

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
JULY 17, 2018**

At 6:02pm 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, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline, Dewees
Absent: Lischin

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

Council President Dewees announced that Councilman Lischin was recovering from minor surgery and would not be 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 he was preparing notices to property owners, the Press and others. He would work with the Clerk and should have everything available for the next meeting.

- “Parks and Recreation Areas” Ordinance Changes

Council President Dewees advised that he was working with the Superintendent of Public Works; he hoped to have it for next meeting.

- Sign Ordinance Changes

Council President Dewees would set up meeting to discuss the sign ordinance with the appropriate parties and hoped to have update for the next meeting.

Councilman O'Neill asked who approves signs?

Councilman Perri replied that the Ordinance was the law, which was interpreted by the Zoning Officer.

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Councilman O'Neill asked about sandwich boards.

Councilman Perri noted that was being discussed as part of the ordinance revision.

Mayor Chau added that he had seen them being used in excess, we don't have anything that limits them in number or specifically delineates placement. We may want to address this. He felt that Northfield was liberal with signs; many have 3-4 per business.

Municipal Clerk Canesi advised that the draft ordinance may have some of these suggestions already incorporated. She suggested starting with the draft document.

Councilman Travagline felt that anyone who had been getting input should forward it to the Committee so their suggestions could be included.

- Letter to Volunteer Organizations Regarding Use of City Facilities

Council President Dewees asked if anyone from Council has recommendations for the letter to the volunteers, and to provide suggestions to Clerk Canesi.

Councilman O'Neill asked why the Volunteer Fire Company was excluded.

Clerk Canesi replied because they were covered by our insurance, and as public safety personnel they are not included in some of the things in the letter.

- Bike Path Bollards – Update from Engineer Nassar

Engineer Nassar reported that he was only able to get one price for bollards.

Council President Dewees suggested revisiting the quantity.

Engineer Nassar replied that the shipping would be the same if we purchased 8 or 12.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

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

Councilman Travagline brought up an old matter regarding Chestnut Avenue and the issue of trucks parking in the 500 block of Chestnut Avenue. There was a recommendation made by the Chief of Police that had not acted upon. Councilman Travagline did speak with the owners of the business at one point, but since that time one of the owners of the business has passed away. He suggested that perhaps they

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make a no loading zone or restrict parking somehow. He was in favor of businesses succeeding, but there must be some type of compromise that can be reached.

Council President Dewees suggested possibly making the loading zone on the north side of the street.

Mayor Chau felt that may hinder the visibility for a vehicle on Chestnut Avenue.

Councilman Perri had seen other businesses with similar situations, with tractor trailers loading, two of them side by side, but for some reason this business always gets complaints. This was addressed under the Planning Board approval.

Solicitor Facenda would have to see the site plan and the Planning Board approval.

Council President Dewees suggested we review this information and see what could be done. There could be some safety issues.

Councilman Perri noted there was no date on the photos that show the tractor trailer on Chestnut Avenue.

Councilman Travagline believed they were recent.

Council President Dewees asked Councilman Perri to get the Planning Board approvals and plans.

Councilman Perri responded that the appropriate individual would be the Building Department liaison.

Clerk Canesi advised that she would obtain the D and R from the Planning Board, and a copy of the site plan, and forward both to Solicitor Facenda.

- Proposed 2018 Paving Project – requested by Engineer Nassar

Engineer Nassar reported that he had been receiving a lot of calls from residents about roads that need to be repaired or repaved, some, if we let them go too much longer, may cost more in the long run. He would like to present to Council a list of roads to propose to be paved. He would ask that Council prioritize based on available funds.

Council President Dewees asked Engineer Nassar about crack sealing; should we get a contractor.

Engineer Nassar advised that Public Works could do it with the purchase of a piece of equipment, adding that Public Works knows the roads better. This type of work

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could be done year-round. The equipment and supplies could be purchased, on a small scale, for \$2,000.00-\$3,000.00.

Mayor Chau asked about a specific type of multi-layer sealing, is that what Council President Dewees referred to?

Engineer Nassar replied no.

- Designation of Bike Path as Linear Park – requested by Councilwoman Korngut

Councilwoman Korngut informed Council that she and Councilman Murray met with Economic Development Committee representatives from Somers Point and Linwood and several joint projects were discussed. Their goal in doing so is to generate revenue and to increase connectivity amongst our municipalities. One such idea was to have the bike path designated as a linear park. The potential benefits would include grant eligibility, it could involve the historical society with bike tours, businesses along the way would benefit and we would benefit from the public relations.

Council President Dewees asked what the benefits were.

Councilwoman Korngut replied; public relations, connectivity, history tours, etc. There may be a downside, she did not know, she wanted to explore the idea.

Council President Dewees noted the bike path was narrow and there were a lot of homes in close proximity.

Mayor Chau asked if there was discussion of connectivity with Pleasantville? Councilwoman Korngut replied no.

Councilman O'Neill asked had it been explored that the County could take it over if it was designated as a linear park. Councilwoman Korngut replied no.

Clerk Canesi asked if there were bike lanes on Tilton Road, which is where most of our commercial presence is. Councilwoman Korngut replied there are not; she said this came up, but this was just the beginning of looking into it.

Councilman Perri noted that he would want to know the implications for the town, limitations, loss of autonomy, etc., and, were there still open space restrictions in place based on the original funding.

Councilwoman Korngut added that would be the first step. What does it take to get the designation, and what do we win, what do we lose?

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Mayor Chau stated that he sent an email to Councilwoman Korngut and Councilman Murray as Economic Development Commission representatives, copied to the Council, regarding a project he'd been working on for several years to put flags along Shore Road. It had been suggested that this may be a good project for the Economic Development Commission, since Mayor Chau's original plan involved soliciting funds from businesses to purchase the flags.

Council President Dewees stated that his comments were the same as they were before, and that is that the flags have to be on the sidewalk side of the pole.

Mayor Chau advised that we would be permitted to put them on the street side of the road, like other municipalities.

Council President Dewees asked if Mayor Chau had that in writing. Mayor Chau replied yes, he did. It would have to be banner style, and would like to do approximately 30, can't do every pole.

Councilman Murray felt that the Economic Development Commission should take it on as a project.

Mayor Chau stated he would forward the information he had compiled to Councilwoman Korngut and Councilman Murray.

Councilwoman Korngut said that a few months ago a resident provided to her a joint report compiled by the FBI and others, which talked about cyber-attacks on local government. She said she'd look into it, and since that time there had been intelligence that poses a great threat, greater than 911 in magnitude. Some have said the recent comcast outage may have been a test of what they could get away with. She felt Northfield should get a report of what we are doing. She had a friend here tonight who does this for a living who will use the public session to give a presentation to council.

Councilman Dewees asked Clerk Canesi to comment.

Clerk Canesi explained that our insurance company, last year, required a cyber security audit, the results of which were provided to Council last year. She added that she received an email today from Councilman Travagline that was forwarded by our Risk Management Consultant regarding cyber liability coverage; she did not have a chance to look at it yet.

Councilman Travagline passed out the email.

Councilwoman Korngut noted that insurance coverage was not the issue.

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Clerk Canesi referred to the cybersecurity audit, coverage is recent but the audit was designed to point out areas of weakness and opportunity.

Councilwoman Korngut asked for a copy.

Clerk Canesi advised that she would resend it.

Councilman Travagline referred to and circulated an email from Jim Rutala, he was preparing a grant for surrounding towns in regard to flooding and would like to include Northfield. Funds may be available for the bay areas. There was no cost to Northfield, but our neighboring municipalities needed our support.

Clerk Canesi asked who would complete the application and would there be a fee?

Councilman Travagline advised that Mr. Rutala would complete the application and there would be no fee to do so.

Council President Dewees conducted a straw poll, all approved.

Councilman Perri, regarding the Tilson wireless network nodes, noted that Upper Township recently adopted an ordinance to regulate it.

Solicitor Facenda asked Councilman Perri for a copy of the Upper Township Ordinance to review.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Dewees reviewed the agenda and made assignments. He announced we will move Resolution 137-2018 to the top of the agenda.

Solicitor Facenda announced that Resolution 141-2018 would not be needed this evening.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Peter West, 525 Marita Ann Drive submitted a petition from his neighborhood and asked that Council consider repaving his street.

Anthony Rodio, 3 Cedar Drive - just opened Sack-o-Subs in London Square Mall; it was hard for customers to know they were there. He was granted an extension of one more week with the signs, and was in attendance to request another extension.

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Council President Dewees asked who gave the extension.

Mr. Rodio replied the Zoning Officer.

Mayor Chau advised that he had asked Mike Dattalo to review the situation. If we did it for one, we have to do it for all. We had a request from another recently opened business to extend their signs; we cannot be inconsistent.

Council President Dewees noted that it was up to the Zoning Official, not the Council.

Councilman O'Neill stated that he would talk to the Zoning Official.

Councilman Travagline asked about other ways to market the business, and suggested that Council can talk to the local non-profits and get the word out.

Solicitor Facenda explained that the Municipal Code says what it says, and the interpretation and enforcement of the Code is the responsibility of the Zoning Officer. He suggested Mr. Rodio approach the landlord to go before the Planning Board and requested that he be able to put permanent signage up.

Council President Dewees said he would pass the request along to the Zoning Department.

Alicia Garry, 202 St. James Place - asked for a status report as to repair of her railroad ties, which were damaged by South Jersey Gas.

Engineer Nassar informed Mrs. Garry that SJ Gas fixed the pavement but not the railroad ties, he stated he would contact them.

Nick Piergiovanni, 1903 Shore Road – requested that Council give careful consideration to his request to use the minor league field for his son's birthday party.

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

At 7:06pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk