

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JANUARY 21, 2020**

At 6:04pm this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2020, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Korngut; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman O’Neill; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Perri; Mayor Chau

Absent: Councilman Dewees

Solicitor Stein and Chief Newman were also in attendance.

Council President Perri expressed deepest condolences to Mayor Chau and his family on the loss of his mother, also to Councilman Dewees, and to Bill Garry who was here tonight. Council President Perri offered if there was anything he could do to please let him know.

Mayor Chau thanked all.

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS

- Use-Fee Ordinance – *Being Prepared by Solicitor Stein*
 - Use of Lights Fees, Field Use, \$25 per Day
 - Fire Department, Stand-By Fees, as Recommended by Chief Cummings

Council President Perri announced that Councilman Dewees did say he would not be here; he asked all members present if they had comments about the light fee ordinance.

Council President Perri stated the ordinance would be on the agenda for introduction at the next meeting.

Municipal Clerk Canesi suggested the fee be per date, instead of per event.

Councilman Smith confirmed that it should be per date.

Council President Perri referred to the Fire Department stand-by fees.

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Clerk Canesi advised that the helicopter fees were omitted; this was in exit letter from our former solicitor.

Solicitor Stein would add it; will meet with Clerk Canesi to discuss.

Council President Perri advised that Council would postpone the ordinance until the next meeting.

- RFI / Radio Tower, Rear of City Hall – Pending Approval of Solicitor Stein
Radio Tower, Rear of City Hall - *Solicitor/Clerk RFP Pending*

Council President Perri asked Solicitor Stein about the RFI.

Solicitor Stein acknowledged that Solicitor Facenda did great job.

Council President Perri asked Clerk Canesi what remained.

Clerk Canesi replied that she needed to know the length of time the RFI would be posted; Council President Perri suggested 30 days.

Clerk Canesi advised she would prepare the advertisement.

- Pending Proposed Dog Park – *Update if any, from Councilwoman Korngut*

Council President Perri asked Councilwoman Korngut to speak regarding the dog park.

Councilwoman Korngut replied that when last discussed, we were having Engineer Nassar and Councilman Dewees review the site, etc., neither was here tonight.

Councilman Smith asked had there been any progress on the formation of the non-profit.

Councilwoman Korngut replied she had not started yet, because that was easy, but it would cost money. If Council voted it down, there would be no point. If Council agreed then the corporation can be formed.

Councilman Smith expressed his concern that we were putting the cart before the horse.

Councilman Utts asked if there was a deed restriction with regard to dogs on leashes.

Clerk Canesi advised that our local ordinance prohibited dogs.

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Councilman Utts added that he received much favorable feedback that residents wanted to be able to walk dogs in the park.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Council President Perri moved to new business, seeing no one with new grant opportunities he moved to the EMS Agreement.

- EMS Agreement – Proposed Fee Increase

Council President Perri advised that the new agreement proposed a fee increase. He and Clerk Canesi met with the Shared Services Chairperson and Fire Chairperson. Council President Perri asked Councilwoman Korngut to speak.

Councilwoman Korngut announced that the proposal from Tricare had a cost increase; the committee was looking at other possibilities and also intends to meet with Linwood and Tricare this week to look at options. She would have more to report after meeting with Tricare.

Councilman O'Neill asked the amount of the increase.

Council President Perri advised the fee went from \$1,500.00 to \$3,750.00 a month; they did give reasons for it. We haven't seen increases in several years. He explained other entities that provide the service; we may have to put it out if the costs keep increasing. The original contract was a 3-year term, with an option for two, single-year extensions. This was the second extension. The costs to operate this service were definitely rising.

- Selection of Dates for Budget Meetings

Council President Perri asked all to take out their calendars for budget meeting selection; he asked Clerk Canesi if there were any preferred dates.

Clerk Canesi advised that CFO Stollenwerk would prefer no meetings in the evening on February 11th, 12th, 25th or 26th. The Planning Board would be the 6th, so the meeting would need to be done by 6:30 if that date were chosen. She announced March 30th as the statutory introduction date and April 30th as the adoption date. Council would need to plan on introducing at our meeting on March 24th.

All of Council discussed budget meeting dates.

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Council President Perri announced the dates as Thursday, February 13th and Thursday, February 27th, both at 6pm.

Clerk Canesi read back the dates to confirm.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Perri reviewed the regular meeting agenda and made the assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION/ FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Perri opened this portion of the meeting for any member of the public to speak on any topic; he noted a five-minute limit per speaker.

Councilwoman Korngut, as a new business item, welcomed Republic Bank as a new business and said they were very excited to be here. They shared how easy it was to open their branch in Northfield, how easy everyone made it. They also appreciated Councilwoman Madden and Council President Perri for attending their Grand Opening.

Mayor Chau was happy to have another business in Northfield; he welcomed them also.

Kathy Ruth, 2048 Cedar Bridge Road, asked to read a prepared statement. She said 80% of New Jersey trash is plastic; it takes 500 years to decompose. The State recently introduced a Bill to limit use of certain plastics. The Bill was never heard, it was pulled from agenda without notice, but she heard it was plastic lobbyists. Local ordinances have been introduced banning single use plastic bags. She hoped Northfield would be next. She distributed several pieces of collateral information to the Council in support of her position. She understood it had been discussed before but did not know status.

Mayor Chau commented that he had always been an advocate of recycling; Northfield was an early participant. One of the saddest things is that laws have to be created to force people to do something that they can do on their own. Mayor Chau was very supportive; Councilwoman Korngut had initiated the discussion here in Northfield. As Mrs. Ruth stated, there are inconsistencies from town to town. He felt all of Council believed in recycling. He felt it would be much easier if the State adopted something for all municipalities, however he was an advocate of anything that would keep items out of our waterways. He had recently proposed something to encourage recycling.

Mrs. Ruth replied that she was not proposing recycling; she was proposing a ban.

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Mayor Chau felt we could encourage businesses to use recyclable bags; it could be expensive.

Mrs. Ruth felt if Somers Point could do it, Northfield could. She noted that BJ's and Sam's don't give you a bag at all.

Councilwoman Korngut responded that with what was proposed before, Councilwoman Korngut was in favor, but the majority of Council was not. She did not know if the new makeup of Council would matter. Mayor Chau was concerned about uniformity but Councilwoman Korngut did not agree with that as an argument. People would adapt. She felt every small change can make a difference. She felt we were lagging behind in this.

Council President Perri replied that he would read what Mrs. Ruth provided in its entirety; it was a hodgepodge of ordinances. If the State puts a law out there, we may have to change what we were doing. He noted the plastic bags that the newspaper comes in. What about plastic bags that you buy at the store that you put your trash in, that go in the land fill? He again stressed that he would read what Mrs. Ruth provided.

Mayor Chau asked what types of bags were being suggested for the ban.

Mrs. Ruth replied, single use bags.

Councilman Smith said he objected to the characterization that new composition of Council would make a difference; this suggested that a certain demographic was opposed. Councilman Smith was not opposed but was of the understanding that the State was handling it at their level.

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

At 6:38pm, on a motion of Councilwoman Korngut, seconded by Councilman O'Neill, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk