

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
JULY 17, 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 Perri. Following the flag salute he called for a moment of silence to recognize those who have fallen to protect our liberties.

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

City Solicitor Keith Bonchi, City Administrator Jeffrey Bruckler, Engineer Ed Stinson, CFO Marilyn Dolcy, Deputy City Clerk Kim Hodsdon, and Police Chief Robert James were present.

Council President Kern reviewed the agenda.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Council discussed the matter of street closings and block parties. Police Chief James stated that Longport has established guidelines, and the City of Somers Point has an ordinance governing the matter. Solicitor Bonchi suggested that James should take the lead on the issue, examine what other municipalities do and then check with the JIF. Stan Gunnison, the City's Risk Management Consultant, advised Council as to the particulars of homeowners obtaining insurance and hold harmless agreements. It was decided that Chief James would follow up on the matter and report back to Council.

Council President Kern opened the discussion to the subject of a City Skate Board Park. Insurance Consultant Stan Gunnison approached Council and gave an overview of the 8 step process involved in gaining approval from the JIF. He stated that the majority of the costs involved are related to the process of gaining approval from the JIF such as professional engineering, architect, design and inspection fees. Additionally, the long term costs that should be considered include, maintenance, lighting, monitoring, proper signage and safety equipment. Paul Miola, Director of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, came forward to answer any questions. He stated that there is no increase imposed by the local JIF. In response to a question of Councilman Martinez, he stated that there have been few, if any, insurance claims that have arisen as a result of a municipal skate park. The risk is managed in the approval process by ensuring that the design and construction are carefully scrutinized and the municipality is granted immunity by contractors. Paul Miola and Council discussed the matter of supervision – whether 'at your own risk' or monitored. Miola stated that the JIF had no preference and rules and regulations should be clearly stated by the City. It was decided that Councilmen Martinez and Vain will form a committee to further evaluate the feasibility of a Northfield City skate board park.

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PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Kern opened this meeting to the public. Patrick McGowan of 2005 Shore Road came forward requested to know where the City plans to build the skate board park. Kern replied that the location is undecided at this time.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, Council President Kern closed the public session.

On a motion properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC