

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

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 in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present: Dewees, Lischin, Murray, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Absent: O'Neill

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Kris Facenda, Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski and Acting Chief Newman were also in attendance.

Council President Travagline welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that there were no topics on the work session agenda and opens floor.

Mayor Chau asked was Northfield is ready to present the City's position to the County, as requested by the County Executive, regarding Countywide Dispatch.

Council President Travagline felt that if Atlantic City is not going to do it, there is no point because the County can't proceed without Atlantic City.

Mayor Chau stated is was up to Council, but if Council is not prepared to make a decision, perhaps as a courtesy we could send a letter to Mr. Levinson indicating that we are not ready to set forth our position. Mayor Chau felt we owed a response.

Councilman Perri noted he would endorse the County's proposal.

Councilman Murray noted that Atlantic City may not have the final say in what they end up doing, given the circumstances.

Councilman Piergiovanni didn't feel as if we had enough information.

Mayor Chau reiterated that we owed the County some sort of a response.

Council President Travagline conducted a straw poll vote; all were in favor of sending response to the County Executive.

Council President Travagline directed Municipal Clerk Canesi clerk to draft a resolution in support of dispatch.

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Mayor Chau announced that the Planning Board had forwarded a recommendation to the Council for consideration of making the south side of Chestnut Avenue, adjacent to the Mazzeo property a no parking zone.

Council President Travagline agreed it should be no parking.

Councilman Dewees noted that there is a semi-trailer parked on the street that is one street north of Chestnut; the owner lives on the street. Is the Council prepared to make that no parking as well?

Mayor Chau clarified that the issue isn't related to trucks, it's parking in general on the south side that makes the street too narrow.

Council President Travagline encouraged all to take a look and a decision can be made at the next meeting about proceeding with an Ordinance.

Councilman Lischin noted excessive displays around the bike path benches, nothing on the books that say they can't so the Code Enforcement Officer can't police it.

Councilman Dewees noted that it is a sensitive matter but it is being addressed.

Mayor Chau agreed that it has gotten beyond the original purpose and is excessive.

Municipal Clerk Canesi commented that the tree program is devolving similarly, in addition to what the Council members have stated, it is also a problem for public works to maintain around these items. She asked if this has to be legislated, or can it just be policy.

Solicitor Facenda stated it can be a policy, does not have to be legislation; they don't own the property, the City does.

Councilman Perri said the City at one prior point, prohibited all future memorials. That is why the statue of the child and dog is at the park; it was requested to be on the bike path. The bike path was grant funded and there was a master plan, originally these items were prohibited.

Councilman Perri questioned Resolution 64-2016 and stated that the 28th is the deadline for our current Emergency Medical Services.

Council President Travagline stated that Linwood will be rejecting the bids at their meeting tomorrow, and at that point the solicitors will commence negotiations.

Councilman Perri asked why it was rejected tonight. Was it because of the \$3,000.00 monthly payment.

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Council President Travagline responded yes, that is correct.

Councilman Perri asked if there was a contingency plan.

Council President Travagline replied no.

Mayor Chau asked hypothetically, if the Solicitors can't come to a negotiated agreement as of the 28th, and our contract ends, what do we do if the negotiations are not successful.

Council President Travagline stated we can get an extension from the vendor.

Mayor Chau asked if we can get an emergency contract.

Solicitor Facenda said that is an option; we have a statutory obligation to provide EMS service, whether or not it rises to the level of an emergency, it is uncertain.

Councilman Lischin said he has been assured that we can continue our current EMS service under the current contract for a short term but he did not think it would come to that.

Council President Travagline said we are trying to get the best deal for the taxpayer.

Mayor Chau asked if Linwood still the lead agent.

Solicitor Facenda noted that both cities are in need of the service and they can negotiate together or separately.

Councilman Perri thought that Linwood would still have to be lead agent and resolve the issue.

Solicitor Facenda felt a reasonable interpretation is that Northfield, as a participant, can negotiate for ourselves, should we choose to do so.

Councilman Perri did not think that \$3,000.00 a month exceeded available funds.

Council President Travagline commented on the budget; we have a revenue problem, we are spending more than we are bringing in. We will be contacting all committee chairs to identify solutions. The recent use of surplus was done in the hopes that the economy would turn around, but it hasn't.

Councilman Dewees announced that the County has announced 10 day mandatory furloughs.

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Councilman Perri requested costs of additional staff in the budget that were already funded.

Council President Travagline said he will get the information for Councilman Perri.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to public.

Shawn Cowan, 21 Wilson Drive – stated he had an issue with the sewer smell in his home. Numerous tests have been done; he was told there was manpower and resources to do the necessary work to remedy the problem. The mark outs were done, and no one has been back in 5 months. It has been established that it is not his problem; the problem is outside the house. It is especially hard when the sewer bill just went up 20%.

Councilman Perri stated that we had a catastrophic failure that put us behind considerably; we had a smoke test done and there is a problem that is not in Mr. Cowan's home but it is a multi-jurisdictional issue. The one recourse is the trap.

Mr. Cowan said that is what he is asking for; the smallest possible solution to the problem. He couldn't imagine the City doesn't have the money to put in an external trap.

Mayor Chau asked Councilman Perri if the external trap will work.

Councilman Perri stated that one of the two affected houses can't be done by us because it's too deep in the road, one can. Everything has been approved, and it's on the list. We had a change in vendors.

Mayor Chau asked how much it costs.

Councilman Perri noted the one that the City can do was \$900, without the labor.

Mr. Cowan said the men are already paid by the City, this can be fixed for \$900 but it's not being done. He asked when he can expect the work to be done.

Councilman Perri asked for his number.

Mr. Cowan stated he had heard that before, wants something in writing.

Council President Travagline noted that Council approved this months ago. The department has not finalized it; this should have been done months ago.

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Council President Travagline asked Councilman Perri if we move it down the street, where does it go.

Councilman Perri stated it would go down Wilson, St. Andrews and Catherine.

Councilman Lischin asked how many traps we would need total.

Councilman Perri answered approximately 100; this has been a problem as long as he has been in Northfield. The pump station is Atlantic County's. We have 9 pumping stations and we don't have this problem with any of our facilities.

Mayor Chau felt the County needed to be involved; this is a bigger project than we can handle.

Lauren Cowan spoke and said the County has been to her house twice; they say it is Northfield's problem.

Council President Travagline assures the Cowans that Northfield would pursue it with the county.

Samantha Gill, 701 Lake Avenue - Thanked Council, she was here last month and Council was great. She distributed a packet to Council that had photos so progress could be seen. The street signs she requested are still not in.

Councilman Dewees noted that they had been ordered.

Ms. Gill hoped that the signs that went up around her house will go up around the other houses in the neighborhood as well; everyone was very excited to see them. She is still waiting on the light from the electric company. She was grateful for the two stop signs but would also like to see red blinking lights on top of them.

Council President Travagline stated he was not sure there was enough traffic to warrant that type of light, and they are approximately \$35,000.00 each, Council will do their best but it's difficult.

Ms. Gill stated the lack of sidewalks make it difficult, there is nowhere to walk.

Mr. Dewees noted that sidewalks are the responsibility of the residents.

Ms. Gill thanked all again.

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

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AGENDA REVIEW

Councilman Perri asked that Resolution 64-2016 be pulled from consent agenda.

Council President Travagline made assignments and asked if there are any further questions.

At 7:17pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk