

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2013**

At 6:02pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 7, 2013 in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Mazzeo. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

Present: Carew, Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Polistina, Travagline, Brown

Mayor Vince Mazzeo, City Solicitor Kris Facenda, City Engineer Dan Kwapinski, and Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi were also in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS

Council President Brown opened the work session and introduced Dr. Janice Fipp, NCS Superintendent, who in turn introduced Linda Albright, School Business Administrator.

Mrs. Albright thanked Mayor and Council. She reviewed the 2013-2014 budget and provided Council with a copy of the of the Powerpoint presentation that was used at the School Board meeting during which the budget was approved. The increase equates to 1.75 cents on the tax rate.

Dr. Fipp praised the quality of programming, the teachers, principals and staff. She indicated they worked very hard to maintain the budget in lieu of the current state aid package and this is the first budget to reach the 2% cap in 4 years. She reiterated that Northfield Community School is the pride of the community.

Mayor Mazzeo thanked Dr Fipp and Linda Albright for attending and providing the presentation. Mayor Mazzeo asked if the state aid is based on a formula, based on demographics. Albright responded that it should be but it has not been funded. NCS is under the state formula and has been for at least ten years. She feels it should be based on enrollment, numbers of students that require extra services, etc. Dr. Fipp commented that Northfield's free and reduced lunch is up to 22%; it has never been that high but still does not ensure proper funding.

Councilman Polistina asked what is the total funding for the school budget. Mrs. Albright clarified that the total budget is approximately \$14,000,000 of which \$1,000,000 is federal monies for special education services.

Councilman Perri asked about the employee 1.3% health care increases to the

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insurance package and asked what was included. Mrs. Albright explained that it was an all-inclusive number for all types of insurance as well as FICA, pension contributions, social security etc. Councilman Perri asked if they were in the state health insurance program. Albright replied that they are not.

Council President Brown thanked Dr. Fipp and Linda Albright for their presentation.

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Council president Brown asked Councilman O'Neill to review the status of the phone system.

Councilman O'Neill reviewed that he had three quotes from vendors and introduced the recommended vendor from Tricomm, Toni LoSasso. Ms. LoSasso presented, for visual inspection a sample phone, and gave a short presentation of the company's overall proposal. She stated the system can go digital, analog, or voip and that hers is a service oriented company whose local service tech lives in Absecon. She also provided highlights of the system's technical functionality and offered to answer any questions from Council.

Council President Brown asked Councilman Dewees to bring them up to date on the proposed UCC fee increases.

Councilman Dewees recapped that after further assessment the overall proposed increase is approximately 29-30%. He further explained that he felt the most accurate numbers would be best reflected without the commercial applications; hence his revenue projection is about \$30,000 which is closer to 26% and in line with surrounding communities such as Linwood, Egg Harbor Township, Brigantine as well as the state's fee schedule. He noted that there had not been an increase in fees since 2008 and he urged Council to seriously consider the change.

Councilman Polistina referred to the earlier topic of discussion, and inquired as to the next steps regarding the phone system. Councilman O'Neill responded that the three quotes were provided to CFO Dawn Stollenwerk for review of the lease vs. outright purchase options. He recapped that monthly costs were expected to drop from \$3,500.00 per month to \$1,050.00 per month. He also estimated the phone system would pay for itself in 8 to 9 months.

Mayor Mazzeo suggested that they purchase the system outright rather than lease it; the proposed lease interest was too high.

Councilman O'Neill clarified that Northfield was not locked into any specific rate and could shop with any outside leasing company. Councilman O'Neill suggested

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there were available rates as low as 4%; but again he deferred that decision to the CFO Dawn Stollenwerk.

Mayor Mazzeo asked why Tricomm was chosen when their quote appeared to be \$1,000.00 higher. Councilman O'Neill stated that their quote include a fax card capability that was not in the other quotes. Matching apples to apples put them within dollars of each other. He felt that after weighing the strong favorable recommendations from other public users he chose Tricomm.

Council President Brown directed Councilman O'Neill to meet with CFO Dawn Stollenwerk and have this on the agenda for Council to consider on April 23rd.

Council President Brown moved on to the next topic for discussion relating to the Use of Facilities applications,.

Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi clarified for Council that the use applications will be approved at the regular meeting but the discussion for this workshop is regarding whether or not they want to pursue a future fee ordinance for Use of Facilities.

Council President stated that she would like to see a fee ordinance in place regarding the use of the fields. Councilman Perri stated he would like the costs incurred for the maintenance of the fields to be considered. Councilman Polistina cited his concerns with the City's inability to turn users away who may be, for some reason, objectionable. Perri disagreed, and said there is no difference without a fee.

Councilman Carew asked Solicitor Facenda for his opinion regarding the obligation of the City to accept all requests for field use. Councilman Carew shared that the teams that use it now do pitch in and help maintain the fields. He expressed concern that there might be an overwhelming number of requests from travel teams.

Solicitor Facenda stated he would do some research but he has heard of other towns not being able to restrict beaches to residents only.

Councilman Dewees asked if Green Acres is an issue. Councilman Carew stated that there are no Green Acres monies connected to the fields. Dewees noted that City workers line the fields and clean up the bathrooms, etc. after the fields are used.

Council President Brown directed Solicitor Facenda for an opinion regarding the concerns that were expressed for presentation at the April 23rd meeting.

Council President Brown reviewed the agenda for the regular meeting.

Councilman Perri asked if the proposed change order set forth in Resolution 76-2013 had already been paid.

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Municipal Clerk Canesi stated she would review the bill lists between the work session and regular meetings.

Councilman Perri reported that he has been putting together the information needed to go out for quotes for a new health insurance provider. He requested that the Council consider spending \$2,000.00 to obtain a benefits history from the current provider to be able to effectively shop for real pricing.

Councilman Perri motioned to spend amount not to exceed \$2,000 on a health insurance census from our current provider, pending availability of funds.

Council President Brown straw polled each member and all were in favor.

Councilman Perri also said there is a prescription drug company that would like to quote that piece separately. He clarified that this did not require any census information.

Council President Brown opened the meeting to any member of the public wishing to speak on any subject. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, Council President Brown closed the public session.

Council President Brown announced there would be a 5 minute break between the workshop session and the regular meeting.

At 6:56pm on motions properly made and seconded this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mimi M. Marlor, Deputy Municipal Clerk