

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 15, 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

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Carfagno; Councilman Dewees; Councilman Notaro; Councilman Polistina; Councilman Smith.

Absent: Councilwoman Bucci; Council President Leeds.

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

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced that Mayor Chau had been on a medical leave of absence since October 7, 2024.

Solicitor Facenda read the following statement: “It is my advice and recommendation to the Members of the Common Council for the City of Northfield not provide any comment or engage in any colloquy on Mayor Chau’s current Leave of Absence or any of the allegations made against him. I believe this recommendation and Council position best protects all interests involved.”

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Councilman Dewees stated that Public Works had been working on clearing the fence material around the drainage basin around the football field. Two snack bars were broken into, there was no serious damage, it had been reported to the Police Department. The Superintendent of Public Works was working with the Police Department on getting more cameras at snack bars, the park and on the bike path. ceiling tiles in Council Chambers will be replaced soon.

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

Councilwoman Bucci was absent.

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

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Councilman Polistina announced that our Fire Inspector had resigned and we are seeking a replacement. He attended the Library board meeting, they were closed for interior maintenance work, the new director Jennifer Jamison had some additional new programs coming up, including scarecrow making and a fire department and truck display with story time, a children's Halloween party, and others. This was in addition to their routine programming, such as Tai Chi. Trunk or Treat was a great success last Saturday.

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

Councilman Smith stated Council had been updated as to the Court and we are on pace for January 1st. The next Northfield Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 28th. The softball field fencing was complete; it looked great. Councilman Smith asked Council President Pro Tempore Dewees if there was an update on the light issue?

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees replied that an electrician had been contacted and we were waiting for a quote and recommendations.

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

Councilwoman Carfagno announced the next Mainland Board of Education meeting is scheduled for October 28th at 6pm. She thanked all who helped with Trunk or Treat. It was a great success, there were at least 1600 people; it was a great night, great weather, and it was very safe.

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

Councilman Notaro had no report.

Council President Leeds – Fire Department/EMS

Council President Leeds was absent.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

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

Special Events Ordinance – *Councilwoman Bucci, Councilman Dewees.*
No update.

Affordable Housing – *Councilwoman Carfagno, Councilman Polistina*

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Councilman Polistina announced there were meetings on both projects, they will be meeting again with the professionals to clarify things with the Wabash Avenue project. Habitat got a new proposal for the engineering piece based on additional work being required.

Engineer Mauro noted the engineering costs would be covered under a DCA Grant, which frees up other monies. DeBlasio and Associates' new proposal was an all-encompassing estimate. Habitat had their own engineer and they were responsible for completing the entire estimate for the site work. The good news was all engineering costs are supposed to be covered by a DCA grant.

Road Opening Ordinance – *Councilmen Dewees and Notaro.*

Councilman Notaro did not have an update; it was still under review.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees received Council did get a letter from County Executive Levinson regarding the request for a speed reduction on Tilton Road, the County's traffic study did not warrant a reduction. They were open, however, to future suggestions for traffic calming measures.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

There were no new grant opportunities.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees reviewed the agenda and made the assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION / FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees 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.

Rosanne Alegrio, Northfield resident for fifteen years, was here about traffic on East Mill Road. In the last ten days there have been two very serious accidents, one of which was a three-car collision. She has been calling for several years to get a speed limit reduction. She had gotten the runaround and was told it was not a City road, she was then referred to Public Works, then to the Traffic Supervisor who has never once returned her call.

Liz Falciano, Northfield, added that the dividing line becomes a dotted line in front

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of her driveway, people are passing other cars in front of her home, cars are passing their cars when trying to pull into their own driveways.

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees confirmed it is a county road and offered phone numbers for County personnel.

Ms. Alegrio responded that she pays taxes in Northfield, the Northfield Police Department and Fire Department are responding to these accidents, these people should recognize this and do something. She was not sure what Northfield's responsibility was.

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees gave the number 609-645-5898 for Doug Dimeo, and advised Ms Alegrio to speak with the County Engineer; he also encouraged them to attend a County Commissioner's meeting.

Solicitor Facenda stated that a Commissioner's meeting would be the correct audience for their concerns.

Ms. Falciano asked, was there anything they could do to get more support?

Councilman Notaro suggested a letter to the County.

All members present were in favor.

Chief VonColln suggested a speed study in advance of any letter.

Solicitor Facenda asked for a time frame for speed study.

Chief VonColln replied, approximately two weeks.

Lisa Carlton, with Tina Moyer, on behalf of Mainland After Prom, are having an event and want to put yard signs on the bike path, from November 1st until November 28th.

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees deferred to Solicitor Facenda.

Solicitor Facenda advised it was determined that signage along the bike path was not a permitted activity, unless this Council would act to change that, which would take some time.

Councilman Notaro brought up amending that ordinance.

Solicitor Facenda replied that the problem becomes when there is an event that you don't like.

Councilman Smith asked had they approached Linwood?

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Mrs. Carlton replied, yes, they just need to see it first.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Council President Pro Tempore Dewees closed the public session.

At 6:25pm, on motions properly made and seconded, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk