

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
JULY 18, 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: Present: Carew, Kern, Martinez, Notaro, Schlachter, Turon, Mazzeo

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

Council President Mazzeo reviewed the agenda. Councilman Carew expressed his feeling that Ordinance 11 was unnecessary because shared services is a practice that the City already embraces; Council should not need a reminder to do their job. Mazzeo responded, explaining that he was in favor of bringing the municipalities of Linwood, Somers Point and Northfield together in a coordinated effort to explore new ideas that may lower property taxes. Councilwoman Kern expressed concern that if the Ordinance was defeated during the vote, it would mean that the City could not enter into any shared services in the future. Councilman Turon stated that he felt at a disadvantage for not having received the proposal earlier. Carew also expressed a desire to have more time to review the matter. Mazzeo notes that there are deadlines.

Carew pointed out several shared services already in place. He made a motion to table the Ordinance and stated that he would like to take over the shared services committee. He also expressed concern that Linwood was unaware of the proposal. Kern seconded. Turon stated that he could not endorse the proposal without knowing the subject of the 'informal discussions' that had taken place. Mayor Perri stated that his understanding of the ballot question is one of combining local and regional school boards. Carew reaffirms his concerns. Mazzeo stated that in some cases, shared services may have been neglected.

Councilman Turon asked the Solicitor if the municipalities are in a position to change the structure of the school boards, considering that they are autonomous from local government. Solicitor Scerni responded, no, not without other legal action. Carew pointed out that these are some very sensitive issues. Carew and Turon both elaborated on shared services that are currently in place.

Mayor Perri pointed out that the matter could also be addressed by private citizens via a petition. He said that the Governing Body has the right to enter into an agreement with the other municipalities to regionalize the school boards as governed by Title 40. The purpose of the ballot question is to gauge public opinion on the matter, which is very important in today's economy. He stated that his concern was the possible affects on State aide.

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Councilman Schlachter asked the Solicitor if the ballot question were defeated, would that preclude the City from pursuing future shared services? Scerni replied that it was structured as a non-binding referendum; it does not prohibit the City from future participation.

Scerni clarified that the correct motion would be to remove the Ordinance from the agenda rather than table it.

Motion made by Carew, second by Kern to remove the Ordinance from the agenda. Roll Call: Carew – yes, Kern – yes, Martinez – no, Notaro – no, Schlachter – no, Turon – yes, Mazzeo – no. Motion denied.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Turon reported that the County web site had a link to the old Northfield City web site. Administrator Bruckler responded that it will be removed.

Councilman Martinez reported that Ed Stinson of Doran Engineering and Administrator Bruckler were working together in the early stages of the solar energy project and more information would be provided at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Carew reported that the Building Department has been busy and all is fine. He passed out a proposal outlining a new full time position called “City Coordinator” and asked for Council’s feedback. In response to the Mayor’s questions, Carew answered yes, it would be a new job description / full time position with benefits.

Councilwoman Kern congratulated the Cultural Committee for a successful July 4th parade and offered them her thanks for arranging the refreshments and the plaques for the honored recipients. She announced that the first summer concert was held at Birch Grove Park and was very nice. The next concert, Christmas in July, is scheduled for July 25th at 7:00 pm. She reported that she attended the last meeting of the Library Committee. She reported that their recent Green Eggs and Ham program was very successful and that their next Astronomy Night is scheduled for July 31st. They continue to wait for approval of their lawn signs from the Planning Board. Additional signage includes street signs, informational and directional signs. A Library Expansion Committee has been organized. The initial plan is to grow the facility from its current 4000 square feet to 6000.

Mayor Perri explained that the Expansion Committee would have to present a needs analysis before bonding can be considered.

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Kern announced that the Northfield Night Out, hosted by the Municipal Alliance, is scheduled for August 1st. Perri offered his thanks to the County for installing the Library signs, mentioned by Kern, free of charge to the City in conjunction with the road projects.

Councilman Notaro reported that an employee from Public Works had suffered from heat exhaustion while on the job that day. He expressed well-wishes for the employee. He reported that quick-reference informational cards on heat exhaustion were created by the Deputy Clerk and would be distributed to the Public Works employees as a way to increase awareness of the condition.

Notaro questioned Administrator Bruckler as to the status of the new Public Works refuse truck. Bruckler responded that he anticipated getting the completed bid specifications from James Clark in the near future. Notaro reported that street signs had been installed in Sutton Woods at the request of residents. Installation of signs was also completed at Fairways and Shore. He offered thanks to the Public Works Department for their assistance at Birch Grove Park and City Hall.

Council President Mazzeo announced that the deadline for 3rd quarter tax payments will be extended due to the recent events in State government. A Resolution in that regard was on the agenda.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perri reported that K Hovnanian Homes had submitted a plan to the City Engineer regarding repairs to the basins at Sutton Woods. However, the report did not include any time lines. He asked for a detailed report outlining the stages of repairs. Regarding the various street reconstruction projects, Mayor Perri acknowledged the inconvenience and asked residents to bear with it. He also asked that they call the police dispatch to report any speeding problems.

Regarding the recent road openings for water projects, Perri asked if the restorations would conform to the new Ordinance. Ed Stinson replied, explaining the differences in restoration on Roosevelt avenue as a result of the repaving. However, the other openings would conform to the new requirements. Councilwoman Kern asked if the construction on Route 9 and Tilton Road has ceased for awhile? Perri stated that for the next 18 months, the area would be under heavy construction with the underground utility work scheduled to be done during evening hours throughout the summer.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Bruckler reported that he would be attending a DEP meeting on July 27th concerning Northfield's Tier A Storm Water Permit.

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He reported that he had received quotes for new fencing at the Public Works building, but that all quotes were over the bid threshold. As such, he plans to draw up bid specifications. He has been in contact with BPU's Clean Energy Program concerning the possibility of solar power or alternative green power systems for City buildings. Installation of the new security cameras in the municipal building is scheduled to begin on July 21st. He is also receiving quotes to replace the signs in front of the municipal building.

Regarding the intersection at Oak and Cedarbridge, Bruckler reported that he is receiving quotes to purchase two blinking lights.

Bruckler informed Council that he had met with representatives from Horizon to review the City's claims history. He had requested a claims history form the dental care provider, but has yet to receive it. A meeting is scheduled with Lee Scrota from Benecare to review the dental claims history. He anticipates having dental provider information and quotes ready for Council's review at the next scheduled meeting.

He announced that there is a JIF meeting scheduled for all departments at City Hall in the near future, with a main topic of discussion being heat exhaustion.

Councilwoman Kern asked Bruckler about the trash removal at he Library. He responded that he would look into it. Kern also offered her thanks for the sign at Oak and Cedarbridge. Councilman Carew asked about the staffing in the Public Works department. Bruckler responded that the new hire, which was on the agenda, fills the only open position at this time.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ed Stinson of Doran Engineering reported that the drainage repair at Juniper avenue is substantially complete and his office is in the process of preparing a punch list for the project. Additionally, he reported that the contractor has settled the claim with the resident involved in the sewer lateral break.

The 2006 Municipal Aide contract was awarded for the reconstruction of Roosevelt Avenue, Phase 2 to Arawak Paving Company; a preconstruction meeting has been scheduled. Bids were received on June 30th for the reconstruction of Lesley Lane. AE Stone was the low bidder and the Resolution to award the contract is on the agenda. The design work for the 2006 Community Development Block Grant, for installation of accessible curb ramps, has been completed and a bid date is scheduled for July 28th. K Hovnanian has provided his basin restoration plan for Sutton Woods. Stinson will be reviewing it and his questions with the developer's engineer and will have a report at the next Council meeting.

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In response to a question from Councilman Turon, Stinson stated that the work on Juniper Avenue is substantially complete. Any remaining restoration work will be treated as a punch list for the contractor. In response to a question from Mayor Perri, Stinson stated that he will be sending out an request for proposal for the painting of no-passing lines and yield to pedestrians signs along the Bike Path intersections. He will provide a report at the next Council Meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Mazzeo opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Seeing no one, he called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Carew to adjourn, second by Schlachter. All present in favor; this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk