

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

At 6:07pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on February 14, 2015 in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present: Dewees, Lischin, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline

Absent: Piergiovanni

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Kris Facenda and Engineer Dan Kwapinski were also in attendance.

Council President Travagline welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if any members of Council had questions regarding professional services.

Councilman O'Neill suggested reducing the number of years of experience required to give someone with less experience a shot.

Councilman Dewees felt that we spent a lot of time getting to the numbers that we have.

Council President Travagline stated that five (5) years is a "blink".

Councilman Perri suggested adding plumbers, electricians, etc. so we will have an idea of what we are paying.

Municipal Clerk Canesi stated that we do get quotes, and that there are a handful of reliable contractors we use, and sometimes we need someone on an emergent basis, and if we appoint a specific vendor, we may not be able to get the work done right away. For routine, non-emergent situations, it may be a good idea.

Council President Travagline asked Councilman Dewees for his opinion.

Councilman Dewees agreed with Clerk Canesi, that we do get quotes from a short list of vendors, and we are happy with the pricing and responsiveness. However, he will check with the Finance and Facilities Supervisor and report at the next meeting.

Council President Travagline noted that for the Risk Management Consultant, sometimes less is not better, ours has done an excellent job but other municipalities

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

who may pay a little more may be getting more service for their money.

Council President Travagline also noted that the Auditor raised their fee last year.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Travagline reviewed the regular agenda.

Council President Travagline noted that Resolutions 200-2015, 201-2015, and 202-2015 will not be voted on this evening; there are no issues, Council didn't have the contract paperwork to review.

Councilman Perri asked what the \$3,500.00 transfer to OEM was for.

Clerk Canesi stated she did not have that information. She suggested to the mayor: "could it possibly be for the purchase of the trailer"?

Mayor Chau replied that it may be, but he did not get the final word on that.

Councilman Perri questioned the \$3,250.00 transfer to Little League.

Council President Travagline thought it may be upgrades to the facility but it had not yet been approved.

Councilman Perri explained the sewer intrusion and associated expenses to Council; he noted that he was on vacation and that Mike Adamson and Jim Clark did a great job, everything worked out well considering where it was in the meadows.

Councilman Murray agreed; the men did a great job.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the public session.

Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue - Senior citizens aren't getting enough attention in Northfield, Northfield needs more cooperation and more family get togethers. Northfield used to put together baskets for the seniors and the Police would deliver them. He noted nice celebrations at the school and at Veterans Park for Veterans Day; he thanked Councilman Dewees and Steve Vain for what they have done for the park. Mr. Webb announced the sad passing of Marie Edwards, who did a lot for the town through the Northfield Mothers' League. He asked Council to pray for men and women overseas, wants to see Veterans Park completed, and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

Jerry McGee, 1620 Zion Road – stated there has been a lot of information in the paper about the PILOT program from other Mayors. Mr. McGee is not in favor of it, he addressed Mayor Chau noting he hasn't heard any opinion from Northfield about where they stand.

Mayor Chau stated he had concerns about PILOT, about how it would affect the taxpayers of Northfield and where we would go from there. The Mayors' Association had a plan and did not want the legislation to move forward. He received a letter today from Assemblyman Brown that emphasized the need for continued recovery that included a ten step proposal. He would share the letter with Council.

Mr. McGee noted we are paying into the pension system and they are using it for other things that too will impact our area as well. He asked Mayor Chau for input on pension reform. All of the Mayors and Councils know this and no one is doing anything about it. Sales tax was supposed to be used to offset school taxes.

Mayor Chau agreed with Mr. McGee, we created a pot of gold and it is no longer used for what it was intended for.

Bob Webb stated he is not in favor of shared services; taxes go up every time we do another one. They upgrade their radios and we pay for them but we have no say. We shop out towing to other services; Frank Perri should have all of the towing in Northfield because he lives in Northfield.

Joe Sundra, 2115 Shore Road – stated he had spoken with numerous people concerning an event that transpired last Wednesday morning at 2am on Shore Road, with jackhammers, construction saws, and bright lights. He called the Northfield Police Department and was told that there was nothing that could be done because it was a State road. Mr. Sundra pointed out that Shore Road is a County road. The work went from Yorkshire to Surrey, to Steelman, etc. with the heavy trucks and jackhammers and so on. The next morning Mr. Sundra tried to contact County Executive Levinson and was told that Mr. Levinson was totally unaware of any such work. Mr. Sundra then called Mark Shourds, the County Engineer; he was not available so Mr. Sundra left word with a secretary. Mr. Shourds called back late Friday and he, too, was unaware, and that he (Shourds) should have been notified. Mr. Shourds was going to do further checking and get back to Mr. Sundra; Sundra has not heard back from him so possibly Shourds was unable to find out any more information. Mr. Sundra felt that this violated local noise ordinance, and asked if there isn't something that the City could do.

Mayor Chau stated that from his investigation, there was either little or no communication to the City or City officials, including the Police Department, the Clerk's Office or the Mayor's Office. The City was not aware and he was very disappointed. Had we known some of this could have been communicated in

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

advance.

Mayor Chau was still continuing to investigate, and he would report to City Council and to Mr. Sundra as well.

Mr. Sundra thanked Mayor Chau.

Councilman Lischin asked what construction was being done.

Mayor Chau stated there was work done on Shore Road for South Jersey Gas. The contractor had 6 blaring lights shining into his house, a bulldozer, dump truck, jackhammers. The men working were quiet, it was the equipment.

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

At 7:00pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk