

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
MARCH 21, 2006**

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

ROLL CALL: Carew, Notaro, Kern, Schlachter, Martinez, Turon, Mazzeo

Solicitor Alfred Scerni, Jr., Engineer Edward Stinson of Doran Engineering, and City Administrator Jeffrey Bruckler were present.

Council President Mazzeo reviewed the agenda. Administrator Bruckler responded to a questioned from Councilman Carew regarding Resolution 52-2006, indicating the grant funds would be used for face masks for the new air packs and items for the Fire Prevention Education Program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Martinez announced a resolution would be on the agenda at the next Council Meeting for purchasing radios for the Fire Department and Rescue Squad. Martinez thanked all participants of the Communications Committee.

Councilman Carew reported all was going well within the Building Department.

Councilwoman Kern said Seth Brilliant was present for a presentation on the new Library sign. Kern reported there were approximately fifty attendees for Astronomy Night with three telescopes in use. She announced the next Astronomy Night is scheduled for July 31st. The Friends of the Library is holding an Essay Contest during the month of April and Poetry Night will be held on May 18th, she added.

With regard to Court, Kern will be speaking with Judge Broome on Monday, March 27th, to discuss options for reducing costs, including holding court sessions during the day instead of in the evening. Changes would be requested only if the savings was significant.

Kern reported previously on the Municipal Alliance's grant application for a town meeting. She said the \$500.00 grant has been received. Kern and Acting Lieutenant Art Faden will be attending a training session at Atlantic Prevention Resources in connection with the town meeting to be held during the month of April. Kern will advise Council of the next Municipal Alliance meeting date.

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Kern reported on an After-Prom request from Mainland Regional High School, together with DARE requests, and the possibility of having our DARE Officer attend a convention scheduled for July in Orlando, Florida.

She presented follow-up on communication with the Jewish Day School for possible use of their property for additional sport field areas. They have agreed to allow the City to use some of their fields on a trial basis for one year. Kern will be meeting with school representatives to finalize the details.

Councilman Notaro reported the No Parking Signs have been installed on Northfield Avenue. With regard to the Public Works Department brochure, Notaro is looking into having a corporate sponsor fund the mailer to eliminate cost to the City.

Council President Mazzeo announced the 2006 budget will be introduced at the next Council Meeting on April 4th. The initial 14¢ increase has been reduced, but State aid and funding reductions will have an impact on the final adjustment.

Mazzeo met with the Police Committee members and the Mayor regarding the Consultant's report issued last year. Receipt of the audit report from Mr. Moore is anticipated by next week and Mazzeo is looking forward to moving forward with this issue.

Councilman Carew congratulated Councilwoman Kern on her successful efforts to locate sport field areas for the City, and asked that Council be updated as discussions move forward.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perri spoke about correspondence received from the County Executive Dennis Levinson regarding the feasibility of centralized regional dispatch for the County. County Public Safety Department Head Richard Mulvihill will be in charge of the program. Perri asked to have the Communication Committee represented.

Perri reported on his meeting regarding the Inter-Local Sewer Agreement with the City of Linwood. Perri requested the Finance Committee and Council representatives review the NJ Environmental Infra-Structure Trust Fund, covering zero percent interim loans, debt service revenue fund, capitalizing interest during construction and level debt service payments. Perri responded to questions from Councilman Carew regarding the parameters of the program.

Perri brought attention to the Atlantic County Open Space Tax which resulted in an award of 1.4 acres in the amount of \$350,000.00. The public hearing is scheduled for April 12th at the Atlantic County Training Center. Councilman Carew noted that the

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process for this project began two years ago, and said it was a good example of following through to get results.

Perri said, according to a recent newspaper article, Congregation Beth Israel is attempting to opt out of their contract with Omni Point Communication for a tower on their property. An alternative site is being sought by the City.

Perri reported three applications were presented to the Planning/Zoning Board at the last meeting, which were all approved. Discussions are continuing with Mr. Gurwicz regarding senior housing. Upon the expiration of the lease on the golf driving range, use of the property would be reviewed, Perri added.

Perri thanked the Public Works Department for their installation of the signs on Northfield Avenue.

Perri presented an update on the new Library sign and distributed the site plan and a rendering of the proposed outdoor sign. A courtesy overview was presented to the Planning Board by Perri. He said Doran Engineering would prepare the design and provide a presentation free of charge. Perri requested Council offer comments and concerns on the project.

Library Board President Seth Brilliant spoke to Council, reviewing the history of the outdoor sign project. Brilliant thanked Mayor Perri for his help and coordination with all committees and boards involved. He also thanked Councilman Notaro for locating a company that would supply the sign at an acceptable cost. Brilliant reviewed the composition of the sign and other aspects represented on the rendering. The Library Board is considering a quote submitted by Eastern Sign Company for approximately \$3,800.00, exclusive of brickwork, electrical, landscaping, etc. Payment will be from the Library Reserve Account, he said. Brilliant responded to questions from Council. Discussion followed regarding setbacks and County reconstruction of Mill Road. Solicitor Scerni advised an application to the Planning/Zoning Board may be necessary and volunteered his time to represent the City. Motion by Councilman Carew that work for new signage at the Northfield Library move forward, with representation by the Solicitor and all due process. Second by Councilman Schlachter. All in favor. Motion carries.

Mayor Perri questioned wording in Ordinance 4-2006 Section 3(c). The description of dump truck will be changed to trash truck.

Perri noted the possibility that the NJDEP would be doing borings during their assessment of ground water contamination and requested adherence to City code regarding new streets.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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Administrator Bruckler will meet with Norman Unsworth, County Web Master, concerning changes and redesign of the City web page on Thursday, March 23rd, at which time the process will be complete. Eastern IT, City Server Administrator, will complete its work with the server, firewalls and Pix by the end of the week, he said.

Bruckler met with the City of Linwood regarding the Inter-Local Sewer Agreement on March 9th. Bruckler reviewed and edited the draft copy, and returned it to Mr. Mosca, Linwood Administrator. The final agreement is anticipated to be on the agenda for the April 4th Council Meeting.

Correspondence has been received from Ms. Diane Constantine, Esq. regarding the construction of a 140 foot monopole for Sprint Spectrum on County property on Dolphin Avenue. Per their request, a tentative meeting has been scheduled for 3/28/06 to obtain feedback from the City. Administrator Bruckler, Council President Mazzeo, Mayor Perri, the City Engineer and Planning/Zoning Board representatives will attend.

Bruckler announced Mr. Raymond Adams, Jr., CPA, has been selected to fill the part-time position of Payroll/Finance Assistant. Interviews for the Public Works Department vacancy will begin on March 24th. Interviews for the secretarial position in the Police Department have been completed and a decision will be made for the April 4th Council Meeting. The Deputy Clerk position will be publicly advertised this week.

Bruckler discussed Court video conferencing services being provided to the City of Linwood free of charge. He noted Linwood currently has an agreement with the City of Somers Point to pay \$30.00 per use, and asked Council's permission to charge the Court in Linwood the same fee of \$30.00 per use. A resolution will be on the agenda April 4th for this approval.

The City of Brigantine Fire Department has offered to donate 1,500 feet of 3.5 inch diameter hose to the City of Northfield Fire Department, with Council's approval. Chief Martinelli has provided a hold harmless agreement, Bruckler added. Motion for approval by Councilman Carew, second by Councilwoman Kern, all in favor. Motion carries.

Bruckler reported the acquisition of 1.4 acres of open space has been recommended for funding through the Atlantic County Open Space Trust Fund. A public hearing on the matter will be held April 12th at the Canale Training Center. The Sewer Connection Fees for the City have been updated according to NJ Statutes by CFO Dolcy. The new fee allowed is \$2,630.39. Bruckler requested Council's permission to

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amend Ordinance 4-2001 to reflect the new fee schedule. Motion to amend Ordinance 4-2001 by Councilwoman Kern, second by Councilman Turon, all in favor. Motion carries.

Bruckler said, with regard to the NJDEP matter addressed by Perri, he will attempt to have the borings done off the asphalt, if possible. With regard to supplemental maintenance and repairs, Bruckler has received sample bid specs and will prepare a resolution for the April 4th Council Meeting for the appropriate on call positions, and will speak to Solicitor Scerni regarding the Prevailing Wage Ordinance.

Discussion followed regarding the NJDEP investigation of ground water contamination.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Stinson reported the by-pass system at the Zion Road Sanitary Sewer Pump Station has been installed. Proposals are being solicited for replacement of the inoperable valves.

Stinson said Lafayette Utility has ordered the check valve and the vault for the valve for the Drainage Repair at Juniper Avenue. Municipal Aid Fiscal Year 2006, Reconstruction of Roosevelt Avenue, Phase II, is out to bid, with bid opening on March 24, 2006. Stinson reported the Reconstruction of First Street, held over from last year, has begun and paving is anticipated before the end of March, weather permitting.

Stinson reported the playground equipment and safety ground cover at Birch Grove Park has been completed. Stinson and Councilman Schlachter are working to obtain additional ground cover for the areas outside the equipment.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Mazzeo opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Seeing no one, the Public Session was closed.

Motion to adjourn, all in favor, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk