

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 1, 2024**

At 6:00pm 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

Mayor Chau led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilman Smith*

**Councilman Smith was absent when attendance was taken but arrived at 6:01pm*

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

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 Public Works would be removing the fence around the drainage easement at the football field; a new fence would be installed next week.

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

Councilwoman Bucci had no Committee report. She attended the 100th Anniversary celebration for the Volunteer Fire Department, it was a great event.

**At 6:01pm Councilman Smith arrived.*

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

Councilman Polistina announced details for the Trunk or Treat event this Saturday, which included Kona Ice, face painting, a photo booth, and others. Event runs from 5-7pm, to be followed by Hocus Pocus 2. Cookie with a Cop is scheduled for December. The Library meeting was moved up to this week, their painting project was complete.

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

Councilman Smith asked Solicitor Facenda for a Court update.

Solicitor Facenda responded; there would be a Resolution on tonight's agenda based on a conversation with Court staff held on Monday morning of this week. We would join the Hammonton court as of January 1, 2025. There would be some transitioning, largely handled by the Clerks of the two Courts. To Chief VonColln, Solicitor Facenda stated that an escort for files may be provided, all to be discussed. The Resolution tonight changes the date from January 1, 2024, to January 1, 2025. 1/1/24 to 1/1/25.

Councilman Polistina asked if we are moving to Hammonton, would we no longer benefit from the DCA grant?

Solicitor Facenda believed that to be the case.

Solicitor Facenda, to Chief VonColln, advised direction would be provided as to when officers can begin writing tickets for Hammonton Court dates.

Councilman Smith asked Solicitor Facenda if there was recourse regarding the State funding? We're a prior member, was it for prior years?

Solicitor Facenda replied it was not for future because State Police cases are no longer an issue. He was not sure it would be worth pursuing, financially, due to the cost to do so. Solicitor Facenda offered to look at it if Council wished.

None of the Councilmembers present were in favor of doing so.

Council President Leeds stated that he heard there was money from the DCA for anyone entering into a shared service agreement; perhaps we should investigate that for our costs with Hammonton.

Councilman Smith, continued with his report. The next Northfield Community School Board of Education meeting was scheduled for October 28th. He extended congratulations to the Fire Company, he too had attended the parade and ceremony, they did an outstanding job and it was a tremendous tribute.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno announced the Mainland Regional High School Board of Education meeting was scheduled for October 28th at 6pm. She was unable to attend the parade and ceremony. She announced the Cultural Committee's upcoming flea market.

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

Councilman Notaro had no report.

Council President Leeds – Fire Department/EMS

Council President Leeds offered congratulations to the Fire Department and Company, it was a great event and all worked very hard and did a great job. He also thanked Storybook Land for their careful restoration of the former Northfield fire truck that they now have in their possession. He thanked all volunteers for one hundred years of service, those who are willing to get up in the middle of the night. He noted a few issues with response times reported incorrectly but that were corrected by Egg Harbor Township dispatch, he also noted a fire call where Firefighter Sacco had difficulty getting a response from dispatch. He felt something had to change. He noted that AltantiCare was checking GPS data and ensuring reporting accuracy, they were taking action where necessary.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Electric Vehicles – *Councilmen Polistina and Notaro.*

No update.

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

Councilwoman Bucci reported she would contact Clerk Canesi later in the week regarding the special event ordinance.

Affordable Housing – *Councilwoman Carfagno, Councilman Polistina*

Councilman Polistina announced there was a meeting today, information was forthcoming.

Road Opening Ordinance – *Councilmen Dewees and Notaro.*

Councilman Notaro stated there were a few tweaks needed to the road opening ordinance.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

There were no topics for discussion for ongoing business.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

There were no new grant opportunities.

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Councilman Polistina, under new business, he would like a streetlight at the intersection of Mill and the bike path, he requested Mayor Chau write a letter to Atlantic Electric.

Mayor Chau explained the process begins with the Police Department.

Clerk Canesi added that the Police Department evaluates the area and makes a recommendation; the Council would then act on it by Resolution. We would get pricing from Atlantic City Electric and if we proceed, we pay the installation and tariff in perpetuity.

All councilmembers present wished for the Police Department to proceed.

Chief VonColln noted there had been several major accidents at this intersection, he would proceed with evaluating the area.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Leeds reviewed the agenda.

Councilman Smith asked for resolution 203-2024 to be voted on separately.

Councilman Dewees noted he would be abstaining from the vote on approval of the minutes.

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 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 Leeds closed the public session.

At 6:17pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk