

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
OCTOBER 29, 2019**

At 6:07pm 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: Dewees, Korngut, Madden, O'Neill, Perri, Smith, Lischin

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

**WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS**

Council President Lischin asked Councilman Dewees to speak regarding bike trails at the park.

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

Councilman Dewees advised that Engineer Nassar would be showing a trail map on the projector, and thanked Deputy Clerk Campbell, Superintendent of Public Works Vitale and Engineer Nassar for their hard work on this project. He said Superintendent Vitale had identified trails that were suitable for bicycle and pedestrian traffic; all were on the outer loop. The inner loop trails were foot traffic only. He said the map had previously been emailed to Council, and passed around a single hard copy.

Engineer Nassar put the map on the overhead projector for all to view and explained the shared-use trails. The rules and signage to be posted along with maps would be mounted on a sign board at the entrance.

Councilman Dewees reiterated that signs and rules would be posted, and that we would be relying on people to follow the rules and be courteous.

Councilwoman Madden asked if there were names for the trails; she suggested nature-related names.

Councilman Dewees was open to suggestions.

Mayor Chau had seen this before, named after indigenous animals.

Council President Lischin commented that this was the culmination of a lot of work,

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and he appreciated it. He acknowledged Engineer Nassar and Deputy Clerk Campbell who were in attendance, and thanked the Advisory Board as well.

Councilman Dewees acknowledged this as a big change for the Advisory Board and said he applauded their passion for the park and the fact that they were open to this idea.

Mayor Chau asked if the trails would be left in their natural state.

Councilman Dewees replied yes.

Councilman Dewees was looking forward to this; he had received great feedback from residents.

Council President Lischin suggested noting distances and trail mileage, since this was for exercise and recreation.

Councilman Dewees also suggested renewing or replacing the exercise stations.

Engineer Nassar replied if we were going to put mileage on the map he would like to do so now.

Council President Lischin asked all to get feedback to Councilman Dewees. He again thanked Engineer Nassar, Councilman Dewees, Superintendent Vitale and Deputy Clerk Campbell for their help.

- Use of Lights on Athletic Fields – *Requested by Councilman Smith*

Council President Lischin moved to discussion of the fee ordinance, and said we were waiting on the Fire Department's recommendations. We've been back and forth a few times but did not think we were there yet.

Mayor Chau would like to have another meeting with Chief Cummings before proceeding.

- Radio Tower, Rear of City Hall - *Solicitor/Clerk RFP Pending*

Council President Lischin asked about the radio tower at City Hall.

Solicitor Facenda reported that he spoke with Clerk Canesi and Councilman Perri; he was doing a bit of research and just needed some background information on the construction of the antenna. At the end of the day we should be able to go out for RFP.

**WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS**

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- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Council President Lischin moved to new business, and referred to grant opportunities. He announced that the Fire Department was able to secure the SCBA grant which would save the City around \$150,000.00-\$160,000.00. He explained the planned obsolescence of these devices, which meant they would eventually need to be replaced.

Engineer Nassar advised that he received a call from the ACIA; we applied for a grant for the seniors to be used at Birch Grove and we are able to use that money for other things. He added that the NJDOT award should be coming out soon.

Council President Lischin reported that Chief Cummings asked if he could apply for a grant through South Jersey Gas, with no match; the deadline would come before the next Council meeting. All were generally in agreement to memorialize the grant application at the next meeting.

- Military Surplus for Veterans Park – *Requested by Mayor Chau*

Mayor Chau referred to an opportunity to acquire an item of military surplus equipment; he read a list of requirements to the Council and said these were things the Council must commit to if the City were to proceed. He asked if Council wished to proceed. He explained that what we get is based on what is available and what Council wants to spend. The item must be placed on a concrete pad.

Councilman Dewees asked Council to visualize Veterans Park; there was the missing man chair in the middle, the memorial on the right. Space was limited and whatever we acquire should be in proportion.

Council President Lischin suggested a straw poll; he commented that Mr. Webb was trying to accomplish this a few years back and Senator Chris Brown was also trying to assist us with this.

Mayor Chau added that the letter he read this evening came from Senator Brown's office.

Council President Lischin conducted a straw poll vote.

Councilman Perri, Councilman O'Neill, Councilman Smith and Councilman Dewees replied yes.

Councilwoman Madden would like more trees in the park and couldn't see spending a lot of money on this; she was not in favor right now.

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Councilwoman Korngut did not recall Mr. Webb speaking about this, but yes.

Council President Lischin also replied yes.

Mayor Chau gave the letter to Solicitor Facenda for handling.

- 2020 Professional Services RFQ
  - *Tentative: advertise 11/2, responses due 11/26*

Council President Lischin explained that Northfield had always done the fair and open process, by law we don't have to for Professional Services. He asked Council for their opinion on continuing to do fair and open for Professional Services appointments.

Council President Lischin conducted a straw poll; all were in favor of fair and open.

- 2020 Local Road Paving Project – *Requested by Engineer Nassar*

Council President Lischin asked Engineer Nassar to speak regarding the next year's road program.

Engineer Nassar put an aerial view on the overhead projector that showed areas that had already been paved, as well as those he was recommending for future paving. He asked all to give him any other roads they may be aware of, and a comprehensive list can be developed. This year we paved 2.1 miles and the Shepherd Drive project would add an additional 1.1 miles of paving.

Council President Lischin advocated that our current plan had been successful, paving a section at a time.

Councilman Dewees asked about vegetative encroachment in the vicinity of Arthur Henry; would we reclaim the original cart way width.

Engineer Nassar replied yes, that was the municipality's right of way.

Engineer Nassar also referred to an area that dead-ends on the other side of Wabash, between Northfield Avenue and Tilton Road. The curb would deter motorists from cutting across the bath path. He would come up with some sketches for Council to review.

Council President Lischin conducted a straw poll regarding the curbing issue; all were generally in favor of installing a curb.

Council President Lischin thanked Engineer Nassar.

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**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Lischin reviewed the regular meeting agenda. He announced that Resolution 218-2019 would not be part of the consent agenda; if that Resolution is considered it would be voted on separately.

Council President Lischin made the 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.

Heather Mellon, 2509 Herbert Drive, referenced the TV show ‘Monk’ and urged Council to have a balanced visual presentation at the park. She mentioned the Library and said there are 20 kids at the county shelter, possibly from Mexico, and the library would like to help them at the holidays. She was not sure who put them there, but they have been given \$70,000.00 to take care of them. What happens when the money runs out? Did anyone know?

Council President Lischin explained that we were notified when it came to Northfield, but we don't have a lot of information.

Mayor Chau added that the City bears no costs; the children will not be in our school system.

Mrs. Mellon asked who should be contacted if the Library wanted to do something for the children.

County Executive Dennis Levinson, in the audience, spoke and explained it is a County building but a Federal program; you can imagine what may have happened to them if they weren't placed. We were trying to get these kids back with their families, and it is no burden to the City of Northfield or to the County. The Trump Administration tried to spread them around to different States.

Mrs. Mellon asked, in terms of the holidays, was there was nothing we can do?

County Executive Levinson replied it would be a nice gesture, but they were pretty well taken care of.

Council President Lischin introduced, officially, Dennis Levinson, County Executive, and Amy Gatto, Chairwoman of the Freeholder Board, in the audience.

Councilwoman Madden added that the Library does a great job.

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Dennis Brummett, 39 East Oakcrest Avenue, stated that he was sure all here remember the good times had with children trick or treating. He noted there were several different forecasts, some including heavy wind and rain. His kids go to Sutton Woods because of the flair, movie screens, chiminea fires and hot dogs. It's a good night, but we have no rain date. Parents spend money on children's costumes. People spend a lot of money on candy, hot dogs. He did not think it was fair to the children or the parents that we have no contingency plan in place. If not for now, for the future, we should always have a contingency plan in place. It was the first time for some and the last time for others, you have to do something for the kids and for the people who celebrate.

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

Solicitor Facenda advised that we would not need Resolution 216-2019.

At 7:01pm, on a motion of Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Perri, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk