

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
OCTOBER 29, 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.

Clerk Canesi noted that the date on the published agenda was incorrect; it should state “October 29, 2024”.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees led the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** Councilman Smith; 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

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees announced Public Works had been replacing ceiling tiles. The next project would be the concrete pad out by the police shed, he would keep all updated.

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

Councilwoman Bucci said the Trunk or Treat event was great, adding that events will be getting bigger and better once we get the Special Events ordinance done.

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

Councilman Polistina had no report.

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

Councilman Smith was absent.

**Councilwoman Carfagno** - Technology / MRHS Channel; Cultural Committee /

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Veteran Liaison; Mainland Regional

Councilwoman Carfagno announced that the Mainland Regional Board of Education meeting was last night, and tonight is a parent awareness session regarding various substance abuses. Mainland hired a new Principal, Dr. David Jacobs. They also revised the job description for Principal; it was adopted last night. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Cultural Committee will be having a meeting this Saturday at 10am at the Museum. The next flea market at Northfield Community School is scheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8am-2pm. Table reservations are \$35.00 and information can be found on the City website. Councilwoman Carfagno thanked Northfield Mothers' League for helping at the wrestling event, they do a great job for the community. She had heard concerns about injured fowl at Birch Grove Park, the park is frequented by many people fishing which is great but many don't always properly dispose of fishing line. She asked if we know if there are grants to fund a game warden or something and asked Chief VonColln if they patrol.

Chief VonColln replied, yes, they do, but they don't check the lakes.

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees noted that if Public Works sees anything they remove it.

Clerk Canesi added that the former Park Supervisor used to clear the lily pads and go out into the lakes in waders.

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

Councilman Notaro had no report.

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

Council President Leeds had no report.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

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

Special Events Ordinance – *Councilwoman Bucci, Councilman Dewees.*  
Councilwoman Bucci replied they are continuing to work on it.

Affordable Housing – *Councilwoman Carfagno, Councilman Polistina*  
Councilman Polistina announced they did get a memo back this afternoon, he has not had a chance to review it, he will do so and share a summary with Council.

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Solicitor Facenda added that he did send an email following up on the letter.

Road Opening Ordinance – *Councilmen Dewees and Notaro.*

Council President Pro Tempore Dewees would set up a meeting with Councilman Notaro for next week to get this moving.

Councilman Notaro added it was also in review by the Construction Office; Clerk Canesi also took a great deal of time to create a redline version of the ordinance. He reiterated he would be meeting with Councilman Dewees.

**WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – ONGOING BUSINESS**

On behalf of Councilman Smith, Council President Pro Tempore Dewees said he would be setting up a meeting with Mr. Smith and Superintendent Vitale for the next phase of disk golf.

**WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS**

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

There were no new grant opportunities.

- 2024 Best Practices Inventory – Requested by Council Finance Chair Polistina

Councilman Polistina referred to the Best Practices Inventory; under the Department of Community Affairs and Local Government Services, it is an annual self-evaluation and we create a scorecard to ensure that we are complying with noted best practices. Clerk Canesi and CFO Stollenwerk completed the inventory; he thanked them both for that. All have received a copy, Northfield's score of 45 resulted in no loss of State Aid. The evaluation assesses and complies with various laws and provides taxpayers with a means of evaluating their municipality, it lists the various areas that are covered under the assessment. He noted electric vehicles were one area where we could improve. He would like to share the information with each functional area with respective Council members to ensure we keep pushing that number up. He asked if anyone had any questions.

There were none.

- 2024 Professional Services – Any Changes to Criteria?

Council President Leeds asked if anyone had any changes to the professional services criteria?

There were none.

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**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Leeds reviewed the agenda and 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 else 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