

CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 28, 2017

At 6:10pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

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

Councilman O'Neill entered the meeting at 6:19pm but was not present when roll was called.

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

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting then deferred to Solicitor Facenda for an update on the potential land sale.

- Potential Land Sale – Update

Solicitor Facenda advised that he was working on letters and should have the notice for the next meeting.

- Request for County Assistance - Signs for the Casto House and Museum on Shore Road and Rt. 9

Councilman Murray read a statement from Council President Dewees stating that he met with the County representative in charge of the signs for the museum and they were working on placement.

Mayor Chau noted that he hoped the signs would not be in the middle of the sidewalk like others had been.

Municipal Clerk Canesi advised that she would relay the Mayor's comment to Council President Dewees.

Councilmen Travagline and Lischin hoped that they would be placed on exiting poles.

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- Public Safety Institute – proposal to evaluate Fire Department Operations

Councilman Murray asked Councilman Lischin to speak regarding Public Safety Institute.

Councilman Lischin reported that the paperwork and contracts had been sent to the vendor.

- Birch Grove Park Museum – Handicap Access Ramp - Update from Engineer Nassar

Engineer Nassar advised that he was getting quotes and would have an update at the next meeting.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Murray asked Councilman Perri for an update regarding the sewer interlocal.

Councilman Perri reported that Linwood Councilman Gordon advised him today, via telephone, that Linwood will be leaving the interlocal to go with Egg Harbor Township and the ACUA. He didn't have anything in writing yet. There were items that needed to be addressed as part of dissolving the interlocal.

Mayor Chau asked about the 30 homes that were on Northfield sewer.

Councilman Perri replied that the homes did come up in his conversation with Councilman Gordon, but the details had not been worked out. The homes on Mill Road were franchised to Northfield. There was also the issue of equipment that was purchased jointly; Councilman Perri had asked sewer department employee Darren Boyd to do an inventory of any such equipment. There was an exit process for the interlocal that we would have to follow as well as notifying the DEP.

At 6:19pm Councilman O'Neill entered the meeting.

Councilman Murray asked Engineer Nassar to speak regarding the redevelopment grant.

Engineer Nassar stated that the County was moving forward, at their cost, but needed information from us on which properties we wanted to consider for rehabilitation and which for redevelopment. He explained that the plans would involve overlays to current zoning, possible abatements or payments in lieu of taxes, depending upon whether or not the area was targeted for redevelopment or rehabilitation. He asked

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for members of council to serve on a committee to assist in reviewing the tax maps and identifying the properties.

Councilman Lischin volunteered.

Councilman Lischin asked to touch on scanning since he wasn't here at the last meeting. There was a list of things that needed to be done, we had to register with the State; he asked if we were moving forward or not.

Councilman Travagline replied that he wanted to do it.

Mayor Chau noted that there was a question of indexing.

Councilman Murray clarified that we were in agreement to move forward with scanning.

Councilman O'Neill asked if there was any word on the County project on Mill Road.

Engineer Nassar replied that nothing will get paved until next year.

Councilman O'Neill asked if the home owners were cooperating.

Engineer Nassar advised that the County was preparing parcel maps.

AGENDA REVIEW

Councilman Murray reviewed the agenda and made assignments.

Solicitor Facenda commented that since there were only 5 members of Council present, all 5 must vote in the affirmative for the Bond Ordinance.

PUBLIC SESSION

Councilman Murray opened the meeting to public.

Brian Smith, 104 Catherine Place - offered condolences to Mr. Perri on the loss of his daughter. He commented on the election and advised that he taught politics at Mainland Regional High School and served on Council for a few years. He reminded Council that people were listening, even if attendance at meetings was sparse. He stated that there were statements made in the Press prior to the election that Mr. Smith found troubling. He gave the example that Councilman O'Neill took credit for working to share the courts. Mr. Smith was there when that occurred in 2010. Councilman O'Neill was not on Council until 2012, so that statement was false. He

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reminded Council that they have an obligation to be honest.

Councilman Murray, in Councilman O'Neill's defense, replied that O'Neill had been very active in the courts, and helped to renegotiate the recent agreements.

Mr. Smith disagreed, and said he felt that Councilman O'Neill's statement in which he said "he worked to merge the municipal courts", was not true.

Councilman O'Neill spoke, and said reporters make mistakes; he commented that The Current had recently reported that he wasn't running against anyone in November, which was not true.

Mr. Smith thanked Council for their time.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak Councilman Murray closed the public session.

At 6:37pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk