

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 11, 2018**

At 5:59pm this meeting was called to order by Deputy Municipal Clerk Shannon Campbell. 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, Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Travagline, Dewees
Absent: Perri

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

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS

Council President Dewees welcomed everyone and deferred to Solicitor Facenda for an update on the potential land sale.

- Potential Land Sale – Update

Solicitor Facenda advised that he and Council President Dewees would be meeting this Friday to go over the updated list and prepare, send, and publish notices as appropriate.

- Sign Ordinance Changes

Council President Dewees deferred to Councilman Lischin to speak in regards to the sign ordinance.

Councilman Lischin advised that the committee would be meeting this Friday and he would have a report at the next meeting.

Council President Dewees moved to the next topic; Chestnut Avenue parking. He asked Solicitor Facenda if he found anything.

- Chestnut Avenue Parking, between Maple Avenue and New Road

Solicitor Facenda did check Title 39.

Council President Dewees asked if anyone had spoken to the Mazzeo's.

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At 6:02pm Councilman Perri arrived.

Councilman Travagline replied that he had, over a year ago.

Council President Dewees asked if Council would like to move forward with the recommendation from the Police Department; or would someone talk to the Mazzeo's?

Councilman Travagline asked what was agreed upon by the Planning Board.

Solicitor Facenda advised that since the issue is offsite it was not a Planning Board issue.

Councilwoman Korngut noted that she had reached out to Mr. Mazzeo and it was his understanding that he was in compliance; she felt he should be heard.

Mayor Chau added that a resident brought up the issue about parking; the Planning Board said it was not a part of the application, it's a Council matter.

Councilman Travagline thought it was a good compromise that trucks not be in the street.

Councilwoman Korngut felt that if the owner had not been noticed, he should be noticed and given a chance to speak.

Solicitor Facenda advised that if there were violations of a prior Ordinance, the Zoning Officer needed to enforce and if it was a parking issue the Police Department needed to enforce.

Councilman Travagline stated that they were aware that there were issues, we needed to make a decision.

Solicitor Facenda reminded Council that they had a recommendation from the Police Department and asked if they wanted to adhere to it.

Councilman Lischin noted that the resident was concerned with noise from refrigeration, now we had a parking recommendation from the Police Department. Mazzeo's were here and they were against the change in the parking.

Councilman Perri was in favor of working with the business owners.

Clerk Canesi provided Solicitor Facenda with the Decision and Resolution from the Planning Board, and he reviewed the document during the meeting, noting that "no

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unloading” of trucks on the streets was part of their variance and site plan. The resolution included that they would use the rear of the property for deliveries.

Councilman Lischin stated that resident complaints are that the business is not following the agreement, he felt zoning needed to be enforced.

Councilman Perri asked if there was a formal complaint and if there were any summonses issued for parking.

Solicitor Facenda deferred to Chief Newman who replied that none had been issued.

Mayor Chau recommended that as a courtesy we hold off and ask Mr. Mazzeo to come to a meeting.

Council President Dewees offered to reach out to Mr. Mazzeo and address the complaints.

Solicitor Facenda advised that Council could only control the parking.

Mayor Chau added that in regards to the traffic study, restricted parking was recommended.

All members of Council were in favor of Council President Dewees reaching out to Mazzeo’s.

Councilman Travagline stated that he wanted it on the record that time had gone by and they had been parking in the area, he wanted to make sure that an agreement can come as soon as possible.

Councilman O’Neill asked if an emergency vehicle could pass if there was a truck in the area where they were currently making deliveries.

Mayor Chau believed access may be hindered.

Councilman Lischin felt Mazzeo’s should adhere to what the Planning Board approved.

Solicitor Facenda explained that the document from the Planning Board is what should be happening, if not zoning needed to enforce it. The Police Department needed to enforce parking issues, the resident was only reaching out in regards to parking issues. The Council could impose parking in that section in accordance with the recommendation from the Police Department. Currently there were no restrictions and cars could legally park there; the basis of the approval was the alleviation of congestion.

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Councilman Travagline added that he did not want to inconvenience the business owner, but, residents were complaining.

Council President Dewees deferred to Engineer Nassar to speak in regards to the proposed 2018 paving project.

- Proposed 2018 Paving Project – Engineer Nassar

Engineer Nassar referred to the 2018 paving list as distributed to Council at the last meeting. The list contained recommended streets for reconstruction and milling and paving. He requested Council’s authorization to do core drilling; after the study he would be able to provide a cost estimate.

Council President Dewees asked for further clarification in regards to Shepherd Drive.

Engineer Nassar explained that he would like to apply through the NJDOT Municipal Aid grant to reconstruct Shepherd Drive from Route 9 to Wabash; the application was due in early October.

All Council members present approved core drilling and the recommendation made in regards to Shepherd Drive.

Councilman Perri noted a sag in the pavement on Second Street from Davis Avenue to Dolphin.

Engineer Nassar replied that many sections had been repaired; the gas company did a lot of the work, there are still some small sections that need to be filled in.

Councilman Perri would like a recommendation from the Sewer Department.

Council President Dewees recommended using the list provided and moving forward.

All present were in favor of moving forward with the list Engineer Nassar provided.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Reduction of Speed Limit on Portions of US Route 9 – *Req. Councilman Travagline*

Council President Dewees would like to get the process from Chief Newman; Chief Newman was not in the room at the time.

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Councilman Travagline explained he was only talking about two small portions that were 40mph now, he would like them to be lowered to 35mph.

Council President Dewees noted that there were criteria that the City would need to meet, Council would need to find out what it was.

Councilman Travagline advised that the State talked about this years ago and it never happened.

Councilwoman Korngut asked for the Chief's view prior to making a decision.

- Selection of project: 2019 Municipal Aid Grant – *Time sensitive, req. by Engineer Nassar*

This matter was discussed earlier during the meeting, along with the 2018 Paving Project.

Council President Dewees deferred to Engineer Nassar to speak in regards to the generator.

- Stand-By Generator / FEMA Grant - *req. by Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar explained that a bid was previously put out and only one bid came in; it was more than anticipated. A State contractor also provided us with a price that was under \$40,000.00 but the decibels were over our specifications. Engineer Nassar sets the limit for the specifications, he explained the noise associated with different decibel levels. We have been granted an extension; he would like to go back out to bid.

Councilman Perri was in favor a rebidding as the generator is a benefit to our residents if it ran 24/7.

All present were in favor of rebidding the generator.

Council President Dewees asked Chief Newman for information on changing the speed limit on New Road.

Chief Newman advised that the City would need to send a Resolution to the State asking for speed limit to be lowered. He did send an email with speed limit data to Council. He reported on the number of crashes from 2016 to date, none were significant; there were no fatalities. The majority of accidents were same direction rear-end collisions and the injuries were minor, only two of the reported accidents were due to speed. All of the data is reported to the State. The speed limited between

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Jackson and Cedar Bridge is 35mph, by the school it lowers to 25mph when children are present.

Councilwoman Korngut asked Chief Newman for his position.

Chief Newman saw no harm in making all of New Road 35mph. He did not have the process from the State and did not know exactly what they were looking for.

At 6:32pm Mayor Chau left the room and returned 6:33pm

Chief Newman advised that he would contact the State and find out the required criteria.

Councilman Perri felt that the restructure by the State on Tilton Road and Route 9 had been a big help.

Councilwoman Korngut reported that two residents had contacted her in regards to an issue with rats in their neighborhood; she and a few of the residents did contact the County Division of Public Health.

Councilman O'Neill asked which streets had the issues.

Councilwoman Korngut believed the work at the Country Club had brought them out, from Fairway Avenue to Zion Road.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Dewees reviewed the regular meeting agenda.

Councilwoman Korngut requested that Resolutions 169-2018 and 170-2018 be voted separately to add clarification that the lights can not be used. The Clerk's Office did advise one applicant that lights could not be used but she wanted to be sure the Resolutions reflected that.

Council President Dewees made the assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Avenue – spoke in regards to the Ordinance at Mazzeo's; Carluccio's was worse. The Police were there last week writing tickets, the Department can't keep Police there.

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Councilman Travagline advised that double parking not allowed anywhere.

Mr. Wolfe noted that parking violations were not being enforced, vehicles were parking on the public sidewalk. He also heard that Carluccio's wanted to put in a parking lot.

Mayor Chau felt an additional parking (lot) would alleviate the parking issues.

Mr. Wolfe felt the State should be involved and that Davis Avenue should be a one-way street again.

Mayor Chau asked for clarification that the 2-way street was not requested by Mr. Mazzeo.

Municipal Clerk Canesi stated that in 2008 or 2009 a Resolution was adopted as a result of the reconfiguration of the intersection of Tilton and New Roads, making Davis Avenue a two-way street. This was 5 years before Carluccio's opened.

Councilman Travagline asked if there were any weight restrictions on municipal streets.

Councilman Perri reminded Council that we have trash trucks driving on them on them every day.

Solicitor Facenda advised that this was not an issue for Council, they could only restrict parking, if there was a Title 39 issue then it was up to the Police Department to enforce it. He asked Chief Newman if any summonses were issued to anyone in the area.

Chief Newman was not aware that any tickets were issued.

Mr. Wolfe asked who can make the street one way again, he, wanted the State to reconfigure it.

Clerk Canesi suggested that a member of Council reach out to Mr. Citera, owner of Carluccio's.

Mayor Chau reported that he did speak with Mr. Citera and advised that some residents complained about the trucks, he advised that he was going to come to the Planning Board in regards to building a parking lot.

Councilman Travagline suggested creating a committee for a trucking route.

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Council President Dewees would contact Councilman Travagline tomorrow.

Councilman Perri asked if we had a traffic counter.

Chief Newman replied that the speed sentry would do a counter, police had been advised of the issues. He suggested that Mr. Wolfe contact dispatch when he sees a violation.

Fern Hedrick, 16 Fairway Avenue – spoke in regards to a rat problem in her back yard. She had called the County and she had tried trapping them as they suggested. She was concerned with reoccurrence and was requesting assistance from the City; she was not sure where the rats were coming from. She heard from residents in other areas of town that were having the same problem. Improvements in town were great but they were driving out the rats.

Council President Dewees asked Clerk Canesi what happened when a resident reported this sort of issue to the County.

Clerk Canesi, based on her conversation with the County, announced that rodents follow a food source, the County recommended that they remove all food sources; gardens, bird feeders etc., the City did not have the ability or personnel to remove the rats, some issues may not have been reported, we have had less reports this year than last year. The County would not come out and remove the rats, they will tell you how to do so.

Mrs. Hedrick added that had cost her out of pocket to poison the rats, she couldn't garden because of them, she requested that the City to do something.

Clerk Canesi reiterated that unintentional feeding was an issue; the County tries to educate residents.

Anthony Perez, 17 Jackson Avenue - stated that there was a rat infestation along the houses on the first block of Jackson Avenue. He too had set several traps, he was concerned about the new families with many kids that had moved into his neighborhood.

Councilman O'Neill felt that since the City provided trash and fire, we could hire someone to investigate if there was an issue.

Councilman Murray added that there were rats in his neighborhood.

Councilman Perri noted that his neighborhood had been dealing with them for two years. Residents need to get rid of their gardens and bird feeders.

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Kathy Sita, 21 Jackson Avenue – stated that she had been proactive and followed all of the guidelines, she passed out pamphlets to her neighbors; they all met and talked. She also spoke with Clerk Canesi who referred her back to the Health Department. She suggested an awareness campaign be sent to the residents, she requested letters be sent out to advise residents there was an issue. She just wanted people to be aware.

Councilman Perri knew people may not want anyone to know they had rats, he suggested a letter like the County sent regards mosquitos.

Councilman Lischin noted that we live by the marshes and the bird sanctuary.

Carol Conley, 23 Jackson Avenue – has set traps. She has an annual exterminator for maintenance who advised her that the rats in Northfield were invasive, anywhere a bird feeder was there would be a rat, she would like a letter to be sent out asking residents to refrain from using bird feeders.

Councilman Murray has had rats as well, he thought it was just him, an exterminator also told him that bird feeders were bringing them in.

Councilman O'Neill suggested a mailing campaign.

Council President Dewees replied that we would come up with something.

Councilwoman Korngut responded that she would put something on her Facebook page.

Mrs. Conley felt if someone every few blocks put out the poison it would help.

Mike McGowan, PlayMore Sports - addressed Council in the hopes of renting our athletic fields to generate revenue for the City. His organization had worked with townships throughout the State, they use turf fields and recreation fields for adult sports; softball, flag football, etc., and would pay rental revenue to the City. They would not use fields when recreational sports were in season. They had worked with local schools for gyms and towns for fields.

Councilwoman Korngut asked if these were travel leagues or Northfield residents.

Mr. McGowan explained that they were not travel leagues, they service to young adults, anyone in the area could join. He had received requests from people in our area to bring the sports to our area.

Councilwoman Korngut asked if they would indemnify the City.

Mr. McGowan replied yes, all insurance would be provided.

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Councilman Murray asked what the City would get.

Mr. McGowan replied that would be dependent on the number of teams and the number of registrations, they had a few outdoor leagues in the winter, most of their programs were in the spring and fall.

Keith Burke, 13 Haviv Drive – Coach for the 10U Sandsharks, in regards to specifics of his field use request, he was not looking to use the lights, he requested Sunday mornings and Monday evenings before it gets dark.

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

At 7:14pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Campbell, Deputy Municipal Clerk