

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 19, 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: Kern, Martinez, Notaro, Schlachter, Turon, Mazzeo  
Absent: Carew (entered at 7:07 pm)

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 Turon and Administrator Bruckler discussed Ordinance 13-2006. Turon expressed concern over some specific verbiage within the Ordinance. Following a review by Solicitor Scerni, it was decided to remove the word "line" which followed the word "curb" in certain areas. In response to Turon, Bruckler answered that there would be no Grandfather Clause. Councilwoman Kern expressed her thanks for Ordinance 13-2006, as it enhances the safety of our Public Works employees. She also commented that other communities' rules are more stringent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Turon commended the committee who organized Family Fest for doing a fine job. There was some discussion between Turon, Administrator Bruckler and the Mayor regarding the installation of sewer laterals on lots that were thought to be owned by the City. Bruckler reported that he had checked with the tax office and does not believe the City owns the property in question. Mayor Perri is uncertain and will follow up.

Councilman Martinez commented that the All Sports field was an investment and he supports the idea of developing a maintenance program. He met with Bruckler regarding a possible contract for servicing of to the grass on City properties, including the application of Fall/Winter chemicals. He thanked all of the volunteers and vendors involved in the Family Fest. He also thanked Vicki Rutter, commenting that the park looked great.

Councilman Schlachter thanked all who were involved in the Family Fest. It was a very nice turnout despite the weather postponement and the Park took-in approximately \$1000.00. He recognized the Key Club of Mainland and the Friends of Birch Grove Park for their volunteerism during the event. Schlachter thanked the Mainland Regional High School's groundskeepers for their work at the football field as well as volunteers, Matt Lawler and Bob DeBarth. He recognized the team mother's who took the time to plant flowers and beautify the area. Volunteers are

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still needed for the Park's Halloween Hayrides. Bids for improvements to the Babe Ruth field are scheduled for opening on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Schlachter recommended that specific NJ Transit bus stops be deleted and added. Council agreed and Resolution 143-2006 was added to the agenda. Schlachter completed his committee report with an expression of thanks to Atlantic County Executive, Dennis Levinson for his attention to the Zion & Oak traffic situation.

Councilman Carew reported that permits in the Building Department should start to increase with the start of the busy Fall season. He congratulated the Family Fest organizers, commenting that it was a successful turn-over to the new planning committee and a very nice day. Regarding a field maintenance program, he agreed that the recent improvements to the recreation fields were a big investment for the City and suggested the matter be brought up during shared services meetings. He thanked Jeff of Turfscapes, LLC for doing a fine job in sodding the football field.

Councilwoman Kern explained to Council why Resolution 142-2006 was a late addition to the agenda; she thanked CFO, Marilyn Dolcy for her help in preparing the necessary paperwork. She reported on the various programs that the Municipal Alliance supported in 2006. Kern agreed that the field maintenance program was a valid matter to be considered for shared services. As a follow up to the issue of using the recreation field at the Jewish Community Day School, Kern shared with Council copies of a letter she had sent explaining that the City would not be in need of their facilities this year, and thanked them for their willingness to help. She reported that, upon review of last year's meeting minutes regarding the need for playing fields, Northfield residents had requested more accommodations.

Councilman Notaro reported that he attended the Family Fest and thanked all of the volunteers who were involved; it was a great time.

Council President Mazzeo reported that he met with the Library Committee, Solicitor Scerni and Administrator Bruckler to discuss the pending agreement. No decisions have been reached. He reported that he attended the Family Fest and congratulated the volunteers for a successful event.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Perri briefed Council on the new Municipal Court Security Mandates that will soon be required. These new security measures will not be funded by the State and Perri suggested that it may be a good topic for shared services discussions because smaller communities who work together have more buying power. He will pass the information on to the Court and Police Department for review.

Perri attended a shared services meeting with representatives from Somers Point and Linwood. Collectively, they will be looking into grant monies to fund a feasibility

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study. The State has a list of recommended areas for Municipalities to consider when looking at shared services.

He reported that the County Executive has agreed to conduct an engineering study at the intersection of Zion and Oak. He thanked the County Engineering Department for the Shore and Mill Road projects, reporting that they are 90% complete. He also thanked the County for the Library signs. A pre-construction meeting and a public hearing will be held to discuss the Tilton Road & Route 9 project.

Perri announced that Kensington Furniture is going out of business. He wished them the best and congratulated them on many successful years in business.

He advised Council that a confidential update regarding the Police Department was included in their packets from the City Administrator. He has been working with Labor Counsel on confidential issues.

Councilman Carew briefly discussed the Kensington project with Administrator Bruckler. Carew inquired about the recent shared services meeting and expressed his concerns that the City Administrator was supposed to be included in the meeting, but was asked to leave. He was also concerned that Somers Point was apparently not copied on a specific correspondence. Council President Mazzeo responded, explaining that once he arrived at the meeting, he was advised by Somers Point Councilman Clayton that Administrators would not be included. Carew expressed concern that the City Administrator needs to be included and that shared services discussions need to be open and frank. Mazzeo expressed that everyone needs to work together.

Mayor Perri recapped the new Court Security mandates, and announced the applicable dates and deadlines involved.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Mazzeo opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak.

Councilman Turon thanked Councilwoman Kern for her work in securing the use of the Jewish Community Day School. He thanked Kern and Carew for their hard work in acquiring more playing fields in 2005. Regarding the Police Department, he expressed that Council was not being kept informed and requested an Executive Session in order to discuss police matters. Mayor Perri disagreed, pointing out that copies of correspondence from Labor Counsel were provided to Council.

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On a motion of Turon, second of Carew, all in favor of adding Resolution 144-2006, providing for an Executive Session to discuss police matters:

Roll Call: Carew- yes; Kern – yes; Martinez – yes; Notaro – yes; Schlachter – yes; Turon – yes; Mazzeo – no. Motion Carries.

Leonard Rataski of 108 West Oakcrest Avenue came forward and apologized for the lack of communication regarding the use of the Jewish Community Day School, but thanked Councilwoman Kern for her efforts in attaining the agreement.

Mike Ingram of 3 Leslie Lane came forward and thanked Council for the reconstruction of Leslie Lane; the problems have been corrected and the contractor did a great job.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, Council President Mazzeo 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