

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
AUGUST 13, 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 Mayor Chau.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** Councilman Notaro

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Facenda, Engineer DiBlasio, and Chief of Police VonColln were also present.

Council President Leeds welcomed all to the meeting and announced the presentation by Mr. Bob Bishop.

**6:00PM – MR. BOB BISHOP, THE HISTORY OF OXFORD CIRCLE CEMETERY**

Mr. Bishop introduced himself as President of Jersey National Title; he specialized in forensic titles. He had searched titles back to the 1600's. A number of months ago, he visited City Hall and spoke with Mary Canesi; in talking about the Oxford Circle Cemetery, no one seemed to know anything about it – Clerk Canesi asked Mr. Bishop to do some research. It is a rather historic plot of land known as Oxford Circle Cemetery and title can be traced back to the 1700's. The title became vested in David Leeds Steelman who died in 1905 and a division of land in 1922, his heir was Ella Collins, who had since died, and her heirs have all passed. Clerk Canesi had asked Mr. Bishop if anyone was actually buried there; there are tombstones of course. Mr. Bishop found documents of record and eventually a deed, from 1926, that accepted a piece of land known as "Steelman Graveyard Lot" including all the graves which are there marked. There are people buried there and there is a lot of history in that property. One of them is Jeremiah Leeds, who owned and founded the city of Atlantic City. He owned most of the land from Ventnor to the Inlet. Jeremiah Leeds served as a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. One of the things Mr. Bishop found was that Jeremiah was originally buried somewhere else and then reinterred in 1950. Private Frederick Steelman, died in 1878 and, also served in the Revolutionary War; Rachel Leeds Steelman is buried there, as is Peter Steelman who served in the War of 1812, and David Steelman who served in the Civil War. There is a lot of history in that piece of land. No one owns it; it is just an abandoned cemetery. Mr. Bishop had maps to show that when the area was developed it was called Tudor

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Terrace. He believed the neighbors may be the ones taking care of it, Mr. Bishop believed someone should be taking care of it.

Mayor Chau asked, was it a family plot for the Steelman family? How did Leeds get there?

Mr. Bishop replied that one of those buried there is Rachel Leeds Steelman.

Council President Leeds asked, did Mr. Bishop say the name Collins as well?

Mr. Bishop stated Ella Steelman Collins, yes, she was an heir. He referred to the Bakersville map, it has every piece of land with deed book and pages as of the date of the map.

Councilman Smith advised Mr. Bishop that he would love to be able to incorporate some of this into his instruction at the high school.

Council President Leeds thanked Mr. Bishop.

At 6:15pm, Council President Leeds asked if Patrolman Alleva's friends and family were all here - if they were, we will move the oath of office up to an earlier spot on the agenda.

Chief VonColln replied, yes, they were here.

**6:30PM – CEREMONIAL OATH OF OFFICE PATROLMAN BRETT ALLEVA**

Mayor Chau announced it was a pleasure to administer an oath to our 22nd police officer. He asked Patrolman Alleva to introduce his parents.

Patrolman Alleva introduced his parents Craig and Kathy Alleva.

Mayor Chau read the following:

Brett Steven Alleva grew up in Egg Harbor Township and graduated from Egg Harbor Township High School in 2019. Brett moved to Northfield in October of 2020 with his parents, two brothers, and his twin, where he is still currently residing. Brett attended the Cape May County Police Academy, graduating in April of 2021 with his Class Two Special Law Enforcement Certification and began working with the Ocean City Police Department. In November of 2023, Brett attended Atlantic County's police academy for his Basic Police Officer Certification and graduated in May of 2024. Brett worked for the Stockton University Police Department while training at the academy. Shortly after graduation, Brett was hired by the Northfield Police Department, where he intends to start and finish his career.

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Mayor Chau administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman Alleva as his mother held the bible.

Patrolman Alleva thanked Mayor Chau and the City for the opportunity.

Patrolman Alleva introduced his friend Josh, and, his brothers: Alec, Cole and Kyle.

*At 6:20pm on motions properly made and seconded, Council took a brief recess. committee reports.*

*At 6:26pm Council President Leeds resumed the meeting.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Dewees reported the softball outfield fence had been replaced, the score tower roof project was done and railings installed.

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

Councilwoman Bucci for EDC, their next quarterly meeting will be held on the 20th. She was working on a business directory for their site and hopefully the city site.

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

Councilman Polistina said collections thus far this year, and construction fees and permits are running at about 80% against budget. Delinquency collections are over 80% of what was budgeted as well. Tax bills were delayed. National Night Out was canceled, but the Municipal Alliance has arranged to have a bigger, better Trunk or Treat, with hopes that participation would be high, on October 5th.

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

Councilman Smith was still awaiting the Court's response. Northfield Little League and Babe Ruth appreciate the fence installation and were looking forward to other work on the fields. Northfield Community School has their next Board of Education meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, it was the last meeting before beginning of the school year.

Council President Leeds advised Councilman Smith of an upcoming Court meeting.

Councilman Smith was not aware, he thanked Council President Leeds.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno has a Mainland Regional High School Board of Education meeting on August 19th at 6pm, the last one before start of school year. Information for the Hometown Heroes banner would be available on the website as soon as it is approved.

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

Councilman Notaro was absent.

**Council President Leeds** – Fire Department/EMS

Council President Leeds read the Fire Department report and noted that the first responder unit has performed CPR five times in recent weeks; he thanked them for that. He noted a few issues with AtlantiCare EMS dispatch, he believed we had these resolved. He explained the issues between EMS and fire dispatch response times resulting in inaccurate reporting, and the resolution that had been implemented. He thanked Captain Nixon for his assistance. He talked to Chief Cummings recently; the truck committee went to great lengths to ensure the truck met our exact specifications. He thanked them for that.

Councilman Smith asked to be added to the EMS report distribution list.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

Electric Vehicles – *Councilmen Polistina and Notaro.*  
No update.

Special Events Ordinance – *Councilwoman Bucci, Councilman Dewees.*  
Councilwoman Bucci reported she was working with Clerk Canesi on the special event ordinance; we were 80% there.

Affordable Housing – *Councilwoman Carfagno, Councilman Polistina*  
Councilman Polistina reported affordable housing would be discussed at the next meeting.

Road Opening Ordinance – *Councilmen Dewees and Notaro.*  
No update.

Council President Leeds moved to the work session topics for discussion.

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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

**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Leeds reviewed the agenda.

Council President Leeds announced that Resolution 172-2024 would be voted separately.

Councilman Dewees asked for Resolution 159-2024 be voted separately.

Councilman Smith asked for Resolution 160-2024 be voted separately.

Councilwoman Bucci asked for Resolution 163-2024 be voted separately.

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, she asked that all persons state their name and city of residence for the record and observe the five-minute limit per speaker.

Bob Zlotnick, Northfield, had a concern about the ebikes and scooters on the bike path. He knew the bike path originally was for pedestrians, bikes, joggers. Then skateboards. and recently ebikes, which are frightening. They make no sound, there are not usually lights, there is no regulation. He knew this was a major issue, and it will not be decided quickly. But he wanted to put it on Council's radar. He believed someone was going to get hurt.

Mayor Chau added that he had received many complaints and had consulted with the Chief.

Chief VonColln responded there was an ordinance that prohibited motorized anything on the bike path; he had been reluctant to enforce with the youngest of riders. Linwood was having issues as well. There were three classes of e-bikes, and the class three had higher speeds. Some can be enhanced to increase speeds even further. He had been reluctant to engage in pursuit. He heard and appreciated Mr. Zlotnick's concerns.

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Councilman Smith to Chief VonColln: this is a national issue, he's sure. Is there any national discussion or conversation?

Chief VonColln replied yes, and the lack of sound was an issue. He was confident it would be addressed at the State level.

Mary Foltz and Deidre Kreuz, both of Northfield – asked for update on their use of facilities application. It was supposed to be voted on at the last meeting, but it was taken off the agenda and is on again for tonight.

Council President Leeds confirmed it was on the agenda tonight.

Mrs. Foltz asked was there anything that needed to be addressed before that.

Mrs. Kreuz wanted to ensure that if there was a concern, they could work to resolve it, to make this happen for the community.

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

At 6:45pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk