

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
APRIL 2, 2019**

At 6:05pm this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 5, 2019, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Councilman O'Neill.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Dewees, Korngut, Madden, O'Neill, Perri, Lischin  
Absent: Smith

*\* Councilman Smith was not in attendance when roll was taken, but arrived at 6:24pm, Mayor Chau arrived at 6:38pm.*

Solicitor Facenda, Chief Newman and Engineer Nassar were also in attendance.

Council President Lischin acknowledged that there were many members of the public in attendance, and asked Solicitor Facenda to comment regarding the budget.

Solicitor Facenda announced that this portion of the meeting was the workshop session, and that budget commentary may be reserved specifically for presentation during the public hearing on the budget at 7pm.

Council President Lischin moved to old business.

**WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS**

- Potential Sale of Landlocked City Owned Property

Solicitor Facenda advised the auction would be held one week from today.

- Bike Trails at BGP – *Identification of Trails is Pending*

Councilman Dewees advised there was no update.

- 2018 Road Paving Project – Tree Conflicts on Walnut Avenue

Solicitor Facenda advised that a letter had been sent to the two affected owners setting forth the City's position. Solicitor Facenda stated he'd heard back from one of the residents, the other letter came back unclaimed; he hand delivered a letter to that resident today.

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Engineer Nassar stated that this would not hold up project, as the homeowners were responsible for the sidewalk.

- Fee Ordinance for Use of Athletic Field Lights

In Councilman Smith's absence, Councilman Dewees reported that he was not aware of any update.

- Sign Ordinance Changes
  - *Referral from February 7, 2019 Planning Board Meeting*

Council President Lischin noted there was a miscommunication about what was in the draft. It was in the preliminary stage. Council had received public comment before and we are moving forward with the changes the Council wanted; the majority of the Planning Board changes were in the draft as well. He offered to review the changes. The next step would be that Solicitor would make the final changes.

Solicitor Facenda clarified that it the Ordinance would be introduced by Council then referred to the Planning Board; they would then have 35 days to comment.

Council President Lischin offered that his copy with comments would be shared with the Council. He reviewed the draft document. He began with the increase in size for signs in the Country-Club Zone from 16 square feet to 50 square feet. He reiterated it was not an LED sign.

Councilwoman Korngut asked if this was what the Planning Board recommended.

Council President Lischin replied that they wanted 24 square feet; the sign committee recommended 50.

Solicitor Facenda clarified that Planning Board wanted 36 square feet.

Council President Lischin reviewed the recommendation for how often moving signs could change, and how bright the signs can be in nits. This was increased from 50 to 250.

Councilwoman Madden expressed concern that the signs on Route 9 are too bright.

Council President Lischin continued to review the recommended changes, including sandwich board signs, and suggesting that the distance to and from the business and curb needed to be refined.

Council President Lischin asked for Council's input.

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Solicitor Facenda clarified that if anyone had suggestions other than what the sign committee suggested, they should offer them. There were no responses. He suggested Council proceed tonight by reviewing the sign committee recommendations one by one. He reminded all that this would create a draft ordinance.

Solicitor Facenda began with the size of the sign for the Country Club Zone.

Councilwoman Korngut said she was unsure of her position; it was different than what the Planning Board suggested. She was not against it, just not sure.

Councilman Perri replied that he voted before on what the Planning Board recommended but was now abstaining.

Councilwoman Madden believed we should adhere to the Planning Board recommendation.

*At 6:24pm Councilman Smith entered the meeting.*

Councilman O'Neill was fine with the sign committee's recommendation.

Council President Lischin and Councilman Dewees felt the same.

Council President Lischin brought Councilman Smith up to speed with the current discussion regarding the sign ordinance changes.

Council President Lischin advised that the Planning Board recommended 60 seconds per flip on the signs; the sign committee reduced it to 30. The industry standard was 8. Council President Lischin felt it should be closer to 10.

Councilman Dewees agreed with the Planning Board recommendation.

Councilman Smith agreed with Councilman Dewees.

Councilwoman Madden and Councilwoman Korngut would like to hear from the Planning Board.

Councilman Lischin asked Council's opinion regarding brightness, nits.

Councilwoman Madden and Councilwoman Korngut agreed with the Planning Board recommendation.

Councilman Smith did not have an opinion.

Councilman Dewees also agreed with the Planning Board recommendation.

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Council President Lischin directed the Solicitor to leave it at 50 nits.

Council President Lischin announced that the balance of draft would remain unchanged. He asked Dr. Levitt, Planning Board Chair, who was in the audience this evening, to speak.

Richard Levitt came forward, and used the 2'x4' ceiling tiles in Council Chambers to illustrate the size of a 50 square foot sign, adding that this represented a pretty big sign, and then there is the frame. The Country Club may want signs on both sides of their entrance. A 2-sided sign would have to be perpendicular to the road; their signs were angled.

Council President Lischin engaged in discussion with Dr. Levitt about the size of several signs for existing businesses around town.

Dr. Levitt offered that the Planning Board Vice Chair was the lighting technician for several casinos; the Capaldi Reynolds sign is very bright at night, you can't even look at it.

Council President Lischin advised that the sign was now off; he had a conversation with them and told them the sign was too bright.

Dr. Levitt asked for confirmation that there would be no animations, no characters, etc.

Council President Lischin confirmed.

*At 6:38pm Mayor Chau entered the meeting.*

Dr. Levitt, in regard to sandwich board signs, suggested multiple tenants in one complex may result in numerous signs.

Councilwoman Korngut asked if that was the reason the Planning Board recommended that sandwich boards be no more than 10 feet from the door.

Dr. Levitt replied yes, and to reduce distracted driving.

Solicitor Facenda felt it came down to location, and we could develop language to address it.

Dr. Levitt reminded Council that signs cannot be in a sight triangle.

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Engineer Nassar suggested minimum distance from the curb as a more appropriate gauge - 15 to 20 feet.

Dr. Levitt agreed.

Dr. Levitt and Council President Lischin ensued in discussion about the setback of roadside signs.

Dr. Levitt felt that what Council President Lischin referred to as industry standard for LED's is put out by people trying to sell LED signs. They can be a hazard and a distraction.

Discussion ensued between Councilwoman Korngut, Council President Lischin, Dr. Levitt and Solicitor Facenda about the size of a sign for the Country Club Zone.

Council President Lischin thanked Dr. Levitt.

Solicitor Facenda would send a new draft out for Council's review.

Municipal Clerk Canesi reminded Council, if it is to be introduced, she would need to know the Friday before the meeting. Council couldn't decide the evening of a meeting to introduce.

**WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS**

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Councilman O'Neill announced the Atlantic City Electric tree program, where Northfield could get 50 trees for free.

Councilman Dewees asked where would they go, and heard this was just for residents.

Councilman O'Neill said they reached out to the City and said we can have them, he spoke with Ken Mosca.

Councilman Dewees would like to hear more about the program.

Councilman Smith and Councilwoman Madden were in favor of accepting the trees.

Councilwoman Korngut would also like more information.

Council President Lischin was in favor.

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Councilman Perri was concerned about maintenance.

Councilman O'Neill asked Mayor Chau to be the contact person.

**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Lischin reviewed the regular meeting agenda and made assignments. He asked members of Council if anyone wanted resolutions pulled from the consent agenda; there were none.

**PUBLIC SESSION/ FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Lischin opened up this portion of the meeting for any member of the public to speak on any subject, announcing a five minute per-speaker time limit.

Pete Brophy, 11 Twelve Oaks Court, asked for confirmation that the sign ordinance may put larger signs on Shore Road, have residents been told or will they? He also asked had studies been done regarding the impact of such signs on property values.

Council President Lischin replied, yes, they have been told, and, no we have done no such study.

Mr. Brophy suggested Council create a summary of the ordinance for publication on the website and Facebook pages. He referred to nits; no one knows what that means.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Council President Lischin closed the public session.

At 7:04pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Smith, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Registered Municipal Clerk