

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 9, 2018**

At 6:04pm 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, Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Dewees
Absent: Travagline

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

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS

- Potential Land Sale – Update

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

Solicitor Facenda advised that he and Council President Dewees would meet to discuss minimum bids; they would bring them to council and would prepare an Ordinance.

- Sign Ordinance Changes

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

Councilman Lischin reported that the committee met and reviewed the ordinance, specifically LED, and in the interim a communication was received from the Planning Board requesting a meeting. Councilman Lischin would set up a meeting and provide a report after they meet.

Councilman Perri asked if they were addressing non-confirming businesses.

Councilman Lischin replied yes, and said sandwich boards were specifically addressed and included.

- Chestnut Avenue Parking, between Maple Avenue and New Road

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Council President Dewees asked Chief Newman to speak regarding truck parking.

Chief Newman reported there was a recommendation for a tonnage limit; he will confer with Lieutenant Dettinger. Once this has been determined, he will pass the information along to the Clerk. Council would then have to come up with language for an ordinance.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

Council President Dewees moved to new business.

- Resolution in support of Assembly Bill 3766 – Requested by Councilwoman Korngut

Councilwoman Korngut announced that she had 50 people at her office last Sunday for an assembly for survivors of sexual assault, to bring awareness and to honor survivors. This was put together in less than 24 hours. She explained that a recently passed assembly bill would add sexually related offenses to the list of offenses that would cause a public employee or official to lose their pension. She drafted a resolution in support of the pending bill. To be clear, there was already a law, this would add to the list of offenses. She was particularly concerned with the most vulnerable population and some of the statistics, and that we are honoring those who need this protection. This affected more women than men. Councilwoman Korngut read several statistics that supported the increased likelihood of these types of offenses being committed against women, lesbians, transgender individuals and other vulnerable groups. She hoped Council would agree and support the resolution.

Council President Dewees asked Solicitor Facenda for his opinion.

Solicitor Facenda replied that he had reviewed it and made recommendations; some were accepted by Councilwoman Korngut while some were rejected. The resolution provided to Council was the form being presented by Councilwoman Korngut.

Councilman Perri wanted to be clear this was for public employees. He asked what happened to everyone else who has a pension.

Councilwoman Korngut replied that every case is different; criminal law is not her specialty. Is it as broad as she would have drafted it? No, but she would support every effort they are making.

Solicitor Facenda noted there were a litany of other offenses that were already on the books in the existing law, the bill extended the violations to included sexual violence, sexual assault, and lewdness.

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Councilman O'Neill requested a copy of the original bill.

Solicitor Facenda advised he had it and would provide it to Councilman O'Neill.

Councilman Murray said he looked at the bill today. He reported that it did get bipartisan support and passed 79-0.

Council President Dewees noted the statistics in the resolution, and asked if there was a way to prove that they were necessary? They didn't seem to add a lot to the bill.

Councilwoman Korngut advised that the Solicitor made some recommendations, she did research them and the endnotes were in the end of the resolution. She would defer to Council, but does not see how it could hurt to include them.

Councilman Murray couldn't find in the bill or the preamble anything that explained why these offenses were now being included.

Councilman Lischin asked if we were mirroring that bill in our resolution of support. He said he did not understand why the statistics were included. We want people to be punished for their actions. He was in favor of supporting the bill that the legislature had taken up.

Solicitor Facenda advised that Council was free to support the bill with the statistics or without.

Councilman Lischin stated that did not feel our support would matter; he had seen this with other entities.

Councilwoman Korngut replied that to the survivors, in Northfield and beyond, it would matter. She would appreciate the support.

Solicitor Facenda read from the bill; it included any state or locally pensioned job.

Council President Dewees encouraged all to read the bill and resolution and give their comments to the Clerk or Solicitor.

Councilman Lischin replied that he, too, wanted to read the actual bill.

Council President Dewees advised he would put the resolution on the next agenda.

- Use of Metal Detector at Birch Grove Park / Other Public Lands – Requested by Clerk / Solicitor

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Solicitor Facenda explained there was a code of ethics for the metal detector community. As to using one, the State allows it with a permit. The County also allows it with a permit. The concern was that we didn't have anything on our books that permits or prohibits it, with a permit or without, with what terms and conditions, etc.

Council President Dewees asked who owned something of value that may be found.

Solicitor Facenda replied, "Finders Keepers". Some concerns were related to leaving holes unfilled, but the code of ethics did address the need to refill holes. Right now, it was permitted, with no permit. Council's choice was to leave it alone and do nothing; prohibit it; or permit it with a permit.

Councilman Perri commented that if we have no law on the books, and they do something wrong, the liability would be theirs.

Solicitor Facenda responded that would more than likely the liability would fall to the JIF.

Councilman Murray noted that he had never seen anyone at Birch Grove doing this – he was not sure we need a law to prohibit it.

Mayor Chau felt if it got out of hand we may want to make a change.

Clerk Canesi explained how the issue came to her attention, which was that apparently an individual using a metal detector at the park was approached by a police officer and advised that a permit was required. The gentleman in question donated everything he found that day to the museum; the museum, in turn, contacted the Clerk's office to inquire about the process to obtain a permit.

Councilwoman Korngut's initial inclination was to generate some income, but she didn't want it to be a destination. If it became an issue down the road, we could legislate it.

- 2018 Road Program Update – Engineer Nassar

Council President Dewees asked Engineer Nassar to address the paving project.

Engineer Nassar explained he received the results of the test bores. Most places have less than 2" of paving, and have been around for 30-40 years. He proposed milling and paving for streets that don't have a lot of traffic. He proposed 4" paving for sections of Infield, Juniper Drive, and one section of Park Lane. The budget was about \$600,000.00. Depending on the numbers from the contractors, if we can do more streets, we would.

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Mayor Chau asked what was the normal thickness of a street.

Engineer Nassar replied 2 inches.

Councilman Murray asked who paved from Mill Road to New Road, south.

Engineer Nassar replied it was Pioneer Pipe on behalf of the water company.

Councilman Murray asked Engineer Nassar how thick that was and did we have control over that.

Engineer Nassar responded that he did not know how thick it was and we did not have any control over it.

Engineer Nassar explained the Shepherd Drive grant application. That area would need to be reconstructed.

Engineer Nassar asked if he should move forward for next meeting.

Council President Dewees replied yes.

Councilwoman Korngut, in regard to the resolution she presented earlier during this meeting, asked if she took out the statistics, could the resolution be adopted this evening.

Councilman O'Neill replied that he still wished to read the bill.

Solicitor Facenda provided the bill to Councilman O'Neill for his review.

Council President Dewees was in favor if the statistics were removed.

Councilwoman Korngut advised it would begin then, at the 6th whereas.

Solicitor Facenda made the necessary edits.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Dewees reviewed the agenda.

Councilman O'Neill asked to do resolutions at the top of the meeting.

Council President Dewees agreed.

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Council President Dewees made the assignments to include Resolution 189-2018.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Terry Benjamin, 315 Jackson Avenue – thanked Councilwoman Korngut for bringing this to Council's attention. She was a survivor of abuse as a teenager, and at age 65 it still haunted her. Lend the voice of Northfield to those who have not had a voice for so long.

Jacqueline Reynolds, 9 Wilson Drive – noted that this town had always taken care of its residents; we needed to show that this city was not so small.

Carol Conley Klahorst, 23 Jackson Avenue – was also a survivor, and had heard all of the statistics that Councilwoman Korngut said tonight, before. This was not the first time she'd heard them. She asked all to stand who support the resolution being proposed by Ms Korngut.

Councilwoman Korngut asked that the record reflect that 11 people stood.

Maureen Leidy, spoke, announced that she was running at Freeholder level, and said she thought the statistics should be included.

Carol Conley Klahorst – asked for an update on the rat issue.

Councilwoman Korngut responded that Council decided to send out a mailer in the next tax notice about birdfeeders.

Mayor Chau asked Council to hold off on a decision until he meets with County representatives on the rodent issue, West Nile, and rabies. He suggested we could combine into one mailer.

Council President Dewees felt it would be better if the County sent it out.

Ms Conley Klahorst suggested an article in the Current about birdfeeders.

Mayor Chau noted that the City had been in contact with Sue Marino.

Ms Conley Klahorst then addressed an issue that Engineer Nassar had been helping her with; she said SJ Gas Company damaged her curb when doing work in 2017. Ms Conley Klahorst stated that Engineer Nassar had reported to her that it was the gas

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company's responsibility. She had since called them 11 times. Was there anything the City could do to assist her?

Engineer Nassar replied that the gas company claimed to have video that the curb was not changed, the current condition was pre-existing. They weren't going to do anything about it, and we can't force them.

Councilwoman Korngut asked Engineer Nassar if he had seen the before pictures.

Engineer Nassar replied that the pictures show it was leaning, he couldn't tell.

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

Solicitor Facenda announced that he did not believe we needed resolution 186-2018.

At 6:55pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, Registered Municipal Clerk