

CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JUNE 23, 2015

At 6:03pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on February 14, 2015 in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Chau and Solicitor Kris Facenda were also in attendance.

Council President Travagline opened the meeting.

Councilman Perri stated that he along with Councilman Dewees met with Linwood's sewer representatives, Councilman Gordon and Mayor DePamphilis. It looks favorably on renewing the sewer inter-local. There is a six-month opt-out, and must be prior to July 1 of any given year, since the contract can only terminate on December 31st.

Councilman Dewees agreed with Councilman Perri that the meeting was very positive and he recommended renewing the sewer inter-local.

Councilman Perri stated that privatizing remains an option but requires substantial research.

Councilman Dewees noted that it is also possible to bring in another town, such as Somers Point.

Council President Travagline asked if anyone has objections to renewing the sewer inter-local; there were none. He requested that it be put on the agenda to be approved by Resolution at the July meeting.

Councilman Perri noted that the EMS contract expires in August; the City can rebid with Linwood, go out for RFP, make a professional appointment, or engage in an inter-local with another town, such as EHT. There are several options. He noted that laws have changed since we last went out for RFP.

Council President Travagline stated we may have to temper our expectations with regard to having 1½ rigs on standby. Based on call volume it is not economically feasible to do so. We may have to be creative to stay at a zero bid.

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Municipal Clerk Canesi also noted that there was an issue of who is getting the EMS reports; she commented that the Clerk's office is not.

Solicitor Facenda asked Council if anyone is getting them; no one responded. He will contact Shore EMS to request that they be provided.

Council President Travagline mentioned that the Municipal Code requires that the City issue employee IDs; Police and Fire already have them. The cost to purchase 200 would be \$1,100.00 or slightly more than \$700.00 for 100, with all of the necessary information. He wanted to wait and see if the time clock punch cards can be used as ID's, and if not, he showed Council a sample of the ID that would be used. Council will decide in the next month or two.

Councilman Lischin stated that to do time clocks for non-police employees, it would be a \$6,500.00 per year recurring cost. He and CFO Stollenwerk will keep looking. They would also determine if there is an option that would serve both purposes.

Council President Travagline noted that there are a few Ordinances pending for future consideration, including outdoor dining, commercial sign restrictions, and Municipal action regarding foreclosed properties.

Councilman Perri asked for input on what changes are recommended for signage. He noted that there is a process in place to get approval for outdoor dining.

Council President Travagline stated that several businesses have come to Council to express the need for change; Council needed to look at it or at least review it.

Councilman Perri noted the history and amount of work that went into the current Ordinance. Changes to the Ordinance can change the character of the town. He has tried to form a committee to get the process moving.

Mayor Chau noted that the current sign Ordinance is not up to date with present technology, such as for LED lighting.

Council President Travagline thought outdoor seating should be easy; businesses shouldn't have to pay a \$1000 to put tables outside.

Councilman Perri agreed that it is expensive, but Municipal Land Use Law in NJ is complex.

Councilman Murray noted that Ventnor, Margate, and other towns have sidewalks similar to ours and they have outdoor seating.

Solicitor Facenda recommended that the Council could keep it as is, add it as a

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conditional use, or outright permit it but you could end up with situations you don't want.

Councilman Perri noted that Shannon Campbell, Deputy Clerk, did research about other towns, and he can forward to Council members.

Council President Travagline then moved on to ACIA program grants, City Engineer, Dan Kwapinski, came to him about some ideas, but time was short and Council did not approve the grant applications. He asked Council to review them and either approve them or not. He deferred to the Engineer for explanation of the grants.

Engineer Kwapinski explained that the grant was provided by the county to give municipalities the expertise of professionals to spur development. Three ideas were: Shore Road, where there are nonconforming uses, and one of the suggestions was for parking along Shore Road. Another was Tilton Road near the bike path, and the other was near the Gurwicz property, and potentially the Trocki property. Nothing was set in stone, the County will come back to the town and see what can be done.

Councilman Dewees said he read through the grant applications, and the tax incentives concern him. How can one person make that assertion without going through the governing body? He also expressed concern about a contract to purchase property along Shore Road.

Engineer Kwapinski noted that was a mistake, the purchase.

Councilman Perri asked how the properties were selected.

Engineer Kwapinski stated that those were samples; the Resolution needs to be updated. All of Shore Road should have been included.

Mayor Chau asked when the grant came out.

Engineer Kwapinski stated the beginning of May.

Council President Travagline stated that everything on the application are things we could do to help these businesses.

Mayor Chau agreed that everything we can do should be done, but has concerns about procedure, there are too many questions. He suggested in the future that a committee be formed. He felt the governing body as a whole should be involved.

Solicitor Facenda recommended the following changes: on the Shore Road application - change project area to commercial properties along Shore Road, on page 1. Delete the reference to having an agreement to purchase a Shore Road property.

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He did not suggest any changes to the Northfield Avenue application. The Gurwicz application should be expanded to include Tilton Road from the EHT border to Route 9.

Council President Travagline recommended another grant, he thought he could get it approved and then bring it to the Council. It went to the County in mid April. It was pertaining to the bike paths for Birch Grove he will send out to Council, for the July agenda to be approved.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Travagline reviewed the agenda.

Councilman Dewees asked if the insurance issue has been resolved with regard to 113-2015.

Council President Travagline said the City is the primary insurer; there is no other insurance for the sponsoring entity. He will pull from consent agenda.

Councilman Perri asked if the Risk Management Consultant has been asked for his opinion.

Council President Travagline stated yes, but he made no comment so he assumed that meant he had no issues with it.

Councilman Dewees stated he is not opposed to it but we need to make sure we follow our insurance guidelines.

Municipal Clerk Canesi responded to Councilman Perri that the current use of facilities agreement indicates that we will get a COI and be indemnified. If the Council is waiving that requirement, then the agreement would need to be modified.

Councilman Dewees and Councilman Perri felt we should follow our own guidelines.

Solicitor Facenda suggested approving the Resolution and if the entity can't meet the terms of the agreement, the agreement would not get signed.

Solicitor Facenda noted language change to 124-2015, which gives MGS additional responsibilities at the conclusion of the sewer study.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the public session.

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Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, stated work at the Veteran's Park has come to a slow halt. He thanked Councilman Dewees for what he's done. He noted improvements being planned for bike path and Birch Grove Park. The park honors those who fought and died for your freedoms. The Committee needs help at the park. With regards to outside seating, sidewalks should not be blocked, it's against the law. Mr. Webb thanked the Mayor and the Perri family for attending the Legion breakfast, as well as the open house at the museum in the park.

Perry Pindale, 522 Chestnut Avenue, advised Council he is here to discuss problems with Mazzeo Produce, in the past he did offer to sell his property to Mr. Mazzeo, but could not reach an agreement. He referred to prior code violations issued to the Mazzeo property, some going back years but that remain remedied. This year asphalt was laid on a former residential property, creating a parking lot. He requested that Mazzeo's be instructed to remove the lot to prevent customers from parking on it. He wanted assurances that Mazzeo's will be held accountable.

Councilman Murray asked when the vehicles were parked on the lot.

Mr. Pindale responded that they were parked there yesterday.

Council President Travagline advised Mr. Pindale that another neighbor was here at the last meeting; the Council is doing everything that can be done.

Councilman Perri noted that parking is permitted on a residential lot, and that the Council has no authority. The Zoning Officer has authority in this situation.

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

At 7:37pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk