs.

All were generally in favor.

Clerk Canesi asked who would be writing the letter?

Councilwoman Carfagno volunteered.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Polistina reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

Council President Polistina announced that resolutions 139-2023 and 144-2023 would not be included in the consent agenda.

Council President Polistina made the assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION / FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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

Tom Boyd, 117 Northfield Avenue, said he lives at the intersection of Wabash Avenue, Zion Road, Northfield Avenue, and Fuae Avenue. The last thing he wanted to see is a traffic signal, or a flashing light, but he encouraged the Council to consider the area and talk to the County about a flashing pedestrian beacon, particularly now that the ice cream parlor is open. He has noticed a need due to increased pedestrian, scooter, and bicycle traffic.

Joan Brennan, 116 Dolphin Avenue, thanked the Police Department and Tim Joo for their help with the parade. She said it was the most organized parade, adding that they'd changed the parade route a bit. She wanted to thank everyone.

Council President Polistina thanked Ms Brennan for her work on the parade as well.

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

At 6:34pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk