

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
MAY 14, 2013**

At 6:04pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 7, 2013 in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Carew, Perri, Polistina, Travagline, O'Neill

Absent: Brown, Dewees

Mayor Vince Mazzeo, City Solicitor Kris Facenda, Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski, Chief Robert James, CFO Dawn Stollenwerk, and Deputy Municipal Clerk Mimi Marlor were also in attendance.

Councilman O'Neill announced that he will be serving in the role as President Pro Tem for the evening due to President Brown's scheduled absence.

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- Insurance for Community Entertainment Events

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill deferred to Councilman Polistina to update Council on this issue. Councilman Polistina introduced Joyce Pullan, Projects Director for the Cultural Committee, and turned the floor over to her. Mrs. Pullan read a prepared statement which stated her concerns that the current insurance requirements may be going a bit too far. She stated that bands have dropped out of the summer concert series, weddings have cancelled, the Friends of Birch Grove Park are unable to hold an art show event, and there are upcoming events later in the year where we do not yet know the ramifications of the strict insurance requirement. She would like Council to consider changing the present requirement to just a Hold Harmless agreement.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill stated he will review her concerns and discuss them with Council President Brown, Insurance Chair Perri and Northfield's Insurance Agent to find a middle ground. He stated that it is important to protect the City but agreed they shouldn't go overboard.

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Mayor Mazzeo asked Mrs. Pullan if her concerns are time sensitive and she responded that they were.

Councilman Carew suggested that Solicitor Facenda be consulted and attend the meeting with Councilmen O'Neill and Perri and Council President Brown.

Councilman Perri cited that the current requirements are the recommendation of the JIF and we need to satisfy the JIF requirements.

Councilman Polistina clarified for Councilman Perri the JIF is making a recommendation but it is not the requirement.

Mayor Mazzeo encouraged Council as a group to take a common sense approach.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill reviewed the agenda for the Regular Meeting.

Councilman Perri noted that he was still not comfortable with Resolution 76-2013.

Councilman Travagline confirmed that Resolution 99-2013 and 100-2013 would be voted on after the Executive Session.

Councilman Polistina requested that Resolution 96-2013 be pulled from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill opened the meeting to any member of the public wishing to speak on any subject.

Kim Blake, 13 Ridgewood Court, asked that Council consider installation of a blinking light or a crossing guard at the end of her street. She noted that 32-40 children in 19 homes on Ridgewood Court must cross Shore Road to get to school and it's becoming increasingly more dangerous. She asked Council if Shore Road was a County Road and Councilman Carew verified that it was. Councilman Carew noted that other flashing lights have been installed via inter-local agreements and he believes them to be a very effective tool.

Councilman Carew stated there is a letter to the County Executive regarding other traffic safety issues that is ready to be mailed; he suggested it might be possible to add this new request to that piece of correspondence.

6:25 pm Councilman Dewees entered the meeting.

Chief Robert James recommended that the County be asked to do an engineering

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assessment, which requires a resolution of Council to initiate.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill suggested the possibility of adding a crossing guard post. He noted that he would speak to Council President Brown about it. Chief Robert James noted that would be a budgetary issue but he could look into the numbers.

Councilman Carew suggested adding a resolution to tonight's agenda.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill asked if there are fees involved in the traffic engineering assessment. Chief Robert James stated that the initial assessment does not cost the City anything. Mayor Mazzeo noted the presence of retired Captain Arthur Faden and remembered the traffic study he did to determine the best crossing guard locations.

Maggi Siegel, 21 Ridgewood Court, described what she called a disturbing and scary near-miss accident on the corner of Shore and Ridgewood involving adults and children. She asked that Council consider doing something to rectify the situation.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill asked if she was looking for lights or a crossing guard. Mrs. Siegel stated she would prefer to see a flashing light installed.

Sean McDole (and family), 7 Ridgewood Court, shared that the school bus did not stop today; it, in fact, just blew by. In his opinion this is a high traffic area and would like to see something done. Mr. McDole indicated that Council appeared to be taking steps to investigate the problem and he was satisfied with that.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill stated that these things take time. Mrs. McDole asked the cost of a flashing light. Councilman Carew stated the lights cost about \$35,000 each.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, stated his concerns about the insurance requirements, traffic safety issues and asked why Veterans' Park would not be opening on May 25th.

Councilman Polistina stated they are still working on the park but they have run out of time to get all the preliminary work completed prior to the 25th. It still needs electrical and irrigation before they can install sod. Councilman Polistina stated he would like to see the park open but not sure they can make it happen in time. He indicated there would be a celebration when the park was finished.

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Nate Nathanson, 122 East Oakcrest Avenue, inquired why the Birch Grove Park snack bar did not open as scheduled April 1, 2013.

Councilman Carew explained the staffing shortage and noted that there are two new seasonal hires for the park on the agenda for this evening and that the concession stand will be open on a regular basis soon.

Mr. Nathanson also asked for clarification regarding the article on the sewer situation. He asked which Council person is in charge of the sewer committee and what is the process for bidding.

Councilman Perri confirmed that he is the Chair of the Sewer Committee and explained the situation briefly. Mr. Nathanson commented that he didn't believe it was an emergency and thought it should have gone out to bid. He stated that he personally wanted an explanation from Council, but he thought Council owed the taxpayers an explanation.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill explained that there is a Resolution (96-2013) on the agenda to form an Ad-Hoc committee to investigate. Once the investigation is complete; a report will be provided to Council.

Mr. Nathanson urged transparency, honesty and integrity and Council President Pro Tem O'Neill agreed.

Councilman Carew asked if Nathanson got his information from radio and newspaper. Nathanson confirmed these sources, adding that he'd also spoke with Council President O'Neill. Carew replied that not all the facts have been made apparent.

Jerry McGee, 1620 Zion Road, noted that he was at the last council meeting and asked for additional information to be gathered. He inquired if this has happened. He asked if Doran Engineering had been asked to be present at this meeting.

Councilman Polistina noted that an extensive report compiled by Doran Engineering had been provided to each Council member.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill reiterated that an investigation will take place and he expressed dissatisfaction that a representative from Doran Engineering was not present.

Councilman Carew asked O'Neill if Doran was asked to attend; O'Neill replied that

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he did not know.

Lynn Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, asked if Sewer Chair Frank Perri was at the meeting to discuss the project. Councilman Perri stated no.

Seeing no one else from the public wishing to speak, Council President Pro Tem O'Neill closed the public session.

At 6:55pm on motions properly made and seconded this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC