

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JANUARY 23, 2018**

At 6:04pm 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, Travagline
Absent: O'Neill, Perri*, Dewees

**Mr. Perri was not present when attendance was taken but entered the meeting at 6:05pm.*

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

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting then deferred to Solicitor Facenda for an update on the potential land sale.

- Potential Land Sale – Update

Solicitor Facenda reported that he has prepared an outline of the properties to be sold, and has notices and ordinances prepared; he needs to determine who the adjoining land owners are and was in the process of doing so.

At 6:05pm Councilman Perri entered the meeting.

Councilman Murray invited Freeholder Coursey, in audience, to speak.

Freeholder Coursey introduced himself, and said wanted to say hello and see how Northfield operates meetings. Although Northfield was not in his district, his vote did affect all of Atlantic County and Freeholder Coursey wanted Northfield to know he is only a phone call away. He stated that we should never forget why we are here, and that is to serve the people. He was trying to make his rounds throughout the County and thanked Council for the opportunity to say hello. Governor Christie pocket vetoed the urban growth bill that would have helped the urban development zone near the Atlantic City Airport, he urged Council to adopt a resolution in support of the bill. Once the freeholder board passed their resolution, they will pass it along to the municipalities for consideration.

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

Councilman Murray informed Council that Council President Dewees would give an update at our next meeting.

He then asked Engineer Nassar to comment on the museum project.

- Birch Grove Park Museum – Handicap Access Ramp - Update from Engineer Nassar

Engineer Nassar advised that he was having difficulty obtaining a third quote and that he would have a recommendation for Council at the next meeting.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Proposed Dates for Budget Meetings
 - Thursdays, February 1st and 8th; Thursday, March 1st
 - If needed, Thursday, March 8th

Councilman Murray asked if everyone was ok with budget meeting dates.

Councilman Travagline was not sure about one, possibly two of the dates.

Councilwoman Korngut advised that on one of the dates there was a library meeting.

Municipal Clerk Canesi advised that there was a Planning Board meeting on February 1st and March 1st and that we'd need to finish by 6:30-6:45pm.

Clerk Canesi asked for confirmation that we were advertising all 4 dates, and what time?

Councilman Murray replied the 1st three, and the 4th should be advertised as "if needed".

- Commercial Utility Consultants – Update from Solicitor Facenda

Councilman Murray asked Solicitor Facenda to speak regarding the CUC matter.

Solicitor Facenda gave an overview of the City's history with Commercial Utility Consultants (CUC) - it is an energy aggregation program and the agreement expired in 2016. CUC has asked if we are willing to go back out to bid.

Councilman Murray asked Council for their opinion.

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Councilman Perri was not in favor.

Councilman Travagline did not see why we wouldn't go back out to bid.

Solicitor Facenda recalled that prior bids did not yield favorable result.

Clerk Canesi agreed and said that was what she heard.

Councilman Perri noted that the opposition from residents was that they were not in favor of being automatically included, and having to opt out.

Solicitor Facenda suggested bringing CUC in for an update, and then Council could decide.

Engineer Nassar advised Council that the County would be paving Tilton Road during the day, not at night, because the perception of night-paving, by the County Freeholder Board, is of lesser quality than if done in the daytime. Engineer Nassar stated that Chief Newman was not invited to the preconstruction meeting, but that he, (Engineer Nassar) was there for other purposes and has this information as a result.

Mayor Chau asked about traffic and the availability of police. Clerk Canesi asked if there would not be more of an economic impact on the businesses to have the paving done during the day than at night. Engineer Nassar agreed that the impact would be significant.

Freeholder Coursey (still in the audience) replied that this was the first he's hearing of the issue but would look into it.

Councilwoman Korngut stated that she'd recently put out a notice on Facebook about getting a group of volunteers who would be willing to help seniors and disabled folks, veterans possibly, who need help with shoveling during snow storms. She would propose having the homeowner sign some sort of a waiver, and the volunteers or their parents would also sign a waiver. This did not necessarily have to be a City group, but could be an informal group instead, because there is a need. She did it during the recent storm and got a tremendous reaction. She spoke with the school and there were kids who needed community service hours; it would look great on a college application. She was happy to coordinate.

Councilman Travagline added that he and Mayor Chau received word of a few residents who needed help in the recent storm. Councilman Travagline and his sons went out and shoveled people out.

Councilwoman Korngut noted they could also provide sidewalk access to a resident if there was a need for emergency services.

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Councilman Travagline hoped we could have a debate about the field use - in particular the application for the for-profit company, which was Resolution 45-2018. He believed a for-profit company should not be using our fields, as there was limited opportunity for our own kids; the fields are in need of \$20,000.00-\$30,000.00 in maintenance every year. He would be in favor if we had a fee structure but we do not – he felt our fields should only be used by non-profit entities.

Councilwoman Korngut agreed, and it would be our City employees going and cleaning up; she saw no benefit.

Councilman Travagline felt it may be worth revisiting the possibility of a fee ordinance.

Councilman Lischin agreed with Councilman Travagline, he felt that the Council in the last 2 years has opened the field even more than we had in the past. The applications are closely scrutinized. Even the travel baseball teams, etc. are non-profit.

Councilman Murray advised that 45-2018 will be voted separately from the consent agenda.

PUBLIC SESSION

Councilman Murray opened the meeting to the public.

Scott Sherwood, 19 Ridgewood Court - owns the building at 2311 New Road and had written to Mayor and Council regarding his sewer bill. The annual bill increased by \$1,200.00, based on his water bill. He felt the Council could direct the Engineer to make an accurate determination of usage because he is using the water to irrigate his lawn. He asked Council to have the Engineer look at his water bill and based on the obvious spikes, have the bill adjusted for the sprinkler use.

Solicitor Facenda replied that he looked at the municipal code; we monitor the amount of flow into the sewer system based on the water company's meters. Mr. Sherwood was saying that some of that water is going into the ground, so he should not be billed for that. There were three (3) options: one is to install a meter on the discharge, one is to install a water meter for the irrigation and not count it, or to have the Engineer go out and make a determination.

Councilman Lischin recalled when Aqua America or one of the vendors gave a presentation, they didn't count irrigation, how did they do that?

Mr. Sherwood felt that was within the Council's power to adjust the bill.

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Mr. Perri responded that he would have to meter it; it was not the City's responsibility to put the meter in. The way it had been resolved in the past was to put a separate meter in. This had come up in the past and that was how it's handled.

Mr. Sherwood added that a meter would help going forward; asked would the Engineer be able to take a look and have the bill adjusted.

Solicitor Facenda read from the ordinance whereby it is stated that the engineer's involvement is predicated upon the installation of meters not being practical.

Councilman Perri noted that the ordinance also says there is no obligation to refund.

Solicitor Facenda responded that as he reads the ordinance the best option is to put a meter on, and we didn't have the ability to go backward. If there was a determination that a meter cannot be installed on the supply or discharge, the engineer could become involved.

Solicitor Facenda offered to discuss further with Mr. Sherwood and report back to Council.

Mr. Sherwood thanked Council.

Chris Cafiero, 303 West Revere Avenue, said Councilwoman Korngut had a great idea with the shoveling, and asked if Councilwoman Korngut had spoken with Post Crashers?

Councilwoman Korngut replied that she wasn't familiar with Post Crashers but had spoken with Mrs. Devine.

Mr. Cafiero explained Post Crashers.

Mayor Chau added that Carol Ferguson was in charge of the Post Crashers.

Mr. Cafiero wanted trails at Birch Grove Park, and said most of the park was a complete waste of space. Mr. Cafiero said he knew the City recently took it over from the person who used to handle it, and one of the first things that went back in was tent camping, which was taken away for a while. He ran a mountain biking team and needed more trails. He wanted mountain bike trails, not paved trails like the grant was put in for. He felt the risk was greater for a playground than on mountain biking trails. There were people who will cut the trails for free and are insured to do so, there was no risk.

Mayor Chau asked where he mountain bikes now.

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Mr. Cafiero responded at the Egg Harbor Township Nature Reserve; there was no staff there, anyone can ride whenever they want, it is all 'ride at your own risk'.

Mayor Chau felt that there may be liability and was curious how Egg Harbor Township handled it.

Councilman Travagline responded that this had been discussed for a few years, let's get the grant first, and then take next step. You can't jump before you walk, or walk before you crawl. There were people on this Council who wanted this; we needed to take this one step at a time.

Councilman Lischin advised Mr. Cafiero that he'd follow up with his unrelated Code Enforcement complaint, since Councilman O'Neill was absent this evening.

Helen Havlick, 203 West Revere Avenue, said in the 300 block of her street there is a rental property, the person who moved in must be a mechanic because cars are dropped off all days of the week. There were tires; it was a mess. She also reported that the old computer place had been sold; there is a law firm on Route 9 between Oakcrest and Revere, and they must not have enough parking and they park right at the corner. She asked for a sign that said you can't park right up to the corner.

Chief Newman advised that there was a certain distance from a corner - 25 feet from an intersection - where you cannot park. He would take a look at it.

George Livingston, Mainland Lacrosse stated that he was told that his field use would be on the agenda tonight.

Clerk Canesi advised that his resolution was not on the agenda because we did not receive word that the field was available yet.

Mr. Livingston asked that he be notified when it was on the agenda.

Katie Simpson, said she represented the company that submitted the field use request that was discussed. She noted that half of the kids come from Northfield, and half from Linwood. The owner used to play professional football, it was a nice alternative for kids who aren't going to be able to play tackle football. She was looking for field usage for 9 weeks and they were willing to pay.

Councilman Murray thanked Ms. Simpson for her input.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak Councilman Murray closed the public session.

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AGENDA REVIEW

Councilman Murray reviewed the agenda and made assignments.

At 7:03pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk