

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 10, 2016**

At 7:49pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau, followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Facenda, Engineer Kwapinski and Acting Chief Newman were also present.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilman Dewees to dispense with the reading of the minutes from April 24, 2016. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and were on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O'Neill –yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline –yes; Motion carried.

PUBLIC SESSION – BAY DRIVE PROPOSED TRAFFIC CHANGES

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public regarding Bay Drive.

Engineer Kwapinski explained that the project funding required ADA improvements, and the change in the project required that these items be reengineered. When he was on site doing that, some residents came out and asked that the project be revisited. Now that the bump outs were eliminated, curb cuts had been added, and some areas that were prone to flooding had been addressed with gutters. He discussed two bump outs that some residents wanted.

Councilman Dewees asked why drainage was being addressed now.

Engineer Kwapinski replied that the bump outs would have allowed 10 feet to play with the curb height that would have enabled him to address the flood prone areas, now that there are no bump outs, he didn't have that.

Council President Travagline reiterated that public session was open.

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Larry Martino 1905 Bay Drive - wanted assurances that what was discussed tonight was a done deal; he left after the last meeting thinking it was done and now it's resurfaced again.

Council President Travagline reassured that the islands were not and never were reincorporated into the plan. If residents asked for change the Council responds.

Valerie Hansen, 124 Steelman Avenue – asked was the island for Steelman scrapped as well?

Council President Travagline replied yes.

Susan Simon, 2110 Bay Drive - asked that curbing be installed in front of her property where there are currently railroad ties.

Council President Travagline would prefer curbing; waiting for outcome of drainage.

Ed Weinstein, 222 E. Surrey Avenue, felt this project was setting a precedent, and every intersection would be in here asking for the same thing, bump outs at their corner. Bump outs were being put in to alleviate speeding. He suggested narrowing the road by 10 feet and install underground utilities; it would make the Bay Drive homes worth more. Do it right the first time, it's all band aid fixes.

Paul Filippy, 2008 Bay Drive - wanted the bump out in front of his home to be 7 foot instead of 10 foot, he suggested adding a curb where there was none, and an additional bump out to make it look pretty, also suggested reflectors on the curbing of the bump outs, because it's not a well-lit area. He asked who would maintain the bump outs.

Engineer Kwapinski responded the residents would maintain them; can possibly use river rock in lieu of landscaping grasses.

Richard Levitt, 2004 Bay Drive – voiced his concerned with river rock because kids throw it and weeds grow up through it.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Council President Travagline closed the public session on the Bay Drive matter.

Councilman Dewees asked if we had to rebid.

Solicitor Facenda stated he was leaning towards yes, would like to see the original plan, but thought yes.

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Engineer Kwapinski showed plans of Steelman, where Oxford Circle came together, he reviewed a possible placement for a stop sign.

Engineer Kwapinski was flipping pages on a display board that were not visible to the Municipal Clerk.

Bob Leeds, 27 Steelman Avenue – noted that the stop sign referred to by Engineer Kwapinski was in front of his house, most people didn't stop there because they were looking to the left; there used to be a stop sign on both sides of the street, but now there weren't. He showed the Engineer, on the map provided, where the stop signs would need to be in order to be more visible. Leeds stated that he was opposed to any bump outs at all. There is only a traffic problem there one day a week, on Sundays, mostly in the summer. He'd lived there since 1968, there had only been one accident in all those years and that was a drunk driver who hit a tree. It was a lot of money to spend for such a small problem.

Council President Travagline said we'd just move the stop sign up about 10 or 15 feet, that's it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri - Sewer Inter Local, Planning Board, Senior Citizens

Councilman Perri announced that the Planning Board gave Roger Hansen an extension for a major subdivision on Argo Lane. He recognized the passing of Marge Milone, she was instrumental on a lot of projects including the 2000 Committee and Fun Fest, and she obtained grants and donations for the City. He offered his condolences to Lou Milone and family, she was a great neighbor and friend. Councilman Perri passed along information today from the ACUA regarding the increased flows, and noted we were still moving forward.

Council President Travagline asked if we still had a plan for manholes.

Councilman Perri replied yes and we were double checking the pumping stations; we were going to have to look at the County system.

Council President Travagline asked if we could meter our own pump stations.

Councilman Perri said that was discussed.

Council President Travagline asked about the odor. Councilman Perri replied you could still smell it.

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Engineer Kwapinski suggested several options and explained the turbulence in the system.

Councilman Perri commended the Chief and staff for containing the issue on the bike path.

Councilman O'Neill also thanked Chief Newman, and asked who made the arrest. Chief Newman replied that Sergeant Pollak made the arrest.

Councilman O'Neill - Court/Violations, FAN, Library, Shared Services

Councilman O'Neill also thanked Chief Newman, and asked who made the arrest. Chief Newman replied that Sergeant Pollak made the arrest.

Councilman Dewees - Buildings/Grounds, Athletic Fields, Bike Path, Veterans' Park, 1st Street Playground, Birch Grove, Public Works, Roads, Engineering, Little League/Babe Ruth, Sign Sub Committee

Councilman Dewees informed Council that he and Mayor Chau visited Burton Estates and we are in receipt of a letter from the Homeowner's Association requesting that the City permit them to install a sidewalk over a City-owned utility easement to connect their development to Philmar Circle. Councilman Dewees said it was not a simple installation and he had several concerns including safety, lighting, etc.

Solicitor Facenda noted obvious concerns were liability if someone were to get hurt on the property; the City could potentially face a tort claim and possibly a lawsuit down the road. There was also the impediment to accessing the easement.

Councilman Perri advised that there was also a storm water force main under there, plus a gravity feed there from New Road. We need to have access to there.

Engineer Kwapinski noted that any sidewalk would also have to be ADA compliant.

Councilman Dewees stated that the Home owner's Association was proposing paying for construction, with the City doing the engineering.

Solicitor Facenda noted that an option may be to sell the lot to the Homeowner's Association, but Councilman Perri's comments may negate that. Granting this request didn't seem like a good idea at this point.

Engineer Kwapinski suggested several options he felt would make it feasible.

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Solicitor Facenda informed Council the City would still have the same liabilities; we may want to put signs out there indicating “no trespassing”, now that we were aware of them using it. If something were to happen, we could still be liable.

Council President Travagline asked Solicitor Facenda to see if it was feasible for the Homeowner’s Association to purchase the area.

Solicitor Facenda did not want to cover up our infrastructure.

Councilman Perri stated that this was a 10 year project, anything that jeopardizes that area affects the residents on Philmar, their homes were flooding.

Councilman Dewees mentioned that the carpet in Council Chambers was being replaced next Monday and Tuesday, and he was working on upgrading the lighting in the Council Chambers.

Councilman Piergiovanni – Insurance and Safety, Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Alliance, Northfield School

Councilman Piergiovanni commended the Police Department for their handling of the incident on the bike path. He commended Senators Menendez and LoBiondo for visiting the Veterans Clinic recently to draw attention to the changes that needed to be made. He was not sure if Council was aware but a man recently took his life at that location.

Councilman Murray - Finance/Collections, Mainland Regional, Economic Development, Traffic Safety

Councilman Murray informed everyone that the Tax Assessor would be having evening hours Wednesdays 5:45pm-8:30pm for the public.

Councilman Lischin – Fire Department/EMS, Inspections, Code Enforcement, Housing/Zoning, Technology/MRHS Channel 2, Cultural Committee, Green Team, Sign Sub Committee

Councilman Lischin noted that EMS was fine with dispatch coming out of Pleasantville; he read the fire report for April.

Council President Travagline confirmed that staffing in the Fire Department would be a maximum of 2, but that we could go down to 1. For some reason there are sometimes three during the day.

Councilman Lischin replied that the Chief’s recommendation has always been a 2 man minimum. He reviewed that they serve as first responder, when there is an

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ambulance call; the EMS rig goes, as does Fire and sometimes Police. There was also the issue of volunteers not being available during the day.

Council President Travagline noted that we were now paying for EMS, so there was a duplication of service. More people would be great but we're paying for ambulance service, and having Fire and Police go. He didn't think we should ever have 3 men on shift; it's a duplication of service.

Councilman Lischin stated it comes down to the recommendation of the Chief. He didn't want to be the only one who said that one man on day shift was the way to go.

Council President Travagline took a straw poll vote, for a maximum of 2 men during the day, minimum of 1, all were in favor.

Councilman Lischin said he was still exploring sharing the Building and Zoning Departments; will try to have a report for the next meeting. He read the inspections report for April. He felt that Community Champions would be more responsive, the banks were helpful once they take the property but there was a limbo period when the owner vacates, but the bank hasn't yet taken over.

Clerk Canesi suggested that she contact the County, as the lead agent, to advise them that the banks were not getting things done any quicker; they were easier to contact, but action was still taking way too long. She asked why violations weren't being issued.

Councilman Lischin replied he did not know.

Councilman Lischin thanked AJ for video services, they replay on Thursday at noon and 7pm.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chau read highlights of the resume for the new Deputy Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, Anthony Siudut. He asked for Council's support. He received a letter from NJDOT that we did not get the Safe Routes to Transit Grant for installation of sidewalks. We did get \$22,000.00 from Clean Communities. He read the Police Department report. Mayor Chau read a letter from the Ocean City Prosecutor's Office commending Lieutenant Dettinger for DRE services. He also read a letter from the Linwood Police Chief commending Officers Vola and Griess for their recent assistance. He then read a letter from resident Mr. Jansen about a suspicious letter he received that ended up being a scam; he commended Officer Czaplinski. Mayor Chau commented on the passing of Marge Milone, he would be issuing a proclamation at a future meeting when Mr. Milone was available.

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ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Kwapinski reviewed the Engineer's report.

Mayor Chau informed Council a neighbor reported that a tree at the rear of the Veterans Park property was leaning and was in danger of falling.

Councilman Dewees would look at it tomorrow.

Mayor Chau expressed concern on behalf of the Northfield Community School that the issue with the crosswalk occurred without any notification; he asked Engineer Kwapinski to follow up.

Mayor Chau asked for the status of the painting on Roosevelt and Mt. Vernon Avenues.

Engineer Kwapinski replied that South Jersey Gas was supposed to do it today; he showed up and no one was there. He would follow up tomorrow.

Mayor Chau asked Engineer Kwapinski if he got the list of questions about the sidewalk project.

Engineer Kwapinski stated he had not.

Clerk Canesi stated that she sent them last week; she asked if Councilman Dewees, Solicitor Facenda and Mayor Chau had received the email (all confirmed they did).

Engineer Kwapinski again replied that he didn't get them.

Clerk Canesi said she would resend them.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public, seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public session.

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Travagline stated that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature, and having been reviewed by Council, will be enacted by one motion. Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of any Council Member and if so removed, will be treated as a separate matter. Any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds.

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Councilman Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman O'Neill seconded for Resolutions 105-2016 to 113-2016 to be voted on by Consent Agenda.

- 105-2016** A Resolution to Request Street Lighting from Atlantic City Electric on a Certain Section of Lake Avenue
- 106-2016** Separation of Employment Department of Public Works Laborer
- 107-2016** Separation of Employment Seasonal Grounds Keeper for Birch Grove Park
- 108-2016** Resolution Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2016 Budget
- 109-2016** Resolution Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2016 Budget
- 110-2016** A Municipal Resolution Authorizing the Filing of a 2015 Recycling Tonnage Grant Application
- 111-2016** Supporting the Click it or Ticket Mobilization of May 23-June 5, 2016
- 112-2016** Appointment of Anthony Siudut to the Position of Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
- 113-2016** Confirmation of Accumulated Absence

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O'Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Motion carried to vote by consent agenda.

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned, Councilman O'Neill seconded for Resolutions 105-2016 to 113-2016 to be adopted by consent agenda.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O'Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Motion carried to adopt by consent agenda.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$1,307,768.54

Councilman Lischin motioned, Councilman Murray seconded, for payment of bills.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Lischin –yes; Mr. Murray –yes; Mr. O'Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni –yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Travagline read the meeting notices.

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At 9:46pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk