

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

This meeting was called to order by Carol A. Raph, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised under Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

The flag salute was led by Mayor Frank Perri, Jr., assisted by Cub Scout Pack #72. Mayor Perri called for a moment of silence to recognize those fighting at home and abroad for our liberties, as well as those who serve the community, that they may return safely to their families.

ROLL CALL: Present: Carew, Martinez, Mazzeo, Notaro, Turon, Vain, and Kern

City Solicitor Keith Bonchi, Engineer Ed Stinson of Doran Engineering, CFO Marilyn Dolcy, City Administrator Jeffrey Bruckler, and Deputy City Clerk Kim Hodsdon were present.

Mayor Perri made a proclamation honoring the 97th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. He thanked the Scout Masters, parents, Den Mothers and volunteers for their dedication to the organization.

At the request of Council President Kern, Bill Downey of the Fox and Rothchild Law Firm and Mike Bowman came forward to discuss the pending transfer of a liquor license from JJ Kemps Ale House to the Atlantic City Country Club,1 L.L.C. Downey explained the Corporate ownership structure of Bally's Park Place and the Harrah's family of companies. He described the timeline of events which have occurred in the transaction thus far and expressed concern that this was a time-sensitive matter due to the mounting financial burdens for JJ Kemps. He asked Council to make an accommodation by moving forward with the approval while the Police Department is awaiting the results of fingerprints. In support of this request, Downey stated that the individuals on the application have prepared, under oath, affidavits which affirm that they are qualified and free of criminal activity. Should any of them have a disqualifying event, Council would have the power to take action. Bally's Park Place is also willing to submit an indemnity to cover the City's financial liabilities.

In response to Council President Kern's question, Downey stated that the seventh person on the application is Steve Sullivan. As the Manager of all golf activities, he may at times be the most senior manager on duty with the power to make business decisions, thus he was listed on the application. Councilman Turon questioned the intent of the day to day operations at the Club, stating that residents are concerned about maintaining the integrity of a quiet residential neighborhood. Downey described how the restaurant would open with breakfast and lunch and add a dinner service later. He said that there was no intent to become a late-night bar or dance club. The interest is in meeting the high demand for social events such as weddings. Councilman Carew expressed a concern that the City might look as if it acted

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hastily, causing embarrassment, should the investigation reveal any disqualifying events. The affidavits and indemnity clause were discussed again.

Scott Silver, the Attorney representing JJ Kemps, came forward and explained that, in his years of experience in dealing with liquor laws this is not an unusual request. He gave examples of transactions that have been approved in Pleasantville, Ventnor, and Atlantic City where fingerprints were not required. While it is generally recommended that the applicants be fingerprinted, it is not a statutory requirement.

Council President Kern stated that Council would consider the matter further during closed session.

Council President Kern reviewed the agenda. Resolution 43-2007 providing for and Executive Session to discuss the liquor license transfer was added to the agenda. Mayor Perri expressed concern that ordinance 4-2007 contradicts the intent of the original ordinance by allowing changes to personnel policies and procedures through resolutions. Administrator Bruckler explained that resolutions are more convenient to make time-sensitive changes and continual updates to the manual because they do not require two readings and advertisements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council President Kern requested that committee reports be held until the regular session.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Kern opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Seeing none, she closed the public session.

Council adjourned for a brief recess before reconvening for the Regular Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC