

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
MAY 27, 2014**

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 11, 2014 in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chau, Devine, Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Mayor Jerry McGee, Solicitor Kris Facenda and Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski, were also in attendance.

**WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

- Bucket Truck – discussion of bid results

Councilman Dewees noted that the bucket truck was requested for discussion.

Council President Travagline stated that two bids were received and they seemed high.

Councilman Dewees suggested reviewing the specifications and possibly changing the requirements and going back out to bid.

Mayor McGee stated he does not feel the bids were unreasonable; but does question the use and necessity of the truck. He suggested the City subcontract the use of a bucket truck if needed.

Councilman O'Neill stated he did research this with Finance and reported that the life span of a bucket truck would be about ten years which comes out to be about \$800.00 a month. He further noted that a lease would be about \$1,500.00 per month on a 60 month lease and additionally noted rental would be about a \$1,000.00 per day. He stated that if the City rented a truck once a month it would cost more than to purchase it.

Mayor McGee noted a prior purchase of a dump truck and stated that truck was never used. He suggested if we need a truck, the City should borrow it or rent it.

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Councilman Perri stated he does not see the need and would prefer that it be an inter-local or shared service.

Councilman O'Neill offered to do an analysis and asked Councilman Dewees how many days per month it would be needed.

Councilman Dewees estimated four days per month.

Councilman O'Neill stated he will get prices on an inter-local agreement and a private contractor.

Councilman Perri noted that none of our contractors have put in proposals.

Council President Travagline stated he is working on this with Finance.

- Municipal File Server RFP

Councilman O'Neill referred to the File Server RFP and stated that both proposals came in higher than expected. He noted he would like to reach out to Ground Swell, which is the company used by the Library and additionally will look at using the school's labor on an hourly basis.

Councilman Piergiovanni introduced Lindsey Giannini, Miss Columbus Day 2014, who will also be competing for Miss New Jersey 2014. He shared that Lindsey has a national 501(c)3 charity that promotes awareness of the dangers of distracted driving. She has presented to the State Legislature and other groups and will provide 4 signs for the City of Northfield.

Lindsey Giannini introduced herself and shared that she is a junior at Rowan University majoring in Broadcast Journalism. She stated that she co-founded this organization to prevent families from losing a loved one due to distracted driving. She asked everyone to close their eyes while she timed out five seconds. Then she explained that this is the amount of time it takes to send one text message and at a speed of 55mph your vehicle would travel the length of a football field. She shared that seventeen people die each day as a result of distracted driving. She thanked Council for adopting the resolution. She noted that her signs are in fifteen states, twenty five by the end of June, and in five countries. She stated that she co-founded the program with the family of a young girl named Nikki, who was the backseat passenger of a distracted driver and lost her life as a result.

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Council President Travagline deferred to Councilman Chau for discussion about the Fourth of July Parade.

Councilman Chau shared that the Cultural Committee has expressed concern about some of the parade participants using water guns and throwing candy and peanuts. He explained that the Committee does not have problems per se, but some spectators have been hit and it may cause damage in terms of potential liability. He noted that the Committee has consistently asked the participants to cease, but it has not happened. Councilman Chau suggested a letter be sent to parade participant applicants, noting the prohibited activities, with some sort of penalty, possibly removal from the parade. He additionally stated that the Cultural Committee just wants everyone to enjoy the parade in a safe manner.

Councilman Dewees stated that adult parade spectators have also engaged in throwing water balloons and squirting hoses, it's not just the kids.

Councilman Chau also noted that no one should be standing up in the vehicles.

Councilman O'Neill suggested a pre-parade inspection done by the Police Department.

Councilman Chau noted that this has been done before, by Committee members, and it was met with ridicule. He suggested that perhaps having the Police Department do it would be more effective. He said he will meet with the Cultural Committee again and report back.

Councilman O'Neill suggested that Council split up and assist with enforcement.

Council President Travagline opposed that idea.

Councilman Perri stated that he thinks the JIF (Joint Insurance Fund) has weighed in on this issue. He asked questions about who would be liable if there was an incident and would the vehicle owner or the City be responsible. He offered to follow up with Rich Gerber.

Council President Travagline noted the late addition of three resolutions that were discussed at the last meeting. He reviewed them briefly.

Council President Travagline reviewed the agenda for the regular meeting and made assignments.

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**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to any member of the public wishing to speak on any subject.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, noted that it is illegal to have someone ride in the back of your truck. He stated that for years everyone walked in the parade and now they ride. He expressed that he thought this year's Memorial Day Parade was the best in years and commended Mayor McGee for a fine job. He also commended Mrs. Devine for a fine job at the Veterans' program at the school. He commended Councilman Piergiovanni and others who attended the brick installation ceremony at the Veterans' Park. He noted that Assemblyman Chris Brown pushed a woman in a wheelchair at the Memorial Day Parade. He shared that he opposed the purchase of a bucket truck and encouraged the purchase of army surplus equipment. He also suggested borrowing a bucket truck from Atlantic City Electric.

Jason O'Grady, 2531 Cedarbridge Road, commended all for the parade and noted everyone did a great job and it was a fitting tribute to the Veterans. He expressed that he did not like the use of water guns but urged Council not to eliminate the candy, as it's great for the kids. He suggested keeping the candy out of the street and handing it out rather than throwing it. He shared that the old sign shop on Tilton Road that went out of business has a bucket truck for sale.

Joyce Pullan, 605 Broad Street, Projects Director for the Cultural Committee, asked if all of Council has seen her letter and if there were any objections to it being sent out. She read the letter into the record as follows:

To: Northfield Little League, Babe Ruth Baseball and Family Association of Northfield

We would love to have you in the parade but, there are some new rules!!!

NO water guns, water pistols or anything that shoots water will be permitted. We have begged, pleaded and challenged to no avail and have now taken our complaints and concerns to City Council. This is an insurance liability issue. Youngsters may not stand in the truck or sit on top of cab roofs. No candy may be thrown to the sidelines from any vehicle. If you wish to distribute candy, you must walk along the curb. During last year's parade a youngster was targeted by a group on a truck who threw hard candy at his head. A complaint was filed. As well as senior citizens being pelted with water on Mill Road.

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If you feel you cannot abide by these rules then perhaps you had best stay at home. What used to be a great parade has turned in to a big water fight between youngsters on trucks and citizens on the sidelines who now return fire with their water hoses. For those of us in charge of organizing and running the parade, the past few years have been an exercise in frustration, one which we don't look forward to. Because of these problems, we face the possibility of discontinuing the parade. Is that what we want for our city? The parade has been held every year since 1975.

Sincerely,  
The Northfield Cultural Committee

Mayor McGee stated that as Parade Coordinator, she should have the right to set the rules and Council can assist her.

Joyce Pullan, 605 Broad Street, asked if she could send the letters out to Family Association of Northfield, Northfield Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball. There were no objections from Council.

Heather Mellon, 2509 Herbert Drive, stated there is a home on her street that was purchased over nine years ago and no work has been done on it for years. She stated the address as 2505 Herbert Drive and noted that Municipal Clerk Canesi and Councilman O'Neill have told her that nothing can be done. She shared that she wants the City to do something about homes that are not taken care of, trees are overgrown etc., as it brings our property values down.

Council President Travagline stated he will research it.

Councilman Dewees noted he will look into it and get back to Heather Mellon.

Beverly Albertson, 2501 Herbert Drive, stated she feels the home is a safety issue. She shared there is a broken window and she has been told it is open in the back. She also noted that it is not just her street but is more of a problem throughout Northfield. She stated that there is a house in foreclosure around the corner at 2410 Shepherd Circle. She asked if the bank doesn't have to maintain the property.

Council President Travagline stated he will send the inspector out. He noted that the City does have a provision to take care of properties that are not being maintained.

Lisa Brown, 9 Haviv Drive, noted that the Cedarbridge home that was formerly in foreclosure now looks great. She further stated that she keeps hearing that taxes have increased by 2 percent a year. She clarified that taxes increased zero cents in 2012, 1

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cent in 2013, and 2.3 cents in 2014. She commended Council for a great job on the budget.

Guy Schlachter, 14 Mazza Drive, stated he believes there is an Ordinance on the books to address distressed properties. He further stated there are numerous properties in town that are in that condition, noting a house on Mill Road as well.

Councilman Dewees stated he is looking into the Mill Road issue.

Guy Schlachter, 14 Mazza Drive, noted that Verizon may also be looking to sell a bucket truck.

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

At 7:03pm on motions properly made and seconded this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC  
Municipal Clerk