

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 13, 2016**

At 6:05pm this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. 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: Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Absent: Lischin, Murray

- Reorganization Meeting – January 3, 2017, 7pm

Clerk Canesi explained the reorganization date and requirements for establishing the date; asks if Council had any scheduling conflicts. There were none.

Clerk Canesi asked Council to review the balance of annual meeting schedule for scheduling conflicts. There were none.

- Amendment to Road Opening Ordinance – *Requested by Engineer Nassar*

Council President Travagline introduced Engineer Nassar to discuss our road opening ordinance.

Engineer Nassar explained that South Jersey Gas submitted a project to install upgraded gas service, and that a review of the ordinance showed a few areas that could be approved, and when the ordinance was changed in 2011, portions of the older ordinance were left out. He reviewed the hardship conditions and recommended changes that would benefit the City. He distributed a map to Council of the area SJ gas wished to pave.

Engineer Nassar explained the map, and the South Jersey Gas plan to pave in the area of Swilkey Avenue, to Council. The proposed changes in the ordinance would give the engineer more latitude to approve certain projects that would result in a better road product at the end of the project. If it was beneficial to the town, Engineer Nassar advocated approving it, but the current ordinance will not permit him to approve the road opening request.

Solicitor Facenda replied that if Council had no objections, he would work with Engineer Nassar to make changes to the ordinance, for presentation to Council.

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Engineer Nassar asked if the State has a moratorium on certain roads that were funded with State money.

Clerk Canesi was not aware of any moratoriums, other than our own, but would check.

Clerk Canesi explained the sense of urgency to introduce the amendments to the ordinance in January at the reorganization meeting, and finally adopt it at the second meeting in January so that Engineer Nassar could approve the road opening permit being discussed.

Council President Travagline suggested Engineer Nassar also review the existing proposed paving list prepared by Engineer Kwapinski, and that he meet with Public Works and the Sewer Department for their input.

- Public Works and Sewer Department Staffing Issues
Requested by Councilmen Perri and Dewees

Councilman Dewees requested approval to hire one Department of Public Works employee; the new hire would be cross trained to work in Public Works and sewer.

Councilman Perri explained that there had been some ongoing issues with personnel due to health related problems but there was an advantage to having the person cross trained, if something happened in the future it would be beneficial to both departments to have someone who can work in both departments.

Mayor Chau referred to the Sewer Inter Local and asked if Linwood was aware of staffing situation and staffing proposal.

Councilman Perri explained that personnel were our responsibility, sewer was a more technical job and the on call hours become a problem. The Linwood Sewer Committee was aware of our issues and we also had cooperative relationships with other communities if additional emergency help was needed.

Discussion ensued; all generally in agreement that an additional employee was needed.

Clerk Canesi asked for and was granted approval to advertise the position.

Clerk Canesi noted that the Sewer Department had been running with two men for four months, providing service to two towns, without complaint. They were in the audience this evening.

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Council President Travagline said this was the first he was hearing of it, felt Council should be informed in advance.

Councilman Dewees noted that he would resume with the Mill Road sidewalk project and speaking with residents regarding easements, we need one more thing from the engineer to proceed.

Councilman O'Neill asked for an update on the bus shelter.

Mayor Chau had asked for a meeting with the facilities committee regarding the matter.

Councilman Dewees said he was advised that the Northfield Community School Board of Education Facilities Committee was meeting tonight at 5:30.

Mayor Chau stated he had received comments from users of the bus stop that they would like the stop moved back to its original spot (on the near side of Mill Road), whether there was a shelter or not.

Mayor Chau asked about a response from the County about their carwash, and the City using it for our vehicles.

Councilman Dewees agreed that we should revisit the request.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Travagline reviewed the regular meeting agenda.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public for discussion on any topic.

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

At 6:40pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk