

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
NOVEMBER 27, 2018**

At 6:02pm 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, O'Neill, Perri, Travagline, Dewees  
Absent: Murray

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 had been adopted and advertised, the certified mailings will be mailed to the adjoining owners tomorrow; we should have responses by the next meeting.

- Sign Ordinance Changes

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

Councilman Lischin advised that the committee had not had any further meetings; he was waiting for Dr. Levitt to return from his vacation.

- Chestnut Avenue Parking, between Maple Avenue and New Road

Council President Dewees asked Engineer Nassar to speak regarding the parking situation on Chestnut Avenue.

Engineer Nassar stated he'd looked at truck standards: box trucks, like UPS, up to 64 feet. He explained weight limits, numbers of axles, and other variables. He suggested no stopping or standing for commercial vehicles in this area. This will not affect customers to the business.

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Mayor Chau asked if he was recommending this option for both sides of the street.

Engineer Nassar felt it should be for both sides.

Council President Dewees asked Council for their thoughts.

Councilman Perri felt it should be uniform.

Councilwoman Korngut said she had her office next to that street and never had any issues.

Engineer Nassar replied that the street was narrower farther down.

Councilman O'Neill accepted the recommendation of the Engineer.

Solicitor Facenda advised an ordinance would be required; he questioned the commercial vehicle limitation.

Councilman Lischin wanted to ensure it would be enforceable; as he understood it, they were unloading and shouldn't be.

Council President Dewees asked if the Fire Department had weighed in?

Councilman Lischin did not recall asking them.

Discussion ensued amongst those present; Council would revisit at the next meeting.

- Bike Trails at BGP – Grant Denied

Council President Dewees reported that the Advisory Board had not met yet since our last Council meeting. He would advise Council once he had an opportunity to discuss with the Board.

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

Council President Dewees moved to new business.

- Suggestion to Create Lending Library on the Bike Path – Presented by Blaine Guebtner, Boy Scout Troop 72, Eagle Scout Candidate

Blaine Guebtner, Boy Scout Troop 72 – explained that his Eagle Scout project included putting 2 lending libraries along the Bike Path. He distributed an information packet to Council that showed examples of some that had already been

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done elsewhere. The packet included a diagram of the Bike Path, and proposed locations: Zion and Wabash, and Wabash and Ridgewood.

Council President Dewees asked Council if they had any questions or comments.

Councilman Perri said he had seen these in other areas, he asked whose responsibility it would be to maintain it?

Mr. Guebtner, replied it would be his, and the troop, and their successors.

Councilmen O'Neill and Travagline loved the idea.

Councilwoman Korngut thought it was a great idea, adding that Mr. Guebtner had delivered a great presentation, and that it was well thought-out.

Council President Dewees also loved the idea, and asked about possibly locating it near Jackson Avenue, near the deli.

Mr. Guebtner replied yes, he did think about that location, and his location was near there, but his was also near benches.

Council President Dewees asked Mr. Guebtner if he would be planting flowers.

Mr. Guebtner replied yes, perennial flowers that would bloom seasonally. The base did not need concrete but if you want more support, they could do that.

Councilman Lischin stated that he loved the idea as well. There were liability issues, but as long as it's maintained properly, he was all for it.

Council President Dewees asked how long would it last and who would stock it.

Mr. Guebtner replied that they were proposing cedar wood. The Boy Scouts would stock it initially; there were two levels, one for kids and one for adults.

Patrick Guebtner, Blaine's father was also in attendance and spoke. He said he did some research; they have noted that if it is 2.5 feet in the ground it is fine, but if Council wanted concrete that too was fine.

Councilman Lischin, Council President Dewees and Engineer Nassar discussed the options and replied that concrete was preferred.

Council President Dewees thanked Blaine; Council would discuss and get back to him.

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- Cresson Avenue Paving Project – Tree Conflicts on Walnut Avenue

Council President Dewees asked Engineer Nassar to speak regarding tree conflicts with the 2018 Road Paving Project.

Engineer Nassar reviewed the locations of the trees that were in conflict, all have been previously provided to Council.

Council President Dewees would like Council's approval to move forward with contacting the property owners to propose a cost-sharing agreement.

Councilman O'Neill felt the City should pay for all trees to be removed.

Council President Dewees replied that he was not sure we had the funding.

Councilwoman Korngut asked why would the owners do this?

Solicitor Facenda advised that they had the obligation to maintain the sidewalk.

Councilman Travagline felt that if they don't agree, the tree was going to die and they have to pay to remove it.

Mayor Chau noted this happened before, in years past, whereby the homeowner was approached to remove the tree, the resident refused, and the road was not paved as a result.

Solicitor Facenda asked if the trees were in the right-of-way.

Engineer Nassar replied we can't just take the trees down, we need their permission.

Councilman O'Neill again advocated that the City pay to remove the trees.

Councilwoman Korngut clarified that Council President Dewees just wanted to approach the homeowners.

Council President Dewees replied, yes.

All agreed that Council President Dewees could initiate the conversation.

In regard to the Chestnut Avenue parking matter discussed earlier in the evening, Solicitor Facenda read a section of a NJ state statute that restricted parking where 15 feet does not remain on the other side of the street.

Councilman O'Neill felt people would want to know why there wasn't a warning.

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Solicitor Facenda replied rhetorically, asking why isn't there a warning for speeding, drunk driving, or other offenses? He added that the statute was the warning.

Council President Dewees asked Council if they wanted to go with the Engineer's recommendation.

All present discussed and preferred to leave as is, and go with enforcement as a means to address the parking issue on Chestnut Avenue.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Dewees reviewed the agenda and made assignments.

Solicitor Facenda noted the addition of Resolution 206-2018, authorizing the addition of a very short executive session, which would be read into the record at the appropriate time.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Avenue - had been told previously by the Zoning Officer that the trees between the street and sidewalk could be taken down by the City if they interfere with the road. He asked if the ordinance discussed earlier was just for Mazzeo's.

Solicitor Facenda replied no, it was for the entire town.

Mr. Wolfe asked about stop signs with flashing lights on Davis Avenue.

Council President Dewees stated that he had been looking into it, they were very expensive.

Mayor Chau advised that there was one on Poplar Avenue in Linwood, they had blinking lights. He agreed with Council President Dewees that these devices could be very costly.

Mr. Wolfe asked how much.

Council President Dewees replied that he had seen costs in the \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00 per-sign range.

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Heather Mellon, 2509 Herbert Drive - liked the idea of the Little Lending Library, there is one at the park and there has been very good feedback. She said she hadn't been at the last few meetings; she asked had anything been decided about bird feeders, as they relate to causing rats.

Mayor Chau replied that he believed that the Council decided to put information in the January tax bills. He clarified that Council was not trying to outlaw bird feeders, but some people don't maintain them, or have them too close to the ground. What brings the rodents is the food source. Residents needed to be part of the solution. There was an old law on the books in the State of NJ and it was very vague, but it was challenged in Atlantic City and the City lost. No town in the State of NJ has outlawed bird feeders.

Mrs. Mellon added that the school had a nice program for veterans and the children, and Somers Point also had one. But, here in Northfield, there was nothing; we have this beautiful Veterans Park, and we should do something there.

Mayor Chau noted that he and Councilwoman Korngut attended a program at Mainland, and noted that many veterans were going right from there to another event. He did agree that it would be nice to have an event at our park.

Brendan Smith, 2323 Burroughs Avenue – said he was in attendance on behalf of Burroughs Avenue residents. He said he knew there had been numerous complaints about speeding. There were 32 children on the Northfield side of Burroughs Avenue, in the past month he witnessed a car speeding that almost hit 2 girls on bikes, the car had to come to a sudden stop, turning sideways in the process. He also witnessed a tricycle get hit by a car and the car did not stop; there was no child on the tricycle. Northfield and Linwood Police had come out and set up patrols, but once they were gone the speeding resumed. Mr. Smith had lived there 11 years, and speeding had always been an issue. The reconfiguration of Lake, Burroughs and Zion had forced cars onto Burroughs.

Mayor Chau asked if there was a noticeable effect when the speed display sign was there.

Mr. Smith replied, yes.

Mayor Chau asked what suggestions Mr. Smith may have to address the issue.

Mr. Smith advised that he had called Mr. Levinson, because this was a County road. He was told that the return call was a courtesy, but that the matter will not be addressed.

Chief Newman did a speed summary for a month, he couldn't speak for Linwood.

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The data indicated that the speed of 85% of the cars was 29.5 miles or under. They have had patrols out there, and they were out there again today. They are enforcing to the best of their ability, summonses have been issued. Parking cars on both sides of the street can be a traffic calming device, and it appears that there is the 15 feet. Residents had taken to parking on the street. He did not know if the 29.5 mph data was affected by people seeing the device.

Councilman Travagline suggested a petition from all the residents asking the County Freeholder Board to make the street a cul-de-sac or dead end.

Councilwoman Korngut suggested going in person.

Councilman Travagline felt the City would support it; the people speeding on that street don't live there.

Councilman Perri advised that the municipal dividing line was in the middle of the street, Linwood would have to support it too.

Councilman Travagline knew that many Linwood residents felt the same way.

Councilwoman Korngut asked Mr. Smith for his ideas.

Mr. Smith have offered to raise funds to pay for flashing lights, moving the double yellow line, adding a stop sign, etc.

Council President Dewees asked if the 3 or 4 way stop signs were suggested to the County.

Mr. Smith replied yes, he was told it was not feasible.

Councilwoman Korngut offered to have Mr. Smith contact her, she knows a few people on the Freeholder Board; she can fill them in, and let them know he's coming. She suggested having other residents come with him.

Mr. Smith thanked Council for their time.

Mr. Wolfe asked why the speed device couldn't be put in his neighborhood.

Chief Newman responded that no one said it can't.

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

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

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Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, Registered Municipal Clerk