

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
JULY 16, 2019**

At 6:01pm this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 5, 2019, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Council President Lischin.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Korngut, Madden, O'Neill, Perri, Lischin  
Absent: Dewees, O'Neill\*, Smith

Solicitor Facenda and Engineer Nassar were also in attendance.

*\* Councilman O'Neill was not present when roll was called, but entered the meeting at 6:08pm.*

*Mayor Chau entered the meeting at 6:10pm.*

Council President Lischin thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and introduced Paul Miola.

**6PM PRESENTATION – ACMJIF RENEWAL**

- Paul Miola, Executive Director, Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

Paul Miola stated that he was here to discuss our JIF renewal. He provided a history of the JIF, and an overview of the significant financial stability and strength associated with the program. He distributed a booklet to Council and reviewed the key points, including the annual return of dividends, with Northfield having received over \$1M in dividends throughout its history with the JIF. He reviewed Northfield's premium history, as well as recent losses. The members were doing a good job in controlling claims and managing losses, as evidenced by loss history and dividends paid. Our JIF's costs are about 12 cents on the dollar, leaving more money for claims payment and dividends. He stressed the focus on high quality medical care in the Workers Compensation sector.

*At 6:08pm Councilman O'Neill entered the meeting.*

Mr. Miola explained that the Safety and Wellness, and Risk Management programs were consistent from member to member. There was no profit, with excess funds returned to the members in the form of dividends. Knowledge sharing and collaboration among members ensures that all members are moving in the same

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direction. Commitment from the Governing Body to the safety culture is key, and it filters down from there. He reviewed the names of key safety personnel in Northfield: Shannon Campbell is Safety and Wellness Coordinator; Mary Canesi is Claims Coordinator and Fund Commissioner; Derek Valenti and Joe Henry are Risk Management Consultants.

*At 6:10pm Mayor Chau entered the meeting.*

Mr. Miola briefly reviewed the Employment Practices Liability (EPL), Public Officials Liability, Cyber Liability, and Wellness programs. He explained the EPL hotline service available to members. He also explained the Tulip Program, which stands for Tenant User Liability Insurance Program, and said there were updated guidelines for certificates of insurance and hold harmless agreements. Also new this year is Land Use training for Land Use Board members. He briefly explained the revised statute of limitations as it pertained to the reporting of alleged incidents of sexual abuse, and said we will be hearing more about that.

Councilman O'Neill asked about sports organizations having alcohol at an event.

Mr. Miola advised there would be coverage as long as it is not something that would be a regular event, and was well controlled. It would need to comply with local ordinances.

Clerk Canesi advised that the organization Councilman O'Neill referred to was not covered under the JIF; they pay for their own coverage. There was also a requirement with the State in regard to a one-day permit for the sales of alcohol.

Councilman Perri asked if we could call the JIF instead of labor counsel for employment issues.

Mr. Miola replied yes, if there was something you want to run past them.

Council President Lischin thanked Mr. Miola and introduced Joe Henry from Hardenberg Insurance.

**6:15 PM PRESENTATION – HARDENBERG INSURANCE GROUP**

- Putting Safety on the Agenda, Joe Henry

Mr. Henry introduced himself and noted that safety was the backbone of the JIF and there was an annual requirement to put safety on the agenda, and this year's topic was managing co-morbid conditions. Deputy Clerk Campbell and Clerk Canesi were very involved, Northfield was lucky to have them. Hardenberg Insurance was Northfield's Risk Management Consultant. Mr. Henry explained the quarterly Safety Committee meetings, available training opportunities, and accident investigations to identify root

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causes of incidents. There were financial incentives for safety efforts, and Northfield received the maximum last year. He reviewed the workplace wellness program, co-morbid conditions that affect recovery in workers compensation cases, and gave an example of an injury where two employees sustained the same injury, and the individual with no co-morbid conditions had a much better recovery. Workers compensation costs were increasing so this was a very important area of focus, and there were strategies via wellness programs to address these issues. He explained that the wellness director puts out a lot of good information.

Mayor Chau asked how Northfield compared to the JIF as a whole.

Mr. Henry replied that Mr. Miola had the figures, but there are anomalies, when you are a small town and have a few big claims it can skew the average, which is why the JIF uses a 6 year average.

Councilman Lischin thanked Mr. Henry, and yielded to Councilwoman Madden as insurance chair.

Councilwoman Madden had nothing to add.

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

- Bike Trails at BGP – *Identification of Trails is Pending*

Councilman Dewees was absent.

- Plastic Bag Restrictions – *Requested by Council President Lischin*

Councilwoman Korngut spoke with local business owners, Tilton Market and 7-11; they were not surprised that this was being discussed. Tilton Market had a lot of bags; they would prefer a fee as opposed to a ban. 7-11 had no preference. There needed to be notice to the community. Tilton Market was also concerned about seniors who may forget to bring a bag with them. But, if we give enough notice and advertise, she felt a ban should not take effect until January or May of 2020. She suggested a hybrid, charge for a year and then ban the bags, but that may not be good. 7-11 felt that if a fee were imposed, they would prefer not to have to do something with that money, it was extra work.

Council President Lischin said he spoke with Somers Point Council President Sean McGuigan who suggested an outright ban may be better; Council President Lischin agreed with this approach.

Mayor Chau noted that other places use the bags, such as pharmacies, and Chinese restaurants; he felt we should do a survey to see how businesses would be affected.

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Councilwoman Madden asked who would get the money if there was a fee; she felt the type of business may make a difference, such as those who sell take-out food.

Council President Lischin and Mayor Chau both replied that these businesses could use paper bags.

Council President Lischin added that there were also multi-use plastic bags. He said that after all have had the chance to be heard, we can do a straw poll.

Councilman Perri stated that he had an experience where he tried to bring a bag into a dollar store and it was forbidden; we may want to look at that. He was willing to go with the times.

Councilman O'Neill would rather keep as it is, but we may encourage stores to educate the public: don't take a bag if you don't need it, and encourage businesses not use excessive amounts of bags.

Council President Lischin conducted a straw poll: Council President Lischin, Councilwoman Korngut, Councilwoman Madden and Councilman Perri were in favor of a ban on plastic bags. Councilman O'Neill did not want a change.

Council President Lischin asked Solicitor Facenda to prepare an ordinance.

- Resolution in Support of Online Training for Firefighters – *Requested by Council President Lischin*

Council President Lischin would provide the Resolution for Clerk Canesi for the next meeting.

Council President Lischin moved to new business.

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

- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Engineer Nassar announced that he filed the paving grant, but bike path grant application yielded that we are ineligible because we are not adding mileage to the bike path. We could do a bike lane, but it had to make sense. We can connect the bike path to Birch Grove; we tried in the past but we were not comfortable due to safety reasons. Going forward next year there will be a Safe Routes to School Grant, so we can look at that but there was not enough right-of-way on Cedar Bridge Road.

- Northwood Court – ‘Children at Play’ street signage and asphalt stencil, *Requested by Councilman Perri*

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Council President Lischin deferred to Councilman Perri

Councilman Perri explained that Northwood Court was a cul-de-sac, and that people fly in and fly out. Residents requested signage and a stencil and were willing to pay for a stencil.

Engineer Nassar suggested a 'no outlet' sign.

Council President Lischin was unsure about the stencil; if we allow one, does that open up every street to want a stencil?

Councilman Perri believed we do have the capability to legislate to a certain extent.

Clerk Canesi advised that Chief Newman would like to have the opportunity to look at this, and to weigh-in before a decision was made.

Council President Lischin conducted a straw poll for the children at play signs, and said we would leave the stencils on the agenda for the next meeting so the Chief can weigh in.

Councilman O'Neill was in favor of the signs; in regard to the stencils he felt we needed to make sure we did it correctly and considered all issues.

Councilwoman Madden replied yes to signs.

Mayor Chau asked had Council made decisions with regard to Mr. Wolf's request for blinking stop signs on his street; Linwood has one by their City Hall. He had spoken with the Chief and they were over \$1000 for a sign, the Chief was also concerned that once one goes up, they would be requested everywhere.

Councilman O'Neill referred to the blinking light on Zion and Oak, residents complain about that. Council needed to consider the impact on other residents. He urged that Chief's recommendation be obtained when we get any of these requests.

Mayor Chau added that we had to take into consideration the effect of illuminated signage in a residential area.

Councilwoman Madden felt we should look into the validity of Mr. Wolf's claim; she agreed with Councilman O'Neill, it can be a can of worms and can be intrusive.

Mayor Chau advised that he has had the police monitor the area, and it did not seem to be out of control.

Engineer Nassar had seen people run the signs at Second and Davis, in both directions. This was the only place he had seen this occur.

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**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Lischin reviewed the regular meeting agenda and made assignments.

On behalf of Councilman Smith, Council President Lischin referred to a resolution that we had been asked to add to the agenda tonight involving a tax-overpayment refund to assist a taxpayer whose mortgage company applied the payment to the wrong account. All were generally in favor.

Solicitor Facenda added as Resolution 158-2019.

**PUBLIC SESSION/ FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Lischin opened this portion of the meeting for any member of the public to speak on any topic; he noted a 5-minute limit per speaker.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Council President Lischin closed the public session.

At 6:55pm, on a motion of Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilwoman Korngut, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Registered Municipal Clerk