

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
MAY 16, 2017**

At 6:02pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Council Pro Tempore Murray.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Dewees  
Absent: Lischin, Travagline, Mayor Chau

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

Council President Dewees welcomed all to the meeting, and asked Chief Newman to speak regarding the first item on the agenda.

**WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

- Medicine Drop Box – Update

Chief Newman stated there is no update at this time.

- Potential Land Sale - Update

Solicitor Facenda described the need to determine fair market value for the parcels and asked the permission of Council to do so. All present members were in general agreement that he should proceed.

- Land Donation – Tilton Road

Council President Dewees introduced Mr. Adeo Santori, the potential donor of the parcel of land on Tilton Road.

Mr. Santori explained the parcel was behind Capaldi Reynolds which bordered Birch Grove, the driving range, and Surroundings Furniture. He wanted to donate the land to Birch Grove, but didn't realize it would be so complicated.

Council President Dewees noted that one of the concerns is that in order to protect the taxpayers, we needed to have clear title and to have an environmental study done.

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Mr. Santori stated that he did look into that and it looked like it would cost a good bit of money. He noted several land transfers in the area that did not require an environmental study. In the 1940's the land was owned by one family and was only farmed on the other side of what is now Tilton Road.

Mr. Dewees replied that he understood and appreciated Mr. Santori's perspective, but we needed to have documentation to move forward. He asked Solicitor Facenda for comment.

Solicitor Facenda replied it was a tremendous opportunity to have such a generous donation, but reinforced the need and desire of the Council to have proof in order to be able to consider accepting the donation.

Mr. Santori asked if the City would pay for the title search.

Councilman Dewees personally was opposed, and acknowledged that there was talk about splitting the cost, but it was taxpayer money.

Mr. Santori stated that he did not expect a decision tonight, and he did not object to the title search.

Councilman Perri deferred to the opinion of Solicitor Facenda and Council President Dewees.

Councilman O'Neill said he appreciated Mr. Santori's offer, but was concerned about any remote possibility that could affect the taxpayer.

Councilman Piergiovanni agreed with all but suggested that a grant may be possible to pay the fees.

Solicitor Facenda and Councilman Murray also agreed with the others.

Council President Dewees thanks Mr. Santori for his offer and for coming to the meeting.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Dewees explained a request to add a Resolution to the evening's agenda. There was a need to extend the duration of a prior licensing agreement for the clearing of the easement behind Pasadena Drive; he asked if Council objected to adding a Resolution to the agenda to extend the time given to Public Works to clear the easement. He distributed a copy to all of Council.

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Solicitor Facenda explained that it was essentially the same as before and he asked Council President Dewees for a timeframe.

Councilman O'Neill asks about a tree on Oak Avenue and questioned as to whether it was on city property?

Shannon Campbell, in attendance in the audience, advised that no, it was not; it was on private property.

All of Council were in agreement to add the resolution for the clearing of the easement and assigned it number 123-2017.

- Review of Fire Manual re: Amendment to Chapter 25, Fire Department

Council President Dewees reported that the Fire Manual had been reviewed, as per Councilman Lischin, and we are able to proceed with introducing the Ordinance.

Councilman Perri asked about the Fire Manual.

Clerk Canesi stated that as she understood it from Councilman Lischin and Chief Cummings, there were no changes, but we would formally adopt the Fire Manual by Resolution, since it did not appear that it had been done in the past.

Councilman Perri asked who would handle certain discipline issues.

Clerk Canesi advised that Endeavor to Settle and Step 1 will go to the Chief, Step 2 remained with the Mayor and Step 3 remained binding arbitration.

*At 6:23pm, Mayor Chau entered the meeting.*

Council President Dewees made assignments.

Chief Newman asked if anyone had questioned regarding Resolutions 115-2017 and 119-2017 as he would not be staying for the entire meeting.

No members of Council had questions.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Dewees opened the meeting to public.

Theresa Santon, 717 Broad Street address – stated that she had spoken with

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Councilman Perri and Engineer Nassar about damage done by the gas company contractor to her driveway. They excavated under her sidewalk and did not backfill. They are not making repairs quickly. She fell in her driveway because they left a pile of dirt.

Mayor Chau asked when and how she reported it.

Mrs. Santon replied that she called and it took a while but she finally reached someone; she knows that there are a lot of residents who are concerned about what is happening to people's properties during work they are doing.

Engineer Nassar explained that he called the gas company and had someone stop by her home; he had gotten assurances that her driveway would be fixed when they pave Broad Street.

Charles Desantis, 2415 Cedar Bridge Road, commented about a problem with the buffer zone between his home and the Bank of Absecon that has been there since the 1970's. There was no privacy between his property and the bank. He attempted to work with the property owner but was not successful. He contacted the Code Enforcement Officer and Mike Dattalo wrote the bank a letter. They contacted their attorney, who called Mike. He spoke regarding an article that was in the paper several years prior and that there was some mis-use of the word "limb" when it was not a limb, it was a "tree".

Council President Dewees offered to get the information from Mr. Desantis and contact Mike to find out what was going on.

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

At 6:35pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk