

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

At 6:09pm 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 Madden; Councilman O’Neill; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Perri; Mayor Chau

Absent: Councilman Dewees; Councilwoman Korngut

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

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 deadline had not passed.

Municipal Clerk Canesi advised that she had not had any inquiries.

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

Councilwoman Korngut and Councilman Dewees were absent.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Council President Perri asked if anyone had any grant opportunities.

Councilman O’Neill stated that Senator Chris Brown and some other individuals have reached out and asked that they be copied on any grants we apply for.

Council President Perri directed Clerk Canesi to handle.

Clerk Canesi replied, suggesting a letter from the municipality for the online applications.

- Hiring of 3rd PT Firefighter – *Requested by Municipal Clerk*

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Council President Perri referred to the hiring of hiring of a third part time firefighter; he advised that there are preemployment costs involved. He asked Councilwoman Madden if she had a problem moving forward. The number of hours would be monitored but a third would make scheduling more flexible.

All members present were in favor of moving forward.

Council President Perri announced that he was approached by Ed Gurwicz, who was interested in getting a liquor license. He asked Clerk Canesi for guidance.

Clerk Canesi explained that when we did the census boundary update, she did include the entirety of phases one, two and three, not knowing how far along they would get. Whoever is living in Cresson Hill at the time when the census takers go around will be counted. We were at a population of 8,634 in the 2010 census; the American Community Survey shows that we have dropped to around 8,200 in 2017. It was Clerk Canesi's hope that we could get over the 9,000 threshold and truly have another full consumption license. When the census numbers are done and if we don't hit 9,000 but we do after the other phases come online, that could push us over.

Council President Perri suggested a committee be formed to explore; he asked Councilman Utts and Councilwoman Korngut as the Economic Development Committee representatives.

Clerk Canesi requested to be on committee, and Councilman Smith volunteered.

Councilman O'Neill wanted to add Mainland Lacrosse field use to the agenda; he distributed the resolution to Council.

Clerk Canesi pointed out that if the field was sodded, they would use another field and play no games, but that language was found further down in the resolution. She also felt the conditional resolution was unclear, if it were looked at in the future. It was a permanent record.

Solicitor Stein had no concerns; he felt it was clear. The resolution was only good for one year; it wouldn't matter in the future.

Clerk Canesi asked if the decision to put down sod was made could the group play up until the day before installation.

Solicitor Stein replied yes, they could not play after sod goes down.

All members present were in favor of adding the resolution to the agenda. Solicitor Stein made a few language changes and would read the resolution into the record during the regular meeting.

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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.

Heather Mellon, 2509 Herbert Drive, asked if there was a decision on getting rid of plastic bags.

Council President Perri replied that more or less we'd said we were going to wait to see what the State did, since they were taking another look at it. He was not opposed to it.

Mrs. Mellon added that plastic bags were all over our land and ocean.

Alicia Garry, 202 St. James Place, did not understand why the City was involved in the dog park if it was being formed by a non-profit. Was there a plan? Was there a committee? The non-profit should start it; they should have a mission and a plan, and then if the interest was there, come to the City.

Council President Perri was at a loss not having the two principal people involved here at the meeting; he asked Engineer Nassar to comment.

Engineer Nassar replied that he looked at site at Birch Grove Park; it was about 1,000 feet into the Park. Councilman Dewees went out and surveyed it, and Engineer Nassar put it on a map. Councilwoman Korngut was not here to discuss it, but it was his understanding that she wanted to see if the City was willing to work with them before they formed the non-profit.

Council President Perri yielded to Councilman Dewees and Councilwoman Korngut going forward.

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

At 6:38pm, on a motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Council President Perri, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk