

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2015**

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 on January 10, 2015 in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau, after which a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Chau and Solicitor Kris Facenda were also in attendance.

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- Potential purchase of Arthur Henry property

Council President Travagline welcomed the audience; moved to work session agenda and the purchase of the Arthur Henry property on Wabash Avenue. He felt the City was lacking in field space. The buildings that are there could be repaired for continued use, possibly for Public Works or other uses. This is a very first step, but he would like to look at other possibilities besides multi-family senior housing in the future. The City has expressed some level of preliminary interest to the Henry family.

Councilman Piergiovanni asked the price.

Council President Travagline stated it is on the market for \$1.8M. We would have to have one or more appraisals. Jim Rutala, our grant writer, advised that there may be Green Acres funds available for up to 25% of Green Acres funding. Council President Travagline was advised by a resident that the US Soccer Association has expressed interest in partnering with a municipality for field space; the City would own the field, not the US Soccer Association. The City may want to look into it; if it's not worth it, then we would move on.

Councilman Perri stated he would be against bonding the purchase. He noted environmental issues with the property.

Council President Travagline has been told the site has been remediated and that the owners have a No Further Action letter.

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- 911 Service

Councilman Travagline moved to 911 services; he has toured the EHT facility and it is state of the art. That being said, times are tough and we will pay \$370K in 2015. He asked council for suggestions. He contacted EHT and there is no room for negotiation; that is the contract fee. He also noted that there are other municipalities, and possibly private services, that could be looked at as well.

Councilman Dewees asked when County dispatch is coming on line.

Mayor Chau said 2016. He explained the associated costs of replacing radios that will result from County wide dispatch. The City will have to plan for it.

Councilman Perri asked if the cost of the equipment can't be figured into the cost of the interlocal. If it's a County service, the cost should be part of the inter local.

Council President Travagline doesn't understand why the radios have to change.

Mayor Chau replied it is the system the County has decided to go with.

Municipal Clerk Canesi offered to send out communication previously provided by OEM Coordinator Tim Joo that Council will find helpful.

- NJ Direct15 Update

Council President Travagline moved on to the topic NJ15. Council has had discussions with all of the unions and we are attempting to move in that direction. A recent snag with the Government Workers Union has delayed the move. He explained that moving to NJ15 will save the City approximately \$100 per employee per month, and it is not a major difference to the employees. If we are not successful, we may have to revisit a private plan to pursue cost savings.

- Cultural Committee – Insurance Matters

Councilman Lischin attended the Cultural Committee meeting; there was a Resolution last year that waived the insurance requirement for performers at the bandstand. He spoke with the Insurance Chair and with the Risk Management Consultant. Perhaps the city could do a Resolution making the summer concerts a City event, as we are doing with the Mother's League Egg Hunt tonight. The City could add the concerts as City business and that will solve the problem.

Council President Travagline asked for an outline from Rich Gerber with his recommendations.

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- SJ Gas Proposal for Future Restoration

Council President Travagline stated negotiations with SJ Gas started a year and a half ago trying to engage with them in a paving cost sharing process. SJ Gas has agreed to pave the three streets on the map distributed to Council. This represents a \$200,000 savings to Council if we were to pave it, and these would be the next streets in our paving process. He noted that the Solicitor has looked at some preliminary language.

Solicitor Facenda recommends a more formal document for consideration.

Councilman O'Neill asked if SJ Gas will hire a contractor.

Council President Travagline said yes, they will do the paving, in 2015. The paving will all be curb to curb.

Councilman Dewees asked who is responsible for the trench restoration.

Council President Travagline said SJ Gas would be responsible.

Councilman Perri asked when they will be done so we can do the 2014 paving.

Council President Travagline will send the Clerk the updates; she will distribute to Council.

Council President Travagline asked about any other issues that Council may have.

Councilman Perri stated the American Legion was told that the City would no longer pick up the trash.

Council President Travagline asked that the letter of notification be provided to Councilman Dewees so he can look into it.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Travagline reviewed the agenda.

Councilman Perri indicted he had some questions regarding Ordinance 5-2015 but would wait until introduction to ask them.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to public.

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Chuck Kaczmarski, President of Mainland Lacrosse Club, youth sports organization that serves Linwood, Northfield and Somers Point. Stated the League was established in 2000, and first varsity season for boys and girls was in 2005. Over the past 14 seasons, children in grades 3-8 have learned to play lacrosse. Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in the Country. The League tries to keep registration fees low, coaches are all volunteer, governed by a 9 member board that has 3 members from each town. Many players have gone on to successful college careers. They have asked each of the communities to donate field space for practices and games. In the past it was Somers Point, then Linwood, and recently Northfield Community School. Based on new information they received in the last 48 hours, they will be submitting a new field request to for the use of Northfield fields.

Mayor Chau asked if they are fully insured.

Mr. Kaczmarkski stated yes, and noted that they are compliant with JIF requirements. The new request will be for girls only, practices only.

Councilman Dewees asked when new request will be submitted.

Mr. Kaczmarski said he hand delivered it himself to the Clerk.

Municipal Clerk Canesi noted that it was not signed the applicant.

Mr. Kaczmarski disagreed.

Municipal Clerk Canesi stated the first application was, second was not.

Mr. Kaczmarkski said he will resubmit a new application tonight.

Dennis Gitsas, 227 East Rosedale Avenue, thanked the Police Department for what happened in his neighborhood yesterday. He referred to the conversation about curb to curb paving; will it be curb to curb, and will the curbs be paved?

Council President Travagline said the paving will be curb to curb, the curbs are the responsibility of the resident.

Mr. Gitsas stated that the last time his street was paved, the City did the curbs.

Council President Travagline informed Mr. Gitsas that the Engineer will be here any minute and could answer any further questions.

Art Faden, 6 Raina Drive, thanked the Police Department for their work in the drug bust yesterday. He wanted to know where the City is with regard to the Chief's position.

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Council President Travagline stated there is an Executive Session tonight to discuss it; Council has been talking about it, has been talking to the unions, and to other towns.

Mayor Chau is prepared to move forward but has to have Council's blessing. He wants to wait and see what Council has to say.

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

At 7:07pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk