

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2014**

At 5:57pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2014 in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor McGee. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chau, Devine, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline
Absent: Dewees, Piergiovanni

Mayor Jerry McGee, Solicitor Kris Facenda, and Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski were also in attendance.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- 6pm – Northfield Bike and Pedestrian Plan

Council President Travagline introduced Dave Cox from Urban Engineers who gave a presentation on a proposed pedestrian and bicycle traffic plan.

Mr. Cox stated he is looking for input from residents. His firm consults with NJDOT; they look for ways to promote alternative transportation, and to do so with safety in mind. He referred to boards that were on display to show the data that has been collected. He noted information that is available on the City website, including a link to the study's website. He urged the public for participation. He explained how the data will be used and that he will be back at some point to present the study findings.

Mr. Cox offered to answer questions from the public and from Council.

Council President Travagline said it was a good starting point to capitalize on the good ideas that residents and members of Council have; he urged all to continue to review the materials. He thanked Mr. Cox.

- Ordinance to Authorize Fines for Failure to Maintain Vacant Properties

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Council President Travagline deferred to Solicitor Facenda for discussion of an ordinance that can be adopted to address property maintenance issues on foreclosed properties.

Solicitor Facenda explained the provisions that the new law will provide for if Northfield adopts the ordinance; it ensures that points of contact for foreclosed properties are to be provided to the municipality, and calls for stiff penalties for non-compliance. He wanted to see if this was something that Council wanted him to pursue as an option for Northfield.

Mayor McGee asked what the differences were between the new and old law.

Solicitor Facenda hasn't had the chance to fully review it, but seems to put the bank on the hook, instead of the City being on the hook.

Councilman Perri feels the ordinance would help, because right now, banks don't seem to want to take responsibility.

Solicitor Facenda pointed out that the banks don't technically own the property while still in the foreclosure process.

Council President Travagline asked if there were any downsides.

Solicitor Facenda didn't think so.

- 2014 Paving Project

Council President Travagline again deferred to the Solicitor to explain the situation with SJ Gas and the 2014 paving project.

Solicitor Facenda explained the paving contract began on October 14, 2014, which provided for work to be completed by mid-December, but the City Engineer was recently notified that there is repair work that needs to be done. Ideally, Northfield would want that work done before the road is paved, to prevent the need for future, emergency road openings. There are provisions in the contract to allow for the delays, no anticipation that the contractor would have any significant objections. He explained the options; the preferred option would be to do a change order to extend the completion date so that the gas company can do the work.

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Council President Travagline asked City Engineer Kwapinski to brief Council on a meeting that was held this past Monday with SJ Gas.

Engineer Kwapinski stated that in the meeting SJ Gas informed him they can start work in mid-January and they anticipate it will take about two months, but weather could delay this. The work to be done involves replacing existing low pressure service with high pressure service. If they don't do the work, and we pave anyway, the City's road work could cause gas leaks in their system as a result of the vibrations.

Mayor McGee asked if the City notifies utilities when we are going to pave a street.

Engineer Kwapinski stated yes, we notified the utilities over a year ago. SJ Gas didn't have enough money in their budget to get out ahead of us.

Councilman Perri asked about cost sharing.

Engineer Kwapinski said no cost-sharing agreement is in place or has been finalized.

Discussion ensued between Councilman Perri, Engineer Kwapinski and Mayor McGee with regard to paving requirements and possible cost-sharing options.

Councilman Perri feels an ordinance should be in place to allow compensation for these situations.

Solicitor Facenda asked for Council to provide direction on the issue of the 2014 paving project.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to any member of the public wishing to speak on any subject.

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

Council President Travagline reviewed regular agenda and asked Council if there were any questions on same.

Councilman Perri wanted background on Resolution 183-2014.

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Municipal Clerk Canesi explained. When Northfield adopted the provisions of the Chapter 48 legislation in 2012, there was a typographical error that resulted in certain information being omitted. What was formalized in the Chapter 48 Resolution was what had been bargained into the various collective bargaining agreements over the years. This Resolution formalizes for the State what the City has already agreed to in the various union contracts.

Councilman Perri asked if we were not in the State Health Benefits Plan, would this still apply; resolution seems to indicate that.

Clerk Canesi was unable to answer that question but will get an answer.

Councilman Perri noted that he will not be voting on the fire truck expenditure.

Councilman Chau asked if there were stipulations that have to be met for the hardship waiver.

Solicitor Facenda has them, yes, and will give them to Councilman Chau.

At 6:58pm on motions properly made and seconded this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC
Municipal Clerk