

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2012**

At 6:00pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on May 12, 2012, in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Vince Mazzeo, City Solicitor Keith Bonchi, CFO Dawn Stollenwerk, and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance.

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

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- **2013 RFQ'S PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Council President Carew referred to the Professional Services RFQ's that had been distributed to Council last week.

Councilman O'Neill requested that the recommended JIF insurance requirements be included in the RFQ.

Discussion ensued with regard to the various insurance coverages and the reasons for them, and as to the minimum number of years experience the City should require, in all disciplines.

Council President Carew requested that all review the RFQ's and it will be discussed again at the meeting on the 23rd. The Municipal Clerk will send out the RFQ for Municipal Engineer if that service is up in 2012.

Council President Carew reviewed the regular meeting agenda.

Councilman O'Neill asked for the reason Council is considering Resolution 154-2012. CFO Stollenwerk explained that under Chapter 88 everyone had to be treated the same. Chapter 48 allowed employers to treat different employees differently and to decide which post retirement health benefits to provide. Councilman Perri asked about the cutoff dates; aren't some employees ineligible? Stollenwerk explained that the dates are different for each bargaining unit, and only non-union employees are not entitled to Chapter 88. For new hires, this is memorialized in the hiring resolutions.

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Councilwoman Brown asked for the term of the current bond, rates on the 2002 and 2006 bonds, if they can be paid off early, cost and terms of the new bond sale. Stollenwerk replied that rates on the older bonds are between 3 and 5%, and they cannot be paid off early. Costs associated with the sale are approximately \$20,000. The term of the bond sale will be 15 years with an average useful life of 22 years. She also provided a general explanation of the combining resolution.

Councilman Perri asked about the differing maturity schedules. Stollenwerk explained the goal of keeping debt service level. She also made note of a conference call with Standard and Poor's, which Mayor Mazzeo attended. Northfield earned an AA- bond rating, which means high quality, and very low credit risk. S and P cited Northfield's strong financial policies, use of surplus and fund balance as some of the reasons for the favorable rating. A formal letter from them is forthcoming which will list all factors; she will forward it to Council.

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

At 6:50pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk