

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 23, 2018**

At 6:00pm 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, 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 the Ordinance on tonight's agenda would authorize the land sale; the minimum bids came directly from the Tax Assessor.

- Sign Ordinance Changes

Council President Dewees announced that Councilman Lischin was not here but believed there was a Sign Committee meeting with the Planning Board tomorrow.

- Chestnut Avenue Parking, between Maple Avenue and New Road

Regarding Chestnut Avenue parking, Council President Dewees stated that Council had been asked to come up with the size of the vehicle that we want to limit. He asked Chief Newman if he knew the weight of a box-truck size vehicle.

Chief Newman advised Council that they would have to come up with a tonnage. The last email sent to Clerk Canesi was an ordinance borrowed from another town, possibly in the 5-10,000 pound range. He asked if it was 'no parking', or would it also include 'no stopping or standing'? He then asked about other streets; if a resident was doing work on their home and had a load of sheetrock delivered, were they in violation of the ordinance? Statute NJSA 39:4-136 was already on the books and stated you have to have 15 feet of passage.

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Councilman Murray asked how big a 5,000-pound vehicle was.

Councilman Perri replied that his pick-up was 5,300 pounds.

Engineer Nassar added that a delivery box truck was 14,000 pounds.

Councilman Perri noted that truck routes were in the Code, but the streets were not delineated.

Solicitor Facenda added that the reason for the legislation was to react to certain conditions.

Councilman Perri commented that he was leaning more toward no parking at all than limits based on the weight of a truck.

Council President Dewees felt no parking at all would prevent customers who want to use the business from parking there; he felt it should be more 'no loading and unloading'.

Councilman Travagline said it had always been a safety issue - if we have truck routes, then that resolves the issue.

Councilman Perri asked if anyone talked to the business owner.

Council President Dewees replied, yes.

Councilman Perri asked if there was some indication that it was not his truck.

Council President Dewees responded yes, it was a vendor's truck.

Engineer Nassar asked if widening the road was a possibility.

Council President Dewees advised Engineer Nassar that he would call him to discuss.

Solicitor Facenda spoke regarding the 911 artifact, as mentioned at the last Council meeting; he stated that Clerk Canesi provided the agreements and there were no restrictions limiting where we can display it.

Solicitor Facenda also spoke regarding the Volunteer Workers Emergency Pension that the Mayor brought up, it's a state pension, provided by the state to qualifying individuals who were responding to emergency activities. The only thing the City would need to do would be to adopt a resolution, upon the occurrence of a qualifying event, and send it to the state; benefits only go to certain individuals and the rates of benefit vary.

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Council President Dewees, in regard to the artifact, asked Council if they had any thoughts about where it should be displayed. Council President Dewees' preference was here, at City Hall, or at Veterans Park.

Councilman Perri agreed with Council President Dewees.

Councilman O'Neill felt unless we were going to do something in the next few days, it should be given to the school.

Councilman Travagline felt it should be displayed at City Hall.

Councilwoman Korngut advocated for Veterans Park.

Councilman Murray spoke in favor of giving it to the school.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

Council President Dewees moved to new business.

- 2019 Professional Services RFQ (*tentative: advertise 10/27, responses due 11/30*)

Council President Dewees would like to award professional services this year.

Councilman Perri didn't think this Council could; the next administration had to deal with them.

All members present were in favor of advertising.

Clerk Canesi requested that the Council confirm that the Council did not wish to make any changes to the qualifications for Professional Services providers; no changes were requested.

- *Bike Trails at BGP – Grant Denied*

Council President Dewees advised that he would bring up the issue of bike trails at the park with the Advisory Board. He asked that if Council had any suggestions to please contact him.

- Zion Road Sanitary Sewer Pump Station, requested by Engineer Nassar and Councilman Perri

Council President Dewees asked Engineer Nassar to speak regarding the Zion Road pump station.

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Engineer Nassar explained that the Zion Road station was about 40 years old, we tried to use NJEIT funding for the Davis Avenue pump station but the State failed to act on our application that was sent in February and we were under a time constraint. We have the time now to apply for the funds for the Zion Road station and attach to it the asset management plan, it will be 25% of the loan at zero interest, and if we do the asset management plan they will forgive that portion of the project, up to \$100,000.00. We were planning to move forward now, so we have time to address any questions or problems.

Mayor Chau asked for explanation of how the Zion Road system functioned.

Engineer Nassar explained; the design was antiquated and repairs were frequent and labor intensive. He asked Council if he should move forward.

Councilman Perri replied that he tried to have a meeting with the CFO and the license holder; they would be meeting Friday. There were some other issues, such as slip lining, cameras, etc. We needed a main project to put everything else together. He would like to get the input from the employees and the CFO, he wanted to be able to report on everything else we're looking at.

Engineer Nassar advised that we could wait until the next meeting.

Councilman O'Neill reported a flooding issue on behalf of Mrs. Haslett on Shepherd Drive.

Engineer Nassar noted that address had been figured into the project.

Councilman Perri thanked Mayor Chau and Deputy Clerk Shannon Campbell for getting back to him on the school issue; he understood we were bringing on 2 classrooms in January and the Synagogue was bringing on 2 class rooms. He wondered why the school would bring more children into the system now, if we were going to have more children with Cresson Hill. They were talking about an addition at the Kindergarten wing. He felt there should be more communication, residents were asking him.

Mayor Chau stated the information he received is that there was no sunset date for the grant.

Councilman Perri felt there was concern that we will have to increase the size of the school for the Cresson Hill development.

Councilman Travagline advised that when he was on the Board of Education they discussed it and it was extremely expensive. It was his understanding that the enrollment had been going down; he didn't see why they would need that room.

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AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Dewees reviewed the agenda and made the assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Gina Afifi, 407 Park Lane – advised Council that her neighborhood had an ongoing problem with stray cats. Animal Control had confirmed that a Park Lane neighbor was feeding and providing shelter to the stray cats; this made the problem worse because the cats urinate and defecate where they are not fed. The odors were noxious. Animal Control had confirmed that the neighbor does not cooperate, and sets the cats free. This had been going on for many years.

Council President Dewees stated that he was aware of the issue and asked Clerk Canesi to provide details.

Mrs. Afifi noted the animals destroy the yards where they are not being fed.

Clerk Canesi explained that the complaints started several months ago, and animal control was notified. She didn't hear anything for a while and wrongly assumed the problem had been rectified, until Mrs. Afifi called last Friday, and explained that not only was it not better, it was worse than ever over the entire summer.

Mayor Chau asked had the neighbors approached the household.

Mrs. Afifi replied yes, and animal control had approached the household.

Joe Trepana, Fulton Bank – Mr. Trepana introduced Lori, as branch manager, and they are interested in providing municipal banking services. They were owned by a large corporation but provided small town services.

Mayor Chau asked if they had met with the CFO.

Councilman O'Neill asked when was the last time we went out to bid for banking services.

Councilman Travagline was familiar with Fulton Bank; they do a lot for Little League, we should look at them.

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Councilwoman Korngut stated that she does her banking there and has always had good experiences.

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

At 6:46pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, Registered Municipal Clerk