

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
APRIL 24, 2018**

At 6:10pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 13, 2018, in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present: Korngut, Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline, Dewees

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

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS

Council President Dewees deferred to Solicitor Facenda for an update on the potential land sale.

- Potential Land Sale – Update

Solicitor Facenda did not have an update; he was waiting on the fairness hearing update.

- Request for County Assistance - Signs for the Casto House and Museum on Shore Road and Rt. 9

A new letter was sent to the County due to miscommunication and confusion with the first letter.

- “Parks and Recreation Areas” Ordinance Changes

Council President Dewees advised that he had not had a meeting yet, he would get a meeting set up and have a recommendation to Council at the following meeting.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Commercial Utility Consultants – Status and Interest in being Lead Agent

Council President Dewees asked were we interested in entertaining the energy aggregation program.

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Solicitor Facenda explained the history of the CUC noting that the City of Margate had backed out and CUC is looking for a new lead agent.

Council was generally not interested in participating as lead agent, but may possibly interested in participating if it made sense down the road.

Solicitor Facenda asked Municipal Clerk Canesi to notify CUC.

- Sign Ordinance Changes

Council President Dewees referred to the sign ordinance; asked if all have read it.

Councilman Lischin asked if it would be possible to invite business owners to have input, they may better understand the technology related to the signs, since they were using them.

Solicitor Facenda felt the committee would be able to do whatever due diligence they felt was appropriate, he wouldn't necessarily invite business owners to committee meetings, but meeting separately would be fine.

Councilman Perri advised that there was a great deal of research and history behind the current ordinance, there were several professionals on the Planning Board who did understand the technology, but additional input would be okay.

Councilman Travagline stated that as a member of the sign committee, he would discuss with the committee.

Councilman O'Neill and Councilwoman Korngut agreed with Councilman Perri.

Mayor Chau stated he had concerns with brightness; he would not want to live near a bright, moving LED sign that interfered with his quality of life. We did have to keep in mind that we had businesses in residential zones. We needed to keep that in mind, for both parties.

Councilman Perri noted we needed to delineate by zone where sandwich boards were allowed, we did have a lot of businesses in residential neighborhoods.

Councilman Perri felt that Council may wish to have the chairman and vice chairman from the Planning Board come to present to Council, they were very knowledgeable.

Councilman Lischin felt that with the right restrictions on signs, it could work in the residential zones. The newer LED type signs could be adjusted, they could be less bright than the white spotlights that illuminate a sign, as well as the area and

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trees around it. Digital signage allowed for a lot more control. Many of the businesses in the mixed-use zones are closed after 7 or 8 o'clock at night.

Mayor Chau mentioned the billboard that was visible from Dr. Levitt's home, it was obtrusive.

- Letter to Volunteer Organizations Regarding Use of City Facilities

Council President Dewees asked Solicitor Facenda to speak regarding the letter to volunteer organizations.

Solicitor Facenda was asked by the Fund Commissioner to send a letter to volunteer organizations regarding certain policies that are in place or should be in place.

Councilmen O'Neill and Travagline didn't think it was necessary.

Council President Dewees referred to work that was done last year, electrical, plumbing, that was not inspected.

Councilman Murray replied that we need more volunteers to cut our expenses, we need to make it easier for us to get things done, can't wait 6 weeks and it's over.

Council President Dewees felt we have to look out for the City's best interest.

Solicitor Facenda stated that if work that required a permit was being done without a permit, it could be a problem.

Councilman Travagline was fine with a letter being sent at the beginning of the year, but not now.

Mayor Chau referred to the Volunteer Fire Company doing a medevac drill; they got the insurance making sure the City was indemnified. We had an event a few weeks ago involving a helicopter but there was no insurance and no indemnification. If someone was hurt, we would have had no 3rd party who was responsible.

Councilman Travagline stated there were several communications stating that the State of NJ does not provide insurance and they do it several times a year.

Councilman Perri, Council President Dewees, and Councilwoman Korngut were in favor of sending the letter.

Councilmen O'Neill, Travagline, Lischin and Murray were not in favor of the letter.

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Councilman Perri stated that he was there, at the aftermath of the incident with the helicopter at the batting cage and felt it should still be inspected.

Councilwoman Korngut was confused, there was no downside. People forget things, it protects the taxpayers.

Councilman Travagline asked who asked that the letter be sent; if the JIF asked that letter be sent?

Councilman O'Neill said if the JIF puts in writing that they want the letter sent, and then gives us a list of all of the other towns that send the letter, then Northfield should send it as well.

Clerk Canesi, who was also the Fund Commissioner, stated that it was she who requested the letter. She felt that if the JIF knew we did not want to put this in writing they would object. She suggested having Paul Forlenza of the JIF come to Council to explain why these things were required.

Council President Dewees asked Clerk Canesi to set that up.

Council President Dewees referred to a letter that was received from the Northfield Community School Superintendent requesting that the city remove the parking restrictions on Cedarbridge Road. He asked if Council was in favor, adding that he was not. Council President Dewees said he'd spoken with Chief Newman, who was also not in favor.

Mayor Chau recounted the history of teachers getting tickets recently, adding that there was some history of why the parking was restricted.

Councilwoman Korngut did not know enough about it the situation and would take the Chief's recommendation.

Councilmen Perri, O'Neill, Travagline, Murray, and Lischin would also take Chief Newman's recommendation.

Council President Dewees asked Clerk Canesi to explain.

Clerk Canesi explained that the school would like the parking in front of the school, on the school side, from Route 9 to the end of the school's property changed to unrestricted parking. Currently it is 2-hour parking for residents only. The other side of the street, the south side of Cedarbridge Road, is no parking at all during school hours, from Route 9 to Juniper Drive. In 2009, the City received a grant to install sidewalks, and some of the conditions of that grant were that Cedarbridge, from Juniper to Wabash, had to be a one-way street and to limit parking on the South side

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of the street from Juniper to Wabash. Prior to the grant, the south side of the street was already no parking. Residents who live in that section can't park in front of their own homes during school hours, but can park across the street. They can't park across the street if teachers are parked there all day.

Mayor Chau did not think it was just teachers that want to park there, others did too.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Dewees reviewed the agenda and made assignments.

Council President Dewees advised that Resolution No. 101-2018, final payment for Bay Drive, would be removed from the evening's agenda.

Solicitor Facenda advised that Resolution No. 102-2018 would also be removed, as he did not get the required documentation. He requested that Resolution No. 107-2018 to authorize the execution of a Fair Share Housing Agreement, be added.

Solicitor Facenda also advised that we would not need Resolution No. 106-2018.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Dewees opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any topic.

Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue - advised Council that if he was not allowed to put concrete pads in, he was going to put another monument in and asked if the City was going to arrest him. He added that Memorial Day was significant; these are people who died all over the world and deserved to be recognized. He appreciated the volunteers who put the flowers in, and said that years ago Council people were volunteer firemen or volunteer policemen.

Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Avenue - years ago when he did work at the park, it was done by a licensed volunteer. It was done with a permit, and inspected. He did not know what was done now.

Heather Mellon, 2509 Herbert Drive - stated that she was a member of Friends of Birch Grove Park. They have plans to have a new fence installed at Flora's Garden, and have gotten estimates from a fence company. She asked if they needed to do anything.

Council President Dewees advised Mrs. Mellon to contact Qwin Vitale, he would make sure a permit gets pulled and that the work was inspected.

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Barbara Madden, 403 Park Lane - regarding the letter, did not understand the issue with the letter. It seemed to protect the taxpayer and the insurance company wanted it. She did not know why it would be a bad idea and did not understand Councilman Travagline's objection.

Councilman Travagline replied that he understood insurance.

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

At 6:59pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk