

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MAY 30, 2017**

At 6:00pm 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 Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

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

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 Councilman Lischin to introduce the representative from Global Document Services.

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- Global Document Services

Councilman Lischin explained that the Building Department is running out of room to store permits; this company was here to present an option.

Maor Rozalis introduced himself and explained that his company is located in Northfield, they are an imaging company; that is all they do. Storage is dying, government agencies are moving toward storing documents in digital media only.

At 6:03pm Councilman Piergiovanni entered the meeting.

Mr. Rozalis continued by explaining that he visited the City Hall basement storage area, there were large format documents as well as legal and letter size. Fees for large documents were \$1.00 each, documents that are permanent had to be put on microfilm and then stored at the state level for 500 years. He listed several agencies that used their services.

Clerk Canesi asked if they have imaged documents for any other Atlantic County Municipality.

Mr. Rozalis replied that they had scanned part of Atlantic City Police Department and part of Millville.

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Mayor Chau asked about backup storage.

Mr. Rozalis explained how the pdf files would be organized and what would be in each of the folders, most likely categorized by block and lot and then by inspection type. He explained that books can also be scanned.

Clerk Canesi responded that we would also need to see what our IT needs were as storage is an ongoing cost, and current storage will be insufficient.

Councilman Lischin reminded Council that this was an immediate need whether we spend money on this side or downstairs by buying more filing cabinets and storage.

Discussion ensued with regard to the volume of documents that may be involved; Mr. Rozalis estimated the size of the room at 20' x 20', and said it could be a couple of hundred thousand documents. This included a combination of large format and standard.

Councilman Perri asked if permit applicants could be charged a fee, or be required to submit their documents electronically, with a fee to do so.

Mr. Rozalis reminded all in attendance of the microfilm requirement; absent this you cannot dispose of the records.

Clerk Canesi commented that even if we imaged the records, it did not solve the storage issue, we had to keep the documents.

Councilman Travagline felt the costs to microfiche would be minimal.

Councilman Lischin thanked Mr. Rozalis for coming.

Council President Dewees asked Chief Newman if he had any update on the Medicine Drop Box.

- Medicine Drop Box – Update

Chief Newman stated there was no update at this time.

- Potential Land Sale - Update

Solicitor Facenda had no real update at this time.

Council President Dewees asked Council if anyone had any new business.

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Councilman Perri mentioned an article in NJLOM magazine that went into great detail about the network nodes. The right of way was controlled by the municipality and we do have control to regulate under land use.

Council President Dewees updated all on the Mill Road Sidewalk Project. There were 3 property owners we had not yet responded to our letter, he had sent additional letters to 700, 815, and 1200 Mill Road. He said he'd had an unofficial conversation with the County to find out next step. We would need a copy of their design for each additional property so we know how much right of way is needed.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Dewees reviewed the agenda and made assignments.

No members of Council had questions.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Dewees opened the meeting to public.

Tom Boyd, 117 Northfield Avenue - felt preserving records digitally is a good idea. He offered his compliments to Mr. Dickinson for his recent retrieval of a record from 2002; the process was very efficient, and there was no fee. Mr. Boyd felt Northfield should consider charging fees for documents.

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

Mayor Chau referred to an email sent by Northfield resident Mrs. Voss. She had expressed concern about traffic on Tilton Road and other streets, including Mt. Vernon, Roosevelt and Fairbanks. She feels that the Police Department was not effectively enforcing traffic laws. Mayor Chau had reached out to Chief Newman for his response and remedy, if there was an issue. Mayor Chau wanted to go on record that he wanted input from Council and the Chief. He made the recommendation that documentation of the discussion be provided to Mrs. Voss. He called Chief Newman forward to explain.

Council President Dewees asked for confirmation that we'd just done radar studies on Roosevelt and Mt. Vernon Avenues.

Chief Newman explained that he originally heard from this resident in March of 2016, about what she perceived as a lack of police presence. He explained to the resident that running radar on Tilton Road was difficult because it had 5 lanes, with a middle turn lane, and identifying the offending vehicle could be difficult. Chief

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Newman felt it was an amicable discussion at that point. He put out an order to be vigilant for aggressive driving during the hours that she'd complained about. The resident made frequent comparisons to EHT, which is an 80 member department. It was very hard to compare us to them. Last year's speed study data from Roosevelt Avenue indicated the average speed was 25.5 MPH. Her exact words were that Northfield Police were "lazy" and that she's heard from other neighbors that they agreed, and that Northfield Police Department didn't want to do their jobs. Chief Newman read police statistics from the most recent week, which included 73 traffic citations, a solved robbery and much more. The numbers don't lie; to say that the department is lazy and doesn't want to work is inaccurate. Can they do a better job? Everyone can always do a better job. The minimum staffing for the Police Department was 2 officers; there were only an average of 4 days per month from January to-May of 2017 where there were 3 officers on patrol. Most days it was only 2 officers on the street. The Department previously had a full time traffic officer but we had to take him off of that assignment due to manpower. However, Chief Newman would like to designate an officer to traffic any time there was a 3rd man on duty.

Mayor Chau read a quote from Mrs. Voss' letter asking if the department was understaffed; he asked Chief Newman if he felt they could not meet the demand

Chief Newman noted that there were three officers that weren't working right now. Three others retired and weren't replaced. Would he love to have more? Yes, but he understood the reality.

Councilman Murray felt that there would be occasional speeders, such as on the Parkway or on the Expressway when someone blows by you. Northfield has a lot of roadways. He felt the Police were doing a good job. He didn't know if she was an expert on traffic safety, but feels her comments were putting the Chief on the defensive, and that wasn't fair.

Mayor Chau felt overall that we weren't doing a bad job, with all that we were facing.

Chief Newman stated there were 212 motor vehicle stops year to date in the section of Tilton Road that the resident referred to.

Councilman O'Neill had not heard residents come to a Council meeting with this type of complaint; in fact has heard that the Northfield Police Department wrote too many tickets.

Chief Newman didn't want a resident to feel like they couldn't express their concern.

Councilman Lischin felt that the Police Department has been very productive since Chief Newman became Chief.

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Mayor Chau suggested that a letter be sent to the resident that Council did discuss her concern.

Solicitor Facenda recommended that Council not do that. The day to day operations were handled by the Chief and it sounded like everyone was satisfied with the Chief's performance.

Mayor Chau thanked Chief Newman for coming.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk