

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5, 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.

TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor Perri asked Solicitor Scerni for his opinion on a recent letter that the City had received regarding the Bird Sanctuary. Scerni explained that there are five municipalities within Atlantic County eligible to receive monies from the Trust for the purpose of purchasing open space. Administrator Bruckler added that the City already has ownership of the Bird Sanctuary and that certain criteria had to be met to apply for monies; the Trust is intended to purchase wildlife areas for preservation. He also concurred with Scerni that the intent of the letter was to ask the City if there was any interest in pursuing Trust monies now or in the future. It was agreed upon by Council that Bruckler should answer the letter in a manner that leaves the opportunity open for the future.

Council President Mazzeo commented on the recent tropical storm and commended the Public Works Department and the Office of Emergency Management on their great response. Administrator Bruckler added his thanks and commendation to the Public Works Department, stating that 55 man-hours were worked over the weekend cleaning up storm debris and clearing roadways. He thanked Qwin Vitale, Chris Willett, John Thornewell, Paul Vitiello and Jim Clark for working over the weekend. Bruckler stated that he would look into the submission of storm-related expenses to FEMA as a possibility. Councilman Carew suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to each of the Public Works employees.

Council President Mazzeo reviewed the agenda. Councilman Martinez commended Mazzeo on placing Resolution 131-2006 on the agenda and thanked him for being selected as a member of the Shared Services Committee. Councilman Turon noted that Resolution 131-2006 was different than the version proposed by Councilman Carew. Mazzeo stated that he removed County Freeholders from the Resolution as he did not see the need for their involvement and he may consider citizen participation in the future. He said that the Committee has bi-partisan representation and that the Governing Body will need to work together on these issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Regarding Resolution 134-2006, Councilman Turon asked if the bid specifications included radiuses. Engineer Stinson responded in the affirmative for Fabian & Harvey, but stated that Dolphin Avenue was a County issue.

Councilman Martinez reported that he met with the Board of Education and discussed the possibility of sharing field maintenance. He looks forward to working together on shared services and believes this to be the start of something great.

Councilman Schlachter commented on the storm damage at Birch Grove Park and commended the Park employees and the Public Works Department for their work in clearing storm debris.

Councilman Carew reported that the Building Department is doing well. He thanked Council President Mazzeo for placing the Shared Services Resolution on the agenda and felt positive that the matter has opened the lines of communication.

Councilwoman Kern announced that Family Fest is scheduled for September 16th, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and thanked all of the volunteers involved in organizing the event. A notice has been sent to the newspapers regarding the date and times. The Municipal Alliance will meet shortly with Administrator Bruckler and CFO Dolcy to prepare next year's Alliance budget.

Kern questioned the status of the recreation field at the Jewish Community Day School. Councilman Schlachter responded that the final registration numbers would decide if there is a need for the additional field, as soccer enrollment is down from last year. Leonard Rataski of 108 West Oakcrest Avenue was asked to come forward by Councilman Schlachter to provide more information. Rataski stated that, in addition to registration numbers, the field at the Day School would need improvement before it could be used for soccer. Furthermore, All-Sports may have the use of the field at the Northfield Community School, which was not available last year. The pressure for more playing fields last year came from Mainland United, a traveling soccer program; they warned that Northfield may be dropped from their program if playing fields were not made available. Administrator Bruckler commented that the City could not offer the Jewish Community Day School for use by the traveling program due to the insurance policy. Kern expressed her discontent at the lack of communication. As the person who arranged the agreement with the Day School, she felt that she should have been advised of the site inspection and the outcome. She also expressed concern that the Day School was unaware of the City's intentions regarding the use of the field and out of courtesy they should be informed. Council President Mazzeo reminded those involved that everyone needs to work together and communicate better.

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Councilman Notaro commended the Public Works Department for working extra hours over the weekend to assist during the storm. He inquired as to the open position in the Department. Administrator Bruckler responded that he had received approximately 25 new applications and would be arranging interviews shortly.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perri inquired as to the status of the Library agreement and the Planning/Zoning Board application for new Library signs. Council President Mazzeo stated that a meeting between himself, Scerni, Kern, Bruckler and the Mayor was needed because the Library declined the City's proposed contract. Scerni responded that he would be presenting the sign application to the Planning/Zoning Board in the near future.

Perri reported that Robert Lindquist, of 2218 Zion Road, wrote a letter to the County regarding the speeding traffic in his neighborhood. The mayor has requested radar trailers and speed signs but has not heard back from the County. He ensured that there would be a police presence in the area until the matter is resolved.

Regarding the City of Northfield Master Plan, Perri said that the Planning/Zoning Board has asked for the assistance of Professional Planning Consultants. They are currently soliciting quotes and will provide Administrator Bruckler with the results. Responding to a recent press article claiming that non-violent crime is on the rise in Northfield, he stated that it was an unfair article and that the public is being misled. He commended the Police Department for being proactive and not reactive. For the record, he has filed a copy of the executed Alliance Grant with the Clerk's office. He provided Council with a copy of the required items list for 6th grade students at the Northfield Community School. Items they are required to purchase themselves include basic items such as pencils and facial tissue. He stated that he was very surprised and that the cost of these items should not be passed on to the parents and grandparents. Perri reported that the Police Committee is making progress and is moving forward on personnel issues.

Councilman Carew commended the Police Department on there handling of a recent incident in the City and recited a story of how his son thought they were the best PD in the world. He also voiced his support of bringing in professional planning consultants.

Regarding Resolution 134-2006 (Reconstruction of Davis Avenue and Harvey Drive), Councilman Turon stated that he believed the money was set aside previously for the installation of sewer laterals; if so, they should be installed before the paving project begins. Engineer Stinson responded that he would review it with Public Works and Administrator Bruckler.

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PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Mazzeo opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Seeing none, he called for a motion to adjourn.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk