

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 4, 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: Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Korngut; Councilwoman Madden; Councilman O'Neill; Councilman Smith; Council President Perri; Mayor Chau

Absent: Councilman Utts

Solicitor Stein, Engineer Nassar and Chief Newman were also in attendance.

Council President Perri welcomed all and announced a brief introduction by Republic Bank.

Walter Olszewski, Store Manager/Vice President and Leslie DiLuigi, Retail Market Manager, thanked all for the opportunity to be in the City, and thanked the City for being very supportive, and easy to work with. They were looking forward to a partnership.

Council President Perri deferred to Mayor Chau for the presentation to the band.

6PM PRESENTATION: Mainland Marching Band

Mayor Chau was happy to see everyone here. It was his privilege to recognize the Mainland Regional High School Band for their honor in achieving the 2019 Atlantic Coast Championship, and for representing Northfield, Linwood, and Somers Point. He introduced Councilwoman Madden for further introductions.

Councilwoman Madden stated she was the liaison for Mainland, she announced that Band Director Mr. Ratcliffe would be making presentations.

Mr. Ratcliffe announced those students in attendance and presented them with certificates. Band members included:

Patrick Angelo, Cici Bushay, Nathan Cacioppo, Lyndsey Christian, Nicholas Ciampa, Angela Claveria, Madison Conroy, Blake Corbett, Sam Costello, Nova Driver, Edwin Duversaint, Raymond Gan, Joseph Garay, Blaine Geubtner, Maria Georges, Emely Gil-Lopez, Audrey Gross, Darina Guevara-Bautista, Diego Guevara-Bautista, Abigail Hernandez, Hilary Hernandez, Dana Hickman, Melissa Keenan,

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Will Keiter, Iia Kheirkhah, Lilian R. Lee, Samuel Leopardi, Jackson Little, Maya McCabe, Thomas McCabe, Lukas McCartney, Sofia Mercadante, Miles Moore, Jack Notarfrancesco, James Pacanowski, Molly Pacanowski, Michael Perlman, Ken Pondevida, Will Reese, Samantha Richards, Eliza Rodriguez, Madeline Rowe, Alex Rumble, Andrew Sarraiocco, Nathan Sbrolla, Carly Schenck, Tai Schiavo, Thomas Shenkus, Jenell Sistler, Dina Spector, Nicholas Stanchina, Angie Stefanowicz, Philip Stefanowicz, Nikolas Troast, Sophia Tzoumakaris, Chloe Wagner, Matt Whitcomb, Nicholas Whiteley and Dennis Xu.

Mayor Chau asked how many band members there were and how did they get here?

Mr. Ratcliffe stated there were 59 members. This was his 2nd year as the Director; he explained there was “A” class, and “open” class. “A” class was more competitive, and he brought the group back into the “A” class, he introduced the Color Guard Instructor Shanea Carr. They had been rebuilding the program for 2 years, last year the band came in 7th, finishing in top 10 which was great, and this year they were undefeated, winning every competition and for a Mainland first, winning Tournament of Bands and Atlantic Coast Champion.

Mayor Chau thanked the kids and their parents for the honor they have brought to our municipalities. He acknowledged the hard work and dedication they put in. He thanked them on behalf of Council and on behalf of the residents.

Council President Perri resumed the meeting.

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS

- Radio Tower, Rear of City Hall – *RFI Advertised, Responses Due March 6, 2020*

Council President Perri announced that the RFI had been published and there was a deadline.

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

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

Councilwoman Korngut thanked Engineer Nassar and Councilman Dewees for measuring the area. For the next meeting they would provide her with an aerial so Council can see where it is and how it was laid out.

Councilwoman Madden thought it was a great idea and that it was coming along nicely; she felt it would be well received.

Councilwoman Korngut asked anyone who wanted to see the area to contact her.

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- EMS Agreement, Proposed Fee Increase – *Update from EMS, Shared Service Chairs*

Council President Perri said he, along with the Council Chair for EMS and Shared Service, met with Linwood; he asked Councilwoman Korngut to speak.

Councilwoman Korngut reported that the Committee met with Linwood and Tricare; they asked Tricare for their costs because their fee to us had gone up considerably. They did provide the information very recently; she had not had a chance to review it in detail, but did see their bottom line and it appeared their costs had gone up. She can't say for certain because she has not had a chance to discuss with the Northfield Committee representatives.

Councilwoman Madden was concerned about future cost increases. We would be exploring all options.

Council President Perri added that at the meeting we had asked for some consideration on the percentage of increase but that was not addressed in what was provided. The original proposal of \$3,750.00 per month still stands. He reported that everyone was copied on the information from Tricare. We asked for the profit and loss statement for several years back. We don't have anything 100% solid, the numbers were provided by Tricare and we would have to take them at their word. We have to go out for RFP at the end of the year, this was the final year. We have to have this resolved by the next meeting, because we have until the end of the month. It's come full circle, from a zero bid, to \$1,500.00 a month, to \$3,750.00. He added that just about everything we asked for was answered. We need the Resolution for the next meeting. Council President Perri's recommendation at this time was to enter into the agreement with Tricare.

Mayor Chau asked about call volume, had it gone up?

Councilwoman Madden had the numbers for December, she read from the report. This was her first report; she did not know if calls had increased.

Councilman Smith asked if the option was to renew. It did not seem like we were negotiating, we were just accepting their proposal.

Council President Perri responded that we did try to negotiate, and they did try to justify the increase.

Councilman Smith asked if we don't accept this, can they refuse.

Council President Perri explained that we can refuse, but they can pull out. It was a very technical complex operation; we can't just jump to another municipality. We

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had 120 days to start negotiating, and there was some delay last year and we picked it up the 1st of the year.

Councilman Dewees asked do we still house them at our costs.

Council President Perri replied that either town could house them, but Council President Perri would rather house them here. Northfield had more calls. Jointly it was more lucrative to them than separately. The price would be more if we do EMS separately.

Councilman Smith asked if they were saying they were operating at a loss the last 2 years.

Councilwoman Korngut replied, yes, that was their contention.

Council President Perri advised that we were a shared service; Linwood could have a real problem if we don't agree to it.

Councilman Smith asked if we couldn't negotiate.

Council President Perri advised that the Committee asked for 100%, but that was not considered. They tried to see what Linwood's feelings were; Linwood was in agreement with the proposal. The three Northfield representatives asked for the information we have now, and a reduction to a 100% increase.

Mayor Chau asked have they offered anything extra.

Council President Perri replied, no, it was the same service.

At 6:34pm Councilman O'Neill entered the meeting.

Council President Perri suggested if anyone had any questions to contact Council President Perri, Councilwoman Madden or Councilwoman Korngut; they were also welcome to call Linwood Mayor Matik, who represented Linwood at that meeting.

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 Light Fee Ordinance.

- Light Fee Ordinance – *Update from Councilman Smith*

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Councilman Smith advised that he met with Clerk Canesi and Deputy Clerk Campbell regarding how to implement the ordinance. The difficulty was in that teams put in a broad range of dates because they don't have a schedule yet, knowing they will not use all of the dates - there was an issue of how to charge, when, for example, they put in for twenty dates, knowing they would only use ten dates. Essentially what we came up with was a flat fee of \$250, non-refundable. He spoke with some Northfield Little League representatives as well as a few teams, and all were fine with that, not that it depended on them.

Councilwoman Madden asked for clarification on the teams that put in for more games than they know they will play.

Councilman Smith explained; there were home games and away games.

Clerk Canesi clarified that the flat fee was for one game or ten; the fee is flat.

Solicitor Stein repeated that fee was a flat \$250.00 per application.

Councilman Dewees asked was there a fee if they don't use the lights.

Councilman Smith replied, no.

Councilwoman Madden asked could the fee be reassessed.

Councilman Smith replied, yes.

Council President Perri asked if there were other questions; there were none.

Solicitor Stein responded he would have it.

- Shared Stormwater System – *Requested by Engineer Nassar*

Council President Perri asked Engineer Nassar to speak regarding stormwater.

Engineer Nassar explained that he received a call three weeks ago from the County Engineer. He distributed an aerial map of a certain area that showed a stormwater pipe off of Shore Road that was the County's. In the 1950's, houses were built, there were structures encroaching on the system and our streets drain into the system. Public Works has been maintaining the system. It has become an issue and we need to figure it out.

Councilman O'Neill asked if we couldn't just give it to the County.

Engineer Nassar replied, they won't take it. Our municipal streets are using it for drainage. We have fixed it but never cleaned it. A long pipe ran from Shore Road all

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the way out to the meadows, it shows on older maps as an easement but houses were later built on top of it.

Councilman Dewees noted he was familiar with this because he works for the County; some of the deeds reference the easement.

Mayor Chau confirmed that there was infiltration and the integrity of the pipe is in question.

Engineer Nassar responded that this is what the County is saying, but options to correct it are not known.

Council President Perri clarified that the inlets were on Shore Road; the pipe goes down the street to the meadows. There were municipal inlets that were connected to that pipe when houses went in. The County road would flood without that pipe; there had been a lot of development in the Country Club area. They had to delineate the outfall for the DEP. This was one of the issues that we have. Council President Perri's recommendation was an Interlocal Agreement; he did not feel we should bear 100% of the costs.

Engineer Nassar felt the County was willing to work with us. He explained that there was a similar pipe near Rosedale but there were no improvements, so that is a County line, we don't use it or benefit from it.

Councilman Smith asked about agreements or approvals when the homes were built.

Engineer Nassar had not been able to find any. This was in the 1950's.

Mayor Chau asked what Engineer Nassar needed to proceed.

Engineer Nassar replied he would try to work and negotiate with the County; he needed direction from the Council to start discussion with the County Engineer.

Council President Perri added that the only reason this was coming about was because we had to put it in our stormwater plan. He was in favor of a joint agreement, as opposed to us bearing the costs.

Council President Perri asked if there was any other new business.

Councilwoman Korngut referred to a letter she received from ANJEC, the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions. They are an environmental, statewide organization whose primary purpose was to support environmental commissions, local boards and public officials, specifically reducing or banning the use of single-use plastic bags, foam food product containers, and straws. They offer education and help in drafting resolutions and ordinances; she knows we have

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discussed this before, and Council knows where she stands but wanted to bring to Council's attention that we would have support from ANJEC.

Councilman Smith saw this week that the State reintroduced the legislation at the assembly level. We were back where we started in seeing where the State goes.

Council President Perri was in favor of seeing where the State goes. We may pursue something in a few months if it goes nowhere. He asked if there was any discussion.

Councilwoman Korngut reiterated that she was in favor of doing something now.

Council President Perri said we have a lot of information that was given to us at the last meeting and he's reviewed that. However he would not want to legislatively duplicate something; he was not opposed to it but thought the State should take the lead. It is up to the Council if they want to consider moving it, or wait to see what the state does. Most were generally in favor of waiting to see what happened at the state level.

Council President Perri asked if there were any other issues.

Mayor Chau referred to a letter and sample resolution he sent to Council that he received from several residents regarding 2nd Amendment rights. He asked if Council wanted to act.

Councilwoman Korngut was opposed to it.

Councilwoman Madden felt tragedies that have occurred would not make it in the best interest of our community to provide sanctuary to guns.

Councilman O'Neill was in favor of 2nd Amendment rights.

Council President Perri stated that this was advocating something that was already law; it was asking Northfield to advocate for it. The law is there and does not see us granting a sanctuary supporting or not supporting 2nd Amendment rights; it's up to the Supreme Court. He was not interested in moving on this at this time.

Mayor Chau thanked Council.

Mayor Chau announced that he had been contacted by a tree service that was willing to donate excess wood chips to Northfield to fill ruts in trails in Birch Grove, there were some concerns so Mayor Chau wanted to look at it further to evaluate the feasibility.

Councilman Dewees felt it should be up to the Park Supervisor. He did not feel wood chips were a good solution, but it should be up to the Supervisor.

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Mayor Chau had spoken to other communities and the County who use wood chips to fill ruts.

Council President Perri replied that he would form a Committee, to include Councilman Dewees and Superintendent Vitale, and get back to Mayor Chau at the next meeting.

Seeing no other new business Council President Perri referred to an additional resolution to appoint Ford Scott via Resolution No. 56-2020, which will have to be read by Solicitor Stein in full.

Councilwoman Korngut asked if it was the same auditor we had now.

Council President Perri replied, yes and CFO Stollenwerk did say the other firm was a good firm as well.

Mayor Chau referred to Resolution No. 54-2020, the recommendation to promote Christian Gansert. It was at the recommendation of Mayor Chau and Chief Newman; he had done exemplary work.

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.

John Walsh, 2000 Grove Road, referred to the 2nd Amendment resolution. He was part of a grass roots organization. Cape May County had declared themselves as a 2nd Amendment sanctuary. To Council President Perri, he said: there are draconian laws regarding the 2nd Amendment, law abiding gun owners are addressed in new gun laws, criminals don't follow laws and would continue to have guns and commit crimes. He was trying to ensure that law abiding gun owners have rights and were heard. There was tons of data that law-abiding gun owners don't commit crimes. He gave the example of traveling home from a gun range, with a weapon in trunk where it was supposed to be. He could be arrested and even jailed if he deviated from that path by making a stop along the way. He read several statistics in support of his position that legal gun owners do not commit crimes including those that involve defensive use of guns, and support that such use serves as a deterrent. He advocated for gun laws that don't make a law-abiding citizen look like a criminal.

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Teresa Zentmeyer, 227 West Oakcrest Avenue, proposed a skate park at Birch Grove Park. She said Green Acres funding would fund up to \$500,000.00. She listed reasons in support of a skate park, such as health benefits and popularity. The insurance could be covered by the JIF and an online waiver could be used.

Council President Perri would have to take it under consideration with the Advisory Board, Park Chair Dewees and Superintendent Vitale. He asked Mrs. Zentmeyer to leave her contact information.

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

At 7:16pm, on a motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Dewees, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk