

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MAY 21, 2019**

At 6:01pm 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, Lischin
Absent: Smith

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

Council President Lischin introduced Joe Pantalone and Matt DeNafo from Atlantic County Utilities Authority.

6PM REPRESENTATIVES FROM ATLANTIC COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

- Joe Pantalone, Vice President Wastewater Division
- Matt DeNafo, Vice President of Centralized Maintenance and Asset Management

Joe Pantalone, introduced himself as Vice President of the Wastewater Division, and Matt DeNafo as Vice President of Centralized Maintenance and Asset Management; he also acknowledged Rick Dovey, ACUA President, who was in the audience. The group was here a few months ago, he apologized for the delay in getting back to Council. The investigation continued, and would require collaboration on both sides.

Council President Lischin asked Engineer Nassar or Councilman Perri to clarify as to the reason for the meeting.

Councilman Perri explained that increases had been at historical highs, they were trying to work collectively to come up with an answer. Some issues were complicated and needed to have more investigation. The main problem started with the pumping station on Catherine Place. They had discussed metering and some other issues.

Engineer Nassar added that flows had been uncharacteristic for our system; it could be infiltration, some from the ACUA side and some from ours. Historically, increases

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in flows had been proportionate. They were trying to determine who was responsible for the increases.

Councilman Perri continued to explain that at Tilton, Shore and Mill there was an interceptor that went to the Catherine Pump Station; it was not our system but flows into that station.

Matt DeNafo thanked Councilman Perri and Engineer Nassar for meeting with them; he hoped to explain the issues that occurred back in November and December, and up to now. Back in November or December there was a wet-well failure at Catherine that overflowed into the street. He explained the elevation changes in the pipes, the recent failure, and redundancies that were installed to address them. There was a second failure, with one of new redundancies, which resulted in a 3rd change. So, there were now 3 backups to the system. The ACUA had done a weekly preventive maintenance on the Catherine station - no other station had this level of frequency. He assured Council that the ACUA had taken this situation very seriously. As Engineer Nassar said, the next challenge was the flow. Mr. DeNafo explained that the flow meter was on the exit side, so an overflow did not get metered as flows. He referred to and displayed a graphic of the system; this was also in a packet provided to the Council. He explained the process of determining flows, and where they were coming from for billing purposes; accuracy was within .2%.

At 6:08pm, Clerk Canesi noted that the recording equipment did not seem to be functioning. She turned it off, and then on again, and it then seemed to be working.

Mr. DeNafo explained how flows are metered.

Council President Lischin commented that we don't have that many new residents to account for the spike – the next choice was infiltration or ground water – he asked for an explanation of the sources of infiltration.

Mr. DeNafo showed another graphic that included groundwater; up until November, the Linwood, Northfield, and Somers Point numbers were pretty close. The spike occurred in November and coincided with groundwater increases. He explained the steps being taken to analyze the system and to video the pipe.

Mr. Pantalone added that one of these systems had been slip-lined, so more than likely this would not be the issue.

Mr. DeNafo continued to explain the steps being taken to diagnose the problem, including 95 laterals between Linwood and Northfield. Hhe explained which pipes had been previously slip-lined. In looking at the graphs, this didn't happen over time. Something happened in mid-November, there had to have been an event. The ACUA was trying to work with Northfield to figure it out.

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Councilman Perri explained low areas in that section of town; it was hard to check because of the volume in the system. It was the ACUA's system in that area.

Council President Lischin said he appreciated the ACUA coming in; he opened up this portion of the meeting to questions from the Council.

Councilman O'Neill commented that if we find it's one of our pipes, we fix it, problem solved. If we find out it's one of the ACUA's pipes, it's fixed and we work out some sort of credit.

Mr. DeNafo replied yes, that has been done.

Councilman Perri added that a lot of utility work had been done throughout town, contractors have drilled through mains. Anything was possible; a pipe could have been damaged on Shore Road or elsewhere.

Mr. Pantalone explained this may or may not be obvious depending on whether the pipe was gravity or a force main.

Councilwoman Korngut asked for a timeframe for resolution.

Mr. Pantalone said he needed to get additional quotes for the video due to the price, adding that he hoped it would be soon. He commended Councilman Perri and Engineer Nassar on their understanding of the flows; they understood better than officials in some other towns and it does help the ACUA.

Mayor Chau asked about the Margate Causeway marina.

Mr. Pantalone explained that the pipe still existed but was not in use; it won't be deactivated because of possible future use.

Councilman Perri asked if the ACUA could reach out to residents: the Victor and Notaro families, with an update.

Mr. Pantalone asked Clerk Canesi to provide him with their contact information; she agreed to do so.

At 6:34pm, Clerk Canesi noted again that the recording equipment did not seem to be functioning. She turned it off, and then on again, with no result. Clerk Canesi requested that Council recess while the problem was investigated.

On a motion of Council President Lischin, second of Councilman Perri, all present were in favor of a brief recess.

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The audio recording was started again when the meeting was resumed at 6:39pm. It was determined after the conclusion of the meeting that the recording equipment had failed earlier in the evening, and no audio record of these proceedings exists prior to 6:39pm.

6:30PM REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOUTH JERSEY GAS

- Olivia Dunleavy, Manager of Contract Construction
- Cedric Jeffries, Supervisor of Contract Construction
- Richard DeRose, Supervisor of Public Policy

Representatives from South Jersey Gas each introduced themselves.

Council President Lischin explained the issues that brought them here tonight: contractors had been working in the middle of the night. He deferred to Engineer Nassar for further explanation but said there had been insufficient notification to residents. He said understood that the work needed to be done. He understood issues that work may be on a State road, etc.

Engineer Nassar reiterated that there are scheduling challenges because of the proximity to a school, but relayed several situations where concrete was being broken up between 3am and 4am; it was too loud for this time of night. Another issue was when a SJ Gas contractor damaged private property; Engineer Nassar had become the liaison to have repairs made.

Mayor Chau asked who the current subcontractor was.

Ms. Dunleavy replied Utility Line Services.

Mayor Chau asked how long they would be in Northfield.

Mr. Jeffries began to explain.

Council President Lischin asked SJ Gas to make a statement first, and then he would take questions from Council.

Ms. Dunleavy explained that they try to do walk a through on Saturdays because residents tend to be home, they also have a door tag that sets forth what customers can expect and includes a phone number. Sometimes it may be perceived as junk mail and disregarded, but it does contain valuable information. She added that the night work was unavoidable due to the State requesting it; they can certainly put something on Facebook. She apologized to Engineer Nassar for being in the middle

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with residents; she suggested that Northfield can put contact information on our media sites for customers.

Mr. DeRose said he was happy to give his cell phone number right now, he said he dedicated time each day to calling customers. He took customer service very seriously. He also offered to have elected officials call him directly. He advised that he, Ms. Dunleavy, and Mr. Jeffries work together to resolve any issues that come up.

Engineer Nassar added that a contractor finished up one part of Cedar Bridge and told his men to just move further down the street, he should not have done that.

Ms. Dunleavy agreed that this should not have happened.

Council President Lischin encouraged more communication from SJ Gas to residents and the town; especially when it is on a State road, because in these instances we don't get the permit information. He asked them to provide information with Clerk Canesi and Engineer Nasar so it can be shared.

Mr. DeRose assured that moving forward communication would be better.

Councilwoman Korngut thanked them for coming, and said a link on our website would be valuable. She asked for permission to put it on her Facebook page as well. She asked if it was accurate that there was no protocol for notifying the City?

Ms. Dunleavy replied that the police are notified for traffic control, but if it is outside the right of way sometimes it does get missed.

Councilwoman Korngut did not feel that a notice that said that work will be done at night was adequate; she would never expect that this would mean a jackhammer at 4am. We didn't need to be in the middle of this.

Councilwoman Madden noted that a few years ago she was frightened awake by jackhammers on Shore Road, and she did not live on Shore Road. No resident should have this type of work done at this hour, maybe stop at 11pm and start at 6am.

Ms. Dunleavy explained that the State's nightwork parameters allow for set up for work between 6pm and 8am; work would be prolonged if the number of work hours per day were reduced. Alternative work during the day causes backups in traffic, affects school buses, there was a direct impact to motorists; this is why the State required it.

Mayor Chau appreciated that this was a no-win situation. He asked if work done on a State or County road followed the same notification to residents.

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Ms. Dunleavy explained that residents outside the scope of a project are notified, but the message was different, they didn't want to confuse residents and have them think they were part of the work being done.

Mayor Chau recalled a prior event a few years ago with very loud noise and no notification.

Mr. DeRose provided his phone number as 609-833-1612, adding that the communication process had been revamped. The event Mayor Chau referred to may have occurred before that.

Councilman Dewees asked who approved the traffic control plans for SJ Gas; one resident reported a State Trooper at a municipal intersection but we had no knowledge.

Ms. Dunleavy offered to look at the specific incident; traffic control plans were submitted to the Police Department. She would look in to whether that happened in this case.

Councilman Perri asked when the restoration would be done. Would it be during the day?

Ms. Dunleavy replied that the concrete restoration would be done during the day.

Councilman Perri, Engineer Nassar and Ms. Dunleavy engaged in conversation about work done at Cedar Bridge and Route 9.

Councilman Lischin opened this portion of the meeting for members of the public to speak only with regard to SJ Gas projects.

Brooke Rose, 2051 Cedar Bridge Road, recalled 4-5 separate occasions where Utility Line Services came out in the middle of the night. She received one notice in the fall, but they kept coming back. She questioned as to why the work near the school wasn't being done during the summer or on weekends.

Ms. Dunleavy felt it may had been overlooked that it was near a school.

Ms. Rose explained prior miscommunications and finger pointing about whose job it was, the County said the State, the workers said the gas company decided the work would be done at night.

Ms. Dunleavy advised that the work had to be done at night per the State because it was a State road. A shorter work schedule would prolong the project.

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Ms. Rose did not want the work done at night. Other residents felt no one cared. Northfield had shown interest recently because she kept hassling them. She felt no one knew what was going on.

Council President Lischin thanked Ms. Rose, he suggested she get the SJ Gas Company contact information. He would move on with the meeting as we had other presentations. He thanked the SJ Gas representatives.

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS

- Potential Sale of Landlocked City Owned Property

Solicitor Facenda advised that the auction was scheduled for June 4th, notices had been sent to adjacent owners.

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

Councilman Dewees advised the identification of the trails was still a work in progress.

- 2018 Road Paving Project – Tree Conflicts on Walnut Avenue

Engineer Nassar stated that Mr. Little called about the tree conflict, and said he'd never gotten the letter; it was recently emailed to him.

- NJDOT Municipal Aid – Accelerated Deadline – Project Identification Needed

Engineer Nassar would present a road list for the Municipal Aid project during the regular session.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Council President Lischin reviewed the regular meeting agenda and made assignments. He advised that Resolution 120-2019 was no longer needed as it was a duplicate of a previously adopted resolution.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

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Councilwoman Korngut reminded all of a presentation on the dangers of vaping at the Library tomorrow at 5:30pm. She thanked Mayor Chau for the proclamation done at Mt. Zion Baptist Church for little girl who survived the church bombing in 1963.

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 topic; he noted a 5-minute limit per speaker.

Jerry Breeden, 109 Roosevelt Avenue, announced that last summer NJ American Water Company (NJAMW) put in new water lines. Since that time, hydrants had been flushed 6 times, and he has had to run water extensively to get the water to run clear. They gave him a credit on his bill. He blamed the City. He was told by a NJAMW employee that they can't get it right between Shore Road and Mill Road, and there were water quality issues. He felt the City was not doing enough to fix the problem.

Council President Lischin advised Mr. Breeden that Council had multiple meetings with NJAMW, we were working with them to fix these problems. This had been an ongoing issue.

Mr. Breeden felt that residents should be told by the City to ask NJAMW for a credit. Residents were not informed. Taxes had increased in the past 3 years; this did not happen as much when Vince Mazzeo was mayor. He asked who was working with Linwood on shared services.

Council President Lischin replied that Councilman Smith, who was not in attendance this evening and Councilwoman Korngut, were the Shared Service representatives for the City.

Mr. Breeden, to Councilman Dewees, said the City put pesticides down on the bike path, and children were playing in it. Councilman Dewees authorized it. This happened because the wrong rocks were used. It used to be crushed concrete. To Mayor Chau, he asked about the Ask Mazzeo sign in his yard. Why would Mayor Chau put that in his yard, was Mayor Chau not in favor of saving residents money?

Mayor Chau replied that he was a member of the NJEA, and the sign referred to Mr. Mazzeo's position on one of the bills; it was to remind Assemblyman Mazzeo of his commitment to the NJEA.

Mr. Breeden felt Mr. Mazzeo was trying to save us money. The only people left in Northfield were teachers and police. If you make under \$70,000 you can't afford to live here.

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

At 7:26pm, on a motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilman Dewees, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Registered Municipal Clerk