

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 25, 2013**

At 6:05pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 7, 2013 in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Carew, Dewees, Perri, Polistina, O'Neill

Absent: Travagline

Mayor Vince Mazzeo, City Solicitor Kris Facenda, Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski, and Deputy Clerk Mimi Marlor were also in attendance.

Councilman O'Neill announced that in the absence of President Travagline he would be sitting as President Pro Tem for the evening. He asked if anyone had anything to add to the workshop agenda.

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- Proposed Shared Service Agreement for Technology Services with the Northfield Board of Education

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill stated that he has provided a copy of a shared service agreement between the Northfield Board of Education and the City of Northfield to Solicitor Facenda for review. He reported that the head of IT for the Board of Education is coming to the municipal building for a tour on June 23rd.

Mayor Mazzeo noted that the draft agreement states that the response time is 48-72 hours. In addition he stated his concerns regarding response time during school vacations and closures.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill stated that he is changing the response time in the contract to same day or next day and he noted that the IT staff is a 12 month position and he's comfortable that there will be adequate coverage. He also said that if the school was closed they would be able to reach someone on call by beeper.

Mayor Mazzeo asked what is the anticipated cost of the service agreement is it \$24,000? Mayor Mazzeo asked if that wasn't higher than the present contract with

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United Computer. He stated that a shared service only makes sense if there is a cost savings.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill stated he believes there is a cost saving as United was paid \$18,000 plus miscellaneous expenses last year which translated to over \$24,000.

Mayor Mazzeo asked about timing of purchases and whether or not the City is only able to buy when the school is making a purchase. Solicitor Facenda stated that he is looking into that.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill stated he believes then can buy hardware through the school or even use a state contract and then, have the school IT team install it.

Mayor Mazzeo stated he would like to see an apples to apples comparison.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill suggested that savings will be in excess of \$10,000 per year. The monthly inspections will allow the city to be proactive to any problem.

Councilman Polistina asked what is United Computer's hourly rate?

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill stated that in addition to the monthly service fees United Computer charges \$125.00 per hour.

Councilman Polistina asked if the City is using an unreasonable number of install and service hours that it makes a big difference.

Mayor Mazzeo stated that if we enter into an agreement such as this we need to be sure it is a savings. United Computer services many municipalities and although he can't speak for them this City has been happy with United's services.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill stated he believes that using a local service will generate faster service and lower fees for service.

Mayor Mazzeo stated he doesn't think one can say that the school will be faster as we have no experience with it to measure it.

Councilman Carew asked if we have asked the employees for feedback. Is anyone having problems or unhappy with the services from United Computer?

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Municipal Clerk Canesi explained her concerns when there may not be adequate coverage, such as Easter break and Christmas breaks. She also noted that when United Computer is on site it makes an effort to do a walk through to all departments and address any concerns and problems.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill stated that this is not because we are unhappy with United Computer but it is a financial decision.

Councilman Polistina stated that the present monthly agreement with United Computer is \$1,000 per month or \$12,000 per year and it appears you're offering the school \$15,000 per year. How is that a savings?

- 405-407 Chestnut: Drainage Concerns

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill reviewed that there were concerns raised at the last Council meeting regarding drainage at 405-407 Chestnut and he asked Engineer Kwapinski to comment.

Engineer Kwapinski stated that he met with both of the residents involved and Mike Dattalo. He explained what he found to be the issue and said he had made suggestions to the homeowners that may improve the situation.

Councilman Carew asked if there are any issues for the City.

Councilman Perri noted that there was no permit pulled for the building addition, which has caused the drainage problem; he said the CO should never have been issued because the slope is way off.

Councilman Dewees asked if the final inspection included landscaping to control water on the site. Engineer Kwapinski noted that he did not see any improvements that would have slowed the water after the addition.

Councilman Carew asked if the City is trying to give them recommendations and if this continues to be a work in progress. Councilman Dewees answered yes and suggested that they change the gutters and/or add landscaping.

Councilman Carew asked if this is a building and zoning issue and shouldn't they be responsible to resolve the problem. Councilman Dewees again answered yes and noted he was just bringing Council up to speed.

- Broad Street Phase II – Funding for Engineering and Design

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Engineer Kwapinski noted that the Broad Street Phase II will pave from Putting Green South to Jackson Avenue.

Councilman Dewees asked if it is possible to skip over this section and do a different section as Davis Avenue is in serious disrepair. Engineer Kwapinski stated that the City should work to alleviate the drainage problem at Davis first before paving.

Councilman Carew noted that improvements have been done in this area regarding drainage but there is more to be done. He also suggested that they stick to the original plan to pave from Putting Green to Jackson and work on the drainage issue separately.

- Discussion of Proposed Capital Budget

Councilman Polistina noted for members of Council that the CFO has distributed a tentative schedule for capital expenditures. He referred to the last version of the capital plan that had some roads and drainage on it amounting to approximately \$300,000;but, that is not on the list we are looking at tonight.

Councilman Dewees asked what is the first responder vehicle? Councilman Polistina explained they are looking to replace the 1997 utility vehicle and a 1983 fire truck.

Councilman Perri asked for a list of all the Fire Department trucks and dates of acquisition. He noted that the capital is a lot of money to maintain trucks and suggested retrofitting existing vehicles. He said the City does not have a lot of fires.

Councilman Carew explained that the Fire Department is trying to manage the life expectancy of each vehicle and rotate the replacement of these vehicles in the most cost effective way within their replacement program. He noted that proven time and time again this is a prudent way to ask for repairs and retrofits. There is a plan in place and they do not act on it unless they need to. They try to replace a truck every 7-8 years.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill reviewed the regular meeting agenda and made assignments.

Councilman Perri asked what was the mistake to the salary Resolution 124-2013? Municipal Clerk Canesi responded that the fire official's salary was flat and should have been increased by 2%.

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Councilman Carew asked if the City was okay on insurance regarding Resolution 130-2013. Municipal Solicitor Facenda responded that the Joint Insurance Fund does not recognize or insure them and they suggested that we require the volunteer to provide proof of medical insurance.

Council President O'Neill Pro Tem opened the meeting to any member of the public wishing to speak on any subject.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, stated that its difficult to change mother nature when trying to fight drainage problems. He also noted that Jim Travagline's six months on City Council does not give him much experience to take on the Presidency. Additionally, Mr. Webb commented that certain members of Council say they don't take a salary; but in fact, they take a salary, donate it and get a write off on their taxes.

Bill Doughty, 17 Haviv Drive, stated he is speaking for his neighbors in the Haviv and Sutton Woods area and said there were 27 children under the age of 13 on his block. He presented a petition to Council and stated his concern regarding chronic speeding and reckless driving on Haviv and would like the City to consider putting in a speed bump on Haviv Drive.

Councilman Carew, as a member of the safety committee, asked Chief James to comment.

Chief Robert James stated that a speed bump might help but it also creates a noise issue.

Councilman Carew reflected that it may be that the area might need 2 speed bumps instead of 1 and he directed to the residents the need to understand that the speed bump ends up being in front of somebody's house.

Keith Burke, 13 Haviv Drive, stated that the noise issue is a small price to pay for the safety of our children. The police presence has been great but they cannot be there 24/7. A speed bump is a round the clock obstacle.

Aristotle Frangias, 7 Haviv Drive, stated that he owns a radar gun and he clocks the cars going by at an average speed of 35 miles per hour. He noted that many live in the neighborhood.

Councilman Polistina asked if he could identify any specific age group. Aristotle Frangias answered that it was everyone.

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Buddy O'Brien, 15 Haviv Drive, stated he has three children ages 5-9 and is a long-time resident. He noted his concern is that all the children are so close to the speeding cars on Haviv and elsewhere in the neighborhood. He said his ultimate goal is to protect the children.

Councilman Polistina asked if the problem is restricted to Haviv or is it prevalent in other areas of the development. Mr. O'Brien answered that the entrance to the development is the worst area.

Council President Pro Tem O'Neill asked Bill Doughty to be the primary contact for the group and he agreed.

Jerry McGee, 1620 Zion Road, suggested making Haviv Drive a one way street.

Wendy Fox, 110 East Mill Road, stated that the Caring Inc. just bought another home in the neighborhood. She noted that the existing Caring Inc. home constantly has 9-10 cars there at all times and people are hanging out on the stoop. It has increased traffic.

Councilman Perri noted that he travels by there often and he believes it is more of a business than a residence.

Mayor Mazzeo stated that Caring Inc. is under no obligation to notify the City that they are moving in but they do have to abide by our zoning laws.

Councilman Carew suggested setting up a meeting with Caring Inc. to discuss the situation. Mayor Mazzeo stated he knew who to contact.

Councilman Perri suggested to the resident, Wendy Fox, that she speak to the zoning officer to see if approvals have been met. He also noted such things as site plans for parking.

Councilman Carew suggested that Councilman Dewees and the zoning official Mike Dattalo both meet with Wendy Fox.

Beth Walker, 102 Oxford Circle, said that there is another Caring, Inc. home at 103 East Mill Road and now there is a second one at 120 East Mill Road. She asked if anyone knew the qualifications to be a resident at a Caring home facility.

Mayor Mazzeo stated he didn't but he said that when Caring Inc. met with the City

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they were very clear that the information they were sharing was a courtesy not an obligation.

Anna Marie McCort, 243 Jackson Avenue, stated she has gone to great length to fix up her home so she can sell it. She stated her concerns about the house next door at 231 Jackson Ave. She reminded Council that the home had a tree go through it during the Derecho. She noted that they have covered it up and continue to live there. They have not made any permanent repairs. She asked the City to investigate the situation and take action if possible.

Councilman Dewees stated he was aware of the problem.

Councilman Carew stated that there are zoning issues to be addressed.

Seeing no one else from the public wishing to speak, Council President Pro Tem O'Neill closed the public session.

At 7:24pm on motions properly made and seconded this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi M. Marlor, Deputy Clerk