

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
MAY 7, 2019**

At 6:02pm this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 5, 2019, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Council President Lischin.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Dewees, Korngut, Madden, O'Neill, Perri, Smith, Lischin

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

*\* Mayor Chau arrived at 6:12pm.*

Council President Lischin apologized for his behavior last week; his emotions got the better of him. Specifically, to Mrs. Madden, he apologized for his behavior. He hoped he could be forgiven and they could move forward, he truly did have the best interests at heart.

**WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS**

- Potential Sale of Landlocked City Owned Property

Solicitor Facenda advised that the ad would run on May 11th with an auction date of June 4<sup>th</sup>. In the interim he would prepare target marketing.

Councilman O'Neill felt this had been going on for some time, can we move it along.

Solicitor Facenda replied that we need to find a buyer.

- Bike Trails at BGP – *Identification of Trails is Pending*

Councilman Dewees had no update on the bike trails; the Birch Grove Park Advisory board meeting is pending.

- 2018 Road Paving Project – Tree Conflicts on Walnut Avenue

Engineer Nassar stated that there was a preconstruction meeting last week; the project is anticipated to be complete by the end of July.

- Sign Ordinance Review of Most Recent Changes
  - *Ordinance slated for introduction tonight, May 7th*

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Council President Lischin explained that the ordinance to be introduced does not have CC-zone-specific changes in it. He would like to keep those separate and move forward with the changes that all had discussed and agreed upon.

- Helicopter Landings on Municipal Property
  - *Review of 'DRAFT' of New Use of Facilities Application*

Solicitor Facenda explained that we had a Use of Facilities process in town, but that it did not necessarily fit for aircraft landing. Clerk Canesi had taken our Use of Facilities form and adapted it; Facenda said he had reviewed it and added some comments. Council had been provided a draft of the new form. Helicopter landings have happened in the past. As long as proper procedures were in place, and the Fire and Police Chief review it and are okay with it, and if Council was okay with the process that has been set up, we were in a good position vying a major catastrophe.

Councilman Dewees asked what if they did it anyway, what could we do.

Solicitor Facenda advised it would be an enforcement issue. No one should be using municipal land without permission.

Clerk Canesi explained that at the last meeting she had asked for something to be put on the record; we are at this point because Chief Newman and Clerk Canesi were a little frustrated that people were coming to them and asking for the procedure for landing a helicopter. Clerk Canesi and Chief Newman thought they were telling people what the procedure was, and when certain conditions weren't being met, they went ahead and did it anyway. She and Chief Newman were trying to formalize and codify what are the rules so she and the Chief know how to tell people what they were supposed to do. Clerk Canesi asked if any one member of the Governing Body had the authority to waive the rules, should the Council decide to approve this process.

Solicitor Facenda replied that no single member of Council can do anything; it needed to be approved by the Council like any other use of facilities application.

*At 6:12pm Mayor Chau entered the meeting.*

Councilwoman Korngut, Councilman Perri and Councilman Smith discussed issues of the consequences for someone who did not follow our process. The insurance was important, as was a hold harmless.

Solicitor Facenda advised that we do require a hold harmless agreement.

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Councilwoman Korngut expressed her concern about liability, but said if all the pieces were in place, she was not necessarily opposed. She asked if there was a fee and if a commercial helicopter could land.

Councilman Perri replied this referred to municipally owned private property only.

Solicitor Facenda noted that one of the issues we had to determine was the issue of a fee being charged in the event that volunteer labor was not available. We would get that fee from the Fire Chief.

Clerk Canesi advised Council would have to have an ordinance to enable the fee.

Solicitor Facenda added that this may also be the opportunity to look into the penalty issue as well.

**WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Korngut announced that it came to her attention through a Facebook post that a street was torn up in the middle of the night. She asked were there parameters for this, in the middle of the night?

Engineer Nassar advised that they were working on Route 9 and Cedar Bridge, on either side, and that it was the Department of Transportation on Route 9. He explained that it was a State road; they insist that work was done at night.

Discussion ensued between Council President Lischin, Councilman Smith, Councilman Perri, Engineer Nassar, and Councilwoman Korngut regarding what had happened in the past, with our roads and County roads versus Municipal roads, hours during which work occurred, and the varying degree of notice to residents. Engineer Nassar reiterated that neither he nor the Council had control over road work done on non-municipal roadways.

Engineer Nassar said the State of NJ issues the road opening permit for work done on Route 9. This document dictated when the work shall be done. At Councilman Smith's suggestion Engineer Nassar will have someone from SJ Gas Company come to a future Council meeting to discuss improving the process of notifying residents.

Councilwoman Korngut announced that back in February she flew to Alabama and met a civil rights icon, a little girl who had survived a church bombing, Sarah Collins-Rudolph. Ms. Collins-Rudolph will be at South Jersey Zion Baptist Church on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, and would be at Atlantic City High School on May 29<sup>th</sup>. She asked that Mayor Chau prepare a proclamation for presentation to Ms. Collins-Rudolph.

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Mayor Chau agreed.

Councilman Smith reported that a resident contacted him about a tree on the bike path with a memorial plaque, but the tree had been damaged in a storm.

Councilman Dewees replied that Public Works would be using donated trees from Atlantic City Electric to replace damaged trees along the bike path.

**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

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

Councilwoman Madden asked for Resolutions 108, 109, and 110 to be voted on separately.

**PUBLIC SESSION/ FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Lischin opened this portion of the meeting for any member of the public to speak on any subject, announcing a five minute per-speaker time limit.

Al Clements, YALE School, 1000 Burton Avenue, thanked Council for entertaining his request for a helicopter landing. He had done this many times in the past without incident. He mentioned that Councilwoman Korngut asked what we get out of this. He offered to answer. He identified the YALE School as a school for special needs kids, and gave examples of the many forms of special needs. Such an event gave them an exciting opportunity to learn. The Press would be there, and the event would be positive for the town. This was part of their police week activities; he was a retired police officer, and they will also have a 'lunch with a cop' event, a K9 demonstration, and other activities.

Council President Lischin commended Mr. Clements. In speaking with Clerk Canesi and Solicitor Facenda, it had been conveyed that Mr. Clements had done everything he was asked to do. He appreciated everything that was done at the YALE School, especially in light of the connotation that the YALE school had unsavory children, and with social media pushing children against the police.

Mr. Clements invited all of Council to come to see the kids, to the helicopter demo, and to the lunch with a cop.

Councilwoman Korngut thanked Mr. Clements. She mentioned Council President Lischin's use of the word unsavory in reference to YALE School students, and social media. She disapproved of both.

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Terri Reese, 400 Dolphin Avenue, a lifelong Northfield resident, she had an application on tonight's agenda to teach yoga on the bike path. Participants would bring their own yoga mats and water bottle. It would be open to anyone over the age of 15; there was a \$10 drop in fee.

Councilman Dewees asked if we had a mechanism to do this.

Solicitor Facenda stated that he cannot think of any other Use of Facilities that had been granted for profit.

Councilman Dewees felt this Resolution, number 115, should be voted separately.

Councilman Perri asked about rights of way.

Ms. Reese responded they would be on the grass, in shady areas.

Clerk Canesi advised that she had emailed the Superintendent about interference with Public Works mowing activities, but did not hear back.

Bill Garry, 202 St. James Place, stated that Mr. Minton from SJ Gas came by his residence, but that he had not heard anything since. He asked Engineer Nassar to follow up. He was concerned for safety because the railroad tie is raised up.

Engineer Nassar replied he would follow up tomorrow.

Chief Newman asked about the enforcement mechanism for an unauthorized baseball game, or lacrosse game? It seemed like it was more of a stringent standard for a baseball game than a helicopter landing.

Solicitor Facenda replied he could look at the enforcement issue.

Tom Corona, 2602 Leeds Avenue, asked if there was an Advisory Board meeting tomorrow and if it was open to the public.

Councilman Dewees confirmed the time and location; tomorrow at City Hall, at 5pm.

Mr. Corona stated that he saw a street sweeper, but there were cars parked on the street. He felt no one knew the street sweeping was being done. It's on the website that they were sweeping but no other information.

Clerk Canesi advised that the information was on the website, including a map and a list of streets. It was also advertised in The Current. Unfortunately, it was too expensive to direct-mail a street sweeping notification.

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Brooke Rose, 2051 Cedar Bridge Road, said she had gotten the runaround about who was authorizing work to be done at night. Workers say it's the City, the City says it's the County; the County says it's not. There have been police cars with lights on and noise at 4am. She felt no one cared.

Engineer Nassar explained what was said earlier, about state jurisdiction on Route 9.

Council President Lischin explained we couldn't control the State or the County.

Ms. Rose replied that they said they were coming back again tonight.

Engineer Nassar would check into the situation for Ms. Rose.

Councilwoman Korngut said she would contact Assemblymen Mazzeo and Armato to try to address this at the State level.

Mayor Chau attempted to explain the staffing of road details by the Police Department, and asked Chief Newman to comment.

Chief Newman explained that State Police would be on municipal roads only if we couldn't cover it.

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

At 7:04pm, on a motion of Councilman O'Neill, seconded by Councilwoman Korngut, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Registered Municipal Clerk