

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MAY 12, 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 May 9, 2020, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), this meeting will be live-streamed using Zoom conferencing service and the public is restricted from attending in-person. To join Zoom Meeting visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85050770861> Meeting ID: 850 5077 0861; One tap mobile +13126266799, 98717548624# US (Chicago), +16465588656, 98717548624# US (New York), Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 558 8656 US (New York), +1 253 215 8782 US, +1 301 715 8592 US, +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose); Meeting ID: 850 5077 0861

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 Engineer Nassar were also in attendance.

Present (via telephone): Councilwoman Korngut; Councilwoman Madden

Chief Newman was also present via telephone.

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
- 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.”

Council President Perri welcomed everyone. He thanked everyone on the front lines, for protecting us and making us able to continue our daily lives. He welcomed all of the people livestreaming and hoped we’d get to have everyone in the audience soon.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS

- Radio Tower, Rear of City Hall– Update if applicable from Council President Perri

Council President Perri did not have an update. He asked if there were any other comments. Seeing none, he would postpone the matter to the next meeting.

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

Council President Perri asked Councilwoman Korngut if she had an update on the dog park.

Councilwoman Korngut reported she was waiting to meet with the Planning Board at the request of Councilman Dewees to make sure there was no deed restriction. She advised that she would have more to report after she goes before the Planning Board.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Council President Perri asked if there was any new business or grant opportunities.

Councilwoman Korngut announced that she received a phone call from the resident of 801 First Street; the resident contacted Councilwoman Korngut regarding the dog park and said she was excited about it. She also shared that residents were not picking up after their dogs. The resident didn't want to call the police, but she asked if we could send out an email or post on the website. Councilwoman Korngut asked Council for suggestions.

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Council President Perri suggested the website and an email blast.

Municipal Clerk Canesi replied that she would put a post on Facebook, and the website and will send an email blast with the same message, for consistency.

Council President Perri asked if there was any other new business.

Engineer Nassar reported that he was working on a cost estimate the for Municipal Aid Project. Along with Merritt Drive he would include a portion of Ridgewood Drive. We can scale back if we don't get the necessary funds.

Councilman O'Neill asked for a ballpark price to submit the project.

Engineer Nassar replied there was no cost to submit.

Council President Perri, regarding EMS, would like to form a committee of Northfield and Linwood to see if we were going to go with Linwood again. He asked Councilwoman Madden, Councilwoman Korngut and Councilman O'Neill as Shared Service and EMS representatives to serve on the committee. He asked Clerk Canesi to send the former RFP to these individuals. The last time we did it both ways. He asked who was the lead agent.

Clerk Canesi replied, Linwood.

Seeing no other new business, Council President Perri asked all to take out agendas.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

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

Councilwoman Madden asked for Resolutions 96-2020, 97-2020 and 103-2020 to be voted on separately.

Councilwoman Korngut stated she did not want to be second to move on resolutions that will be voted separately.

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.

Bill Garry, 202 Saint James Place, via Zoom chat:

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“what is the proper authorization process to allow city vehicles to participate in a private parade?”

Council President Perri replied; we have a Volunteer Fire Company that go to other organizations and other parades.

Clerk Canesi asked Mr. Garry, via Zoom chat:

“Can you please be more specific with regard to what you refer to as a private parade?”

Mr. Garry replied, via Zoom chat:

“Recently a parade through town with fire trucks and police and met vehicles went through town to congratulate a citizen met vehicles EmT”

Council President Perri responded that he had no knowledge, and said he would yield to our attorney. He knew we did have vehicles participate in other community events. As far as a resident of the community having fire apparatus.

Solicitor Stein spoke; he said he is hearing that it was a public parade, and clarified that it was use of public equipment to honor a private citizen.

Council President Perri asked Mayor Chau to comment.

Mayor Chau said in talking with Chief Newman, he’d learned a request had been made to the Police and Fire Department to provide an escort or be involved in the celebration of a particular event or situation.

Councilwoman Madden asked if Mr. Garry was asking if City vehicles weren’t used for a private citizen?

Councilwoman Korngut clarified that he was saying they were used.

Solicitor Stein replied that someone would have had to authorize it.

Mayor Chau responded that he could only speak for Police, he did not know how Fire or EMS were involved.

Council President Perri replied the he could see Police, for traffic control. He didn’t see a problem with the Volunteer Fire Department, adding that we do it for sports groups when they come back from events.

Councilman Dewees advised that it was not a parade.

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Solicitor Stein added that a parade usually signifies a road closure.

Mayor Chau noted that he did not know how it was organized.

Councilman Smith clarified that Mr. Garry was asking about use of city vehicles.

Alicia Garry, 202 Saint James Place, via Zoom chat:

“I believe it was Sunday, May 3rd there was a private drive by parade in Northfield which was quite lengthy and went down Shore Rd. It was escorted by police and included the Northfield Police and Fire Department. This was a very nice and supportive gesture, though I would like to know who authorized this event along with the participation of city vehicles and paid staff. Who was made aware of this event. Who was liable and was this not the use of taxpayers money? Also, can anyone request this type of drive Byron a personal occasion with the city participation, vehicles and escort?”

Mayor Chau replied that through the Police Department, Mayor Chau knew there was a request for a drive by for a child's birthday. Perhaps Chief Newman could reply.

Chief Newman, participating via telephone, responded that the Police Department gets these calls from time to time, it's usually children. Under the Chief's authority for day to day operations he has allowed it. It was not extra, it was staff on duty, if they are available and not on a call. It's not advertised; it's a nice gesture. It was very similar to what we do for sports groups, funerals, etc. It's basically a traffic escort, and a nice gesture, especially with what we are going through now. He advised that other communities were doing this as well.

Councilwoman Madden added that this is something that already occurred and she agreed with his rationale.

Councilmen Smith, O'Neill and Dewees agreed with the effort, it was nice in these difficult times.

Council President Perri felt it was handled properly, he did not have any issues.

Mrs. Garry, via Zoom chat:

“so anyone can request this? maybe we should let community aware of this service.”

Councilwoman Korngut said it sounded like a nice gesture, but did not feel it should be advertised. That may overwhelm the Police Department, but defers to Chief Newman and the balance of Council.

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Councilwoman Madden agreed with Councilwoman Korngut.

Mayor Chau reiterated that if there were an emergency that would be an exception.

Council President Perri felt the way it worked now would suffice.

Clerk Canesi asked for the identify of a Zoom participant who was identified as “UserIPad3”; Mr. Bill Garry identified himself as UserIPad3. Clerk Canesi asked Mr. Garry if he was satisfied with what he heard.

Mr. Garry, via Zoom chat:

“yes”

Council President Perri asked if there were any other questions from the public?

Bill Garry, via Zoom chat:

“yes I’m good. was just curious how it was done. who authorized/ requested?”

Council President Perri asked Clerk Canesi if there are any other comments?

Clerk Canesi replied, there were none.

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

At 6:36pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Utts, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk