

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
MAY 29, 2018**

At 6:01pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 13, 2018, in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Korngut, Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline, Dewees  
Absent: Travagline

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

**WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS**

Council President Dewees deferred to Solicitor Facenda for an update on the potential land sale.

- Potential Land Sale – Update

Solicitor Facenda advised that the first hearing for the COAH matters would be this week and we should be able to pick up with the land sale after that.

- “Parks and Recreation Areas” Ordinance Changes

Council President Dewees advised that he had not met with the Public Works Superintendent yet.

- Sign Ordinance Changes

Council President Dewees asked for an update on the sign ordinance.

Councilman Lischin did not have an update.

- Letter to Volunteer Organizations Regarding Use of City Facilities

Council President Dewees asked Clerk Canesi for an update on the letter to volunteers.

Clerk Canesi advised that she was working on a draft, which Solicitor Facenda would review and present to Council for approval at the June meeting.

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- Bike Path Bollards – Update from Engineer Nassar

Engineer Nassar reported that he only received one response to the request for quotes; he would try to get additional vendor responses for the next meeting.

**WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS**

Councilman O’Neill stated that he received a request from Father Anthony; Father thanked Council for the support of the Festival at St. Gianna. All and their families were invited.

Councilwoman Korngut received a call from a resident who lived near the First Street Playground. The resident had concerns about the trees.

Council President Dewees replied that we were aware; the trees were scheduled for removal. Councilman Dewees said he would get the date and would advise Councilwoman Korngut.

Councilman O’Neill advised that he had not had success in reaching Mr. Parker regarding the Mill Road sidewalks. He would keep trying and would set up a meeting with him when he was able to make contact.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Dewees reviewed the agenda and made assignments.

Councilwoman Korngut requested that Resolution 122-2018 be voted on separately.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Dewees opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any topic.

Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, thanked Post Crashers and all volunteers, including Chief Newman's son, and Councilwoman Korngut, for all she'd done for the seniors. He thanked Lynn and Frank Perri, and Vince Mazzeo for their volunteerism over the years. He thanked Steve and Bill Vain, Tom Polistina, Bayview Florist and others for all they do and have done for Veterans Park, and for the community. He stressed all that volunteers had done for the community over the history of Northfield, including Lynn Perri and the volunteer ambulance squad. He felt volunteerism was dwindling. He praised Shannon Campbell for all she'd done for Veterans Park. 80% of the park has been done by volunteers. Volunteers should be able to do whatever they want. He was opposed to having a committee for Veterans Park.

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Chief Newman does a great job, we should not be sharing a police chief. We need volunteers.

Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Avenue – asked Council if we were fighting this thing with Gurwicz for affordable housing.

Solicitor Facenda advised that the matter had been settled.

Mr. Wolfe asked had anyone looked at what this was going to do to the school system, and to taxes?

Solicitor Facenda replied that there were studies early on, he did not recall off the top of his head.

Mr. Wolfe wanted to know why towns wouldn't fight this; there were no towns in NJ who had fought this and won.

Solicitor Facenda replied that we have special counsel, he may be able to answer that.

Mr. Wolfe added that something needs to be done about Davis Avenue; people don't even slow down at the 4 way stop, as soon as Carluccio's came in, Mazzeo sold his office to them and they made Davis Avenue a 2-way street. It was a one-way street for 60 years.

Councilman Lischin suggested the speed box be put on Davis Avenue.

Chief Newman noted that it was on Cedar Bridge now.

Mr. Wolfe stated that they put tables and chairs out there; the Planning Board didn't do anything.

Councilman Perri replied that they didn't have to go before the Planning Board, to his recollection.

Clerk Canesi confirmed that the location was already a restaurant, they did not require Planning Board approval.

Councilman Perri felt they definitely needed some sort of traffic campaign.

Mayor Chau asked Chief Newman for his opinion.

Chief Newman replied that he would look at the issue and respond.

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Jerry Breeden, 109 Roosevelt Avenue - thanked Councilman Perri, Councilwoman Korngut, Council President Dewees and Mayor Chau, noting he never sees the rest of Council. Mr. Breeden said we all know what is going on the bike path, there was drug traffic. There were big evergreens between Jackson and Fairbanks and he'd been approached to buy drugs. He noted he did not see police on the bike path, and said it not the Chief's fault, it was the union's fault. He called the police because a dog defecated and it took 20 mins for the police to arrive. He wanted to know why Council wasn't studying the impact of the low-income housing. Council was making no attempt to lower taxes. The PBA and Public Works get everything they want. Paying taxes were a hardship; he's on disability due to a stroke. He watched Public Works cut the grass on the bike path but neglect to pick up a piece of trash on the bike path - a 1-gallon water bottle. He called the Public Works Superintendent to report it and within 10 minutes it was gone. The County lowered taxes, Northfield should as well. He felt Council needed to stand up to the unions.

Tom Wolfe spoke again, saying he thought Council did a good job. The taxes are due to the schools. He asked Mayor Chau if there had been a reduction in teachers since we lost 350 families in the past few years.

Mayor Chau replied that he did not know the staffing at the school.

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

At 6:37pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk