

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 12, 2017**

At 6:04pm 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, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline, Dewees

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

6PM ALBERTO SBROLLA – EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Council President Dewees welcomed all and introduced Alberto Sbrolla, who described his Eagle Scout project.

Alberto explained that he was in Troop 72 and planned on building and installing 3 bat houses at Birch Grove Park, he showed an example of the house he built using plans he found online that he modified a bit. The houses would be placed on poles 14-16 feet high, out of the way of any passers-by, which would also attract more bats. He planned on installing them in the next few weeks, weather depending.

Councilman Lischin asked if the plans were specific to our local bats.

Alberto stated that the different bats in this area preferred similar conditions.

Mayor Chau asked the purpose of having bats.

Alberto responded that they keep bugs at bay and help with the local ecosystem.

Mayor Chau asked if the bats migrate.

Alberto noted it could take 2-3 years to populate a bat house; he did not believe they migrate.

Councilman O'Neill asked if Alberto needed help with the poles.

Alberto replied no, he had other scouts helping him.

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Councilman Dewees offered to help with vehicular access if needed, he praised Alberto for the amount of research he did with regard to the project, where to place the boxes without disrupting utilities, etc.

Councilman Piergiovanni commended Alberto and shared that he was also an Eagle Scout.

All of Council thanked and praised Alberto.

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS

Council President Dewees deferred to Solicitor Facenda for an update on the potential land sale.

- Potential Land Sale – Update

Solicitor Facenda reported that he and Council President Dewees had a conversation earlier in the week and with the exception of the two properties by the Library, with the approval of Council he would prepare the letters to adjacent owners as well as the Public Notice.

Council President Dewees took a straw poll all present were in favor.

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

Council President Dewees referred to the signs for the museum advising that he has meeting at the County tomorrow to find out where the signs will be placed.

He then asked Engineer Nassar to comment on the museum project.

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

Engineer Nassar advised that he was still waiting on a third quote.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Reorganization Meeting Date / Review of 2018 Meeting Schedule

Council President Dewees referred to the meeting schedule and asked all for feedback; all were generally in agreement with dates, Councilman Travagline noted that he couldn't attend the February 13th meeting but there was no recommendation to change the date.

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Municipal Clerk Canesi reminded Council that they would approve the final schedule by resolution at reorganization.

- Professional Services Providers

Council President Dewees referred to the professional services appointments; he stated that he would wait for the recommendation of the CFO Stollenwerk as to the bond counsel.

Councilman O'Neill stated that Donna Clark, Court Administrator, recommended Mr. Alsofrom for the position of prosecutor.

Mayor Chau asked why there was no answer as to whether two of the candidates had 5 years of experience.

Clerk Canesi explained the Request for Quotes that the Council approved required 5 years of experience as a municipal prosecutor; based on the information provided, Clerk Canesi was not able to determine that this requirement was met.

Daniel Alsofrom, in audience, introduced himself. explained was the interim prosecutor for Northfield for several months in 2017; he had been practicing law for 31 years, and was presently the Egg Harbor Township prosecutor, but no, did not have 5 years' experience as municipal prosecutor.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Dewees reviewed the agenda and made assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Dewees opened the meeting to the public.

Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Avenue, said he was told that repairs would be done to his street by the 16th but no one has been around; also with the paving, how long was it guaranteed?

Engineer Nassar replied that punch list items were given to SJ Gas Company last week, and cleanup will start this week.

Mr. Wolfe wanted to be sure the new driveway apron he just put in is restored, and that the ponding issue was addressed.

Engineer Nassar felt confident it would be, but offered Mr. Wolfe the contact

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information for the Gas Company.

Mr. Wolfe noted that he had been in this town for 50 years; he couldn't believe the Council was paying \$17,000 to have someone tell them they needed more firemen. The problem was that when a fireman retired, they were not replaced. He stated that the City used to have 10 paid firemen. If the City had 10 now, they wouldn't need help.

Councilman Lischin responded that we hired an independent expert because none of the members of Council had the expertise to determine what we needed.

Councilman Travagline added that we had opinions, but we didn't know if they were correct.

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

At 6:28pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk