

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
APRIL 14, 2020**

At 6:05pm 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 and on April 4, 2020, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present (in person): Councilman Dewees; Councilman O’Neill; Councilman Smith; Councilman Utts; Council President Perri; Mayor Chau

Solicitor Stein and Deputy Clerk Campbell were also in attendance.

Present (via telephone): Councilwoman Korngut; Councilwoman Madden

Chief Newman and Engineer Nassar were also present via telephone.

Council President Perri thanked all of the medical field, the nurses and doctors working on the front lines to protect us from the virus and all the EMS, Police, Fire and City employees working to make this all happen in these trying times. His thanks went out to each and every one who look out for the welfare of our community and the state as a whole, we were very fortunate to have these individuals working on our behalf. He then deferred to Clerk Canesi to make a statement.

Clerk Canesi read the following statement:

“As everyone knows, based on an Executive Order of the governor, public gatherings are limited to not more than 10 people. Tonight, the following are in attendance via telephone only, using the speaker function of the telephone in the Council Chambers meeting room:

- Councilwoman Korngut
- Councilwoman Madden
- Engineer Nassar
- Chief of Police Paul Newman

Also for this reason, members of the public are not able to attend tonight’s meeting in person, but we are pleased to announce that virtual attendance has been made possible via a video-conferencing service called Zoom; participants can dial in by telephone and listen to the proceedings, or they can access the meeting using a web-browser, and be able to view and listen. Instructions on how members of the public can access Zoom have been made available on the municipal website and Facebook pages, and was published in the Press of Atlantic City.

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All participants will be ‘muted’ upon entry to the meeting. Web-browser participants will not be able to share their screens or see the camera-view of anyone other than the host, which is the City of Northfield.

When the time comes for public comment, a specific announcement will be made; one by one telephone users will be asked to identify themselves and will be unmuted to permit commentary. Web-browser attendees may ask questions or make comments via the ‘chat’ function. Comments will not be acknowledged until the public comment portion of the meeting begins; at which time they will be read aloud into the record.”

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Perri reviewed the regular meeting agenda and made the assignments.

Councilwoman Korngut asked that Resolution 87-2020 be removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

Council President Perri asked Engineer Nassar to speak regarding time-sensitive issues; both were grants.

Engineer Nassar explained that yesterday he received an email letter from NJDOT stating that they had moved the deadline for grant applications to July 1st. One was for Municipal Aid, which we get every year. Over the past few years, we've gotten about \$280,000.00 on average; it could be around 10% more this year. Council needed to identify roadways that needed paving. The 2nd grant was Safe Streets to Transit, this could be used to construct a sidewalk that leads to Route 9 or the Community School. It wouldn't be a large grant, but we could expand on it in the future. The 3rd grant available was a drainage infrastructure grant, it was similar to what we did a few years ago along Cresson Avenue. Engineer Nassar said he had asked Public Works to identify a possible project for the drainage grant. Nassar asked Council for guidance. He needed a decision by the first week in May to be able to prepare and have the necessary resolutions passed, etc.

Councilman Dewees asked Engineer Nassar if the drainage grant could be one project or could it be a cluster of projects.

Engineer Nassar was not sure, but he believed they were looking for systemic improvements.

Council President Perri asked about Fairway and Maple Avenues.

Engineer Nassar replied that was already involved in the road program; we could pull it and try to get the grant.

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Council President Perri stated he would defer to Councilman Dewees and Public Works.

Engineer Nassar suggested Merritt and Ridgewood Drives.

Councilwoman Korngut responded that she would defer to Engineer Nassar.

Clerk Canesi offered to review previous Meeting Minutes and look for roadway related complaints from residents.

Council President Perri replied okay, and asked Engineer Nassar if there was an existing list.

Engineer Nassar replied yes, Ridgewood Drive was on it but that was a long roadway.

Councilman Dewees suggested Cedar Bridge Road at Route 9, the south east side, and said there had been some flooding there.

Engineer Nassar would bring it up again at the next meeting, he hoped to identify a project.

Mayor Chau asked if the flooding issue at Roosevelt Avenue and Tilton Road had been addressed.

Engineer Nassar advised that the County was working on it, but he did not believe it had been finalized yet.

Councilman Dewees asked Engineer Nassar to suggest a rocker gutter between the two corners.

Engineer Nassar agreed that was likely the only solution; he would talk to Mark Shourds about it and see what he says.

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.

Clerk Canesi announced for those participating via Zoom that they may speak using the chat function. There were no questions from the public via Zoom. Seeing no one wishing to speak Council President Perri closed public comment.

Councilman Dewees provided an update the on storm from yesterday. Ten trees were down, with three involving wires. One at Jackson Avenue, one at Chestnut Avenue and Maple Avenue, and one at Burton Avenue near the football field. Atlantic City Electric was working on issues with wires and power. Dewees said that was all he

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was aware of with regard to damage; he acknowledged that Clerk Canesi sent an email asking all to check areas for damage.

Council President Perri said he'd also spoken with Superintendent Vitale. There were several big trees down and power outages were more than normal. Power was still not restored in all areas; Council President Perri's business had been out since 3pm yesterday and remains out. There was a tree down on Country Club Drive, and the Road Department did a great job in clearing. In these hard times the business of government goes on. He commended the Road Department employees; it all happens behind the scenes but people don't know about it. They did a great job.

Council President Perri announced for the public that they could download the Atlantic Electric App. It allows users to see who has power, report a streetlight out, pay bills, it was a comprehensive App that shows you on a map where the power is out.

Councilman Smith asked how many besides Perri were without power.

Council President Perri advised that hundreds had been out, he was not sure how many still were. There were different clusters.

Councilwoman Korngut announced that a friend is making masks, and has about 25 she'd like to donate. She asked if the Police Department or any other department would like them.

Chief Newman replied that he had a call from a woman named Eileen; he asked Councilwoman Korngut if that was the same woman. He did get her message and would return her call. The Police Department would love to have the masks and thanked her very much.

Councilwoman Korngut replied yes, that was the same woman.

Council President Perri said he'd opened Atlantic Electric App. There were still four locations without power. The largest group was 12 customers at this point in time, another was five, and the third was six customers.

Councilman Perri asked if there was any other business. Seeing none he called for a motion to adjourn.

At 6:31pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilwoman Korngut, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk