

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
AUGUST 13, 2019**

At 6:08pm 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 Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present: K o rngut, Madden, O’Neill, Perri,
S mith, Lischin
Absent: Dewees

Mayor Chau, S o licitor Facenda, Chief Newman and Engineer Nassar were also in attendance.

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS

- Bike Trails at BGP – *Signage and maps for public being developed*

Councilman Dewees was absent.

S o licitor Facenda reported that he did receive an email from Deputy Clerk Campbell in regard to signage; he had no issues with the signage.

Council President Lischin advised we’d move forward when Councilman Dewees was in attendance.

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

S o licitor Facenda advised Council that he received an email from Mayor Chau; t he email indicated that Mayor Chau did not recommend proceeding at this time.

Mayor Chau commented that he had received several comments from residents and businesses; he was not against a ban but it would be helpful to get legislators, senators and freeholders on board. Mayor Chau's concern was inconsistency from municipality to municipality. He made the suggestion that we do support a ban, but that we send a letter to legislators encouraging state action. He also suggested forming a committee to identify the pros and cons. He was not denigrating other municipalities. Mayor Chau also shared a letter from County Executive Levinson suggesting that Birch Grove Park may be included in any plastic bag ban.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
AUGUST 13, 2019**

Council President Lischin asked Council for their opinion.

Councilwoman Krongut was in favor of an ordinance; people will adapt. She had not been contacted by anyone. She was in favor of an ordinance locally, as well as a resolution to encourage state-wide action.

Council President Lischin agreed that it was difficult without consensus amongst towns.

Councilman O'Neill added that paper bags involve cutting down trees, plastic involves oil.

Councilwoman Madden agreed with Councilwoman Krongut; we can do both: ban by ordinance and encourage state action

Councilman Perri would like to see what the people it would affect have to say. He liked the idea of a committee. Newspapers that come in plastic bags, will they no longer be able to be delivered in the plastic bag? He would like to hear from businesses; he was not, however, opposed to it.

Mayor Chau asked about enforcement.

Council President Lischin felt it was more of an awareness issue.

Councilman Smith was in favor of moving forward, he thought it was a positive step, he agreed with Council President Lischin about raising awareness, and while enforcement may be difficult it doesn't mean you don't take the step.

Solicitor Facenda felt a committee was a good idea, they could figure out when a ban would start, who it would apply to, etc. He could have resolution to the State ready for the next meeting.

Councilwoman Krongut asked what would happen if business owners oppose a ban.

Solicitor Facenda reminded Council that they were your voting constituents, either you adopt the ordinance or not.

Councilman O'Neill suggested publicizing it and getting businesses to come in.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
AUGUST 13, 2019**

Councilman Perri felt that restrictions may increase the costs to businesses, which would then be passed on to the customers. We were in the highest-taxed state in the country. Were we going to force customers to go to businesses in other towns that don't have a ban? There was a lot to be considered.

Council President Lischin noted the next step was to figure out what our ordinance should include, this would be the function of the committee
Solicitor Facenda added that he could look at model ordinances and provide a list of bullet points for Council.

Council President Lischin then asked for volunteers to serve on the committee, but received no responses.

Mayor Chau reiterated that we should take our time; he recalled when he wanted to implement guidelines on the bike path and some members of Council were not interested in entertaining it. He felt we should collect information; we don't want to over-regulate.

Councilwoman King asked that Solicitor Facenda bring a sample from another town.

Municipal Clerk Canesi suggested the Economic Development Committee explore the matter, but acknowledged that she did not know who the current members were.

- Resolution in Support of Online Training for Firefighters – *Resolution to be provided by Council President Lischin*

Council President Lischin asked Clerk Canesi to confirm that she did not get the fire training resolution.

Clerk Canesi confirmed that she did not.

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

Council President Lischin asked Councilman Perri to speak regarding the children at play request.

Councilman Perri advised there was an existing older sign there; residents were willing to pay for the stenciling.

Chief Newman approached the podium and spoke; he was not in favor of street stenciling. There are maintenance issues, and what do you do when the kids move off the street? The existing ‘children at play’ sign was not a recognized sign; he explained the acceptable sign that reads

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
AUGUST 13, 2019**

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

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.

Eric Leeds, 802 Debora Street, said he would like to ask the Council to consider renaming the Veterans Park in honor of the recently deceased Bob Webb.

Council President Lischin responded that he thought it was a great idea, adding that Councilman Dewees was the chair and that we should go through him, and contact the family.

Bill Garry, 202 South James Place, spoke regarding the children at play - or in area - signs for a particular street. He was not sure what these signs cost, but there were a lot of children in Northfield. If everyone starts to ask for them, keep in mind how many streets there are and how many kids there are. This could be very expensive; what was the protocol? Council would need to discuss before proceeding.

Council President Lischin cited the spot as an unusual spot, a cul de sac off of Mill Road; people use it as a turnaround.

Mr. Garry questioned whether the no outlet sign should be larger? Children are at play everywhere. He felt it was going to open up a can of worms. He said he wanted one on his street; when there are a lot of signs do they lose their effectiveness.

Mayor Chau commented that he understood where Mr. Garry was coming from; Mayor Chau's experience was that the Police Department becomes involved, and he did not feel we've reached the level of signs being put everywhere. He cited the example of a resident who lived near a business who wanted a 4-way stop with blinking lights. He did not know what Council has done about that.

Council President Lischin would look into Mr. Garry's concerns.

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

At 6:44pm, on a motion of Councilwoman Kathryn Rungt, seconded by Councilman Perri, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
AUGUST 13, 2019**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Registered Municipal Clerk