

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD BUDGET WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 20, 2014**

At 5:06pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on February 8, 2014, in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor McGee. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chau, Devine, Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Also in attendance were Mayor Jerry McGee, CFO Dawn Stollenwerk and Chief Robert James.

Council President Travagline turned the meeting over to Mayor McGee for an explanation of zero based budgeting.

Mayor McGee stated that zero based budgeting means starting at zero and adding expenses back in, instead of attempting to decrease to an acceptable level. He added that he would like to stay at a one to two cent increase. He noted that the City's rate will be affected by the County's budget as well.

CFO Stollenwerk listed the personnel requests that have been removed from the budget and said that she is reasonably sure the City will get the Safe and Secure Grant. She added that the Police will use confiscatory funds to resolve the XP computer issues on the Police Department side, so one-half of the money for that has been deleted. She stated that the budget is presently at a \$.03 cent increase due to the loss in revenue related to tax appeals.

Mayor McGee stated that the City needs to be thrifty and Northfield is the only area town that has not faced layoffs, as of yet. He further added that next year will be worse due to the continued decline of the economy. He suggested no increases for non-contractual employees.

CFO Stollenwerk listed the affected employees and noted it amounts to approximately \$2,500.00.

Councilman O'Neill stated he feels that telecommunications is over-budgeted. He added that Linwood and Somers Point are paying more than their share of the telecommunications

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budget for the 911 contract.

Chief Robert James noted that moving to Somers Point would involve significant outlay of funds to transition.

Councilman Perri noted the challenges of switching the 911 service and suggested that perhaps they consider it next year rather than this year. It is too late for this year.

Council President Travagline proposed a \$500.00 salary decrease for Council to offset the increases for the handful of non-union employees.

Councilman Perri opposed a reduction for Mayor and Council.

President Travagline conducted a straw poll, 4 in favor and 3 against. He directed the CFO to reduce the salary of Mayor and Council by \$500.00.

Councilman Perri stated he is still in favor of a part-time administrator. He stated he believes it would save a salary. The scrutiny of departmental expenditures would result in substantial savings.

Discussion ensued among all Council members with regard to eliminating the audits for Family Association of Northfield, Babe Ruth and Little League.

Council President Travagline directed CFO Stollenwerk to eliminate them this year and the City should withhold financial funding until each organization provides a certified financial statement each year.

Councilman O'Neill suggested using Edmunds direct mail to stuff the tax bills.

Mayor and Council reviewed the budget line by line.

Council President Travagline directed the CFO to reduce legal to \$115,000.00 and further directed CFO Stollenwerk to reduce engineering by \$5,000.00.

Mayor and Council discussed Fire Department salaries and wages, operating expenses, and a possible part-time firefighter.

Mayor and Council discussed the Police Department budget and CFO Stollenwerk was directed to reduce the new vehicle acquisition from two to one.

Councilman O'Neill suggested contacting the County about a possible shared service for trash collection.

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Councilman Perri noted that the savings may not be substantial because the present employees are not high cost and you would have to add contract fees.

CFO Stollenwerk noted that the City has approval from the state for a joint purchasing agreement with Linwood for vehicle maintenance, as an outsourced service.

Councilman Perri said that he thinks the provider should be another public agency, such as the County.

Mayor and Council discussed the possible outsourcing of some vehicle maintenance.

CFO Stollenwerk stated that after the cuts made this evening, we are at 2.37 cents.

Council President Travagline opened this meeting for any member of the public to speak on any topic. Seeing no one wishing to speak, Council President Travagline closed the public session.

Councilman Chau read the meeting notices.

At 7:05pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk