

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

At 6:15pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on February 14, 2015 in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Kris Facenda and Engineer Dan Kwapinski were also in attendance.

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- 6pm Detective Sergeant Eric Dettinger – Radio Upgrade Presentation

Council President Travagline apologized to Detective Sergeant Eric Dettinger for the delay; he introduced him for the radio upgrade presentation.

Detective Sergeant Eric Dettinger provided to Council documents that provided a history of the radio P25 upgrade project. He stated he would cover 4 major projects and answer questions as needed. He said he intended to clarify the difference between County dispatch and the P25 project and end of life issues with the current radios. P25 and County dispatch are completely different projects; Fire will come on line first, Police may be a few or several years down the line. P25 is a nationwide, and mandated state-wide, radio system which enables all levels of law enforcement personnel to communicate without the need for additional equipment or intervention from a 3rd party such as a dispatcher. Our current radios have reached the end of their life; they are old and will no longer be supported and are not upgradable. Detective Sergeant Dettinger reviewed the number of units needed for Police and stated he believed Fire needs 10 units. He is working on a total inventory for the City of Northfield.

Councilman Perri asked why the County didn't give us another option.

Detective Sergeant Dettinger stated that there isn't another choice. The infrastructure that is in place is not changing, the operating system is changing.

Councilman Piergiovanni asked about the timeline and can it be delayed.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

D/S Dettinger stated we have known for several years, and the project has already been pushed forward by a few years. Northfield hasn't bought anything in a very long time, since 2006. He said that other municipalities may not be facing an expenditure as large as Northfield's. Linwood, EHT and other towns have equipment that is newer than ours, and they will not have as much equipment to upgrade.

Councilman Lischin asked if the new equipment will be obsolete in a few years.

D/S Dettinger stated that the infrastructure will not be obsolete and that the radios themselves should last about 10 years. He said he would send a spreadsheet to Municipal Clerk Canesi with known inventory for distribution to Council.

Council discussed purchasing, State contract pricing, and what EMS and Rescue may potentially use. D/S Dettinger stated he was not sure what EMS will be doing.

Council President Travagline thanked Detective Sergeant Dettinger for his presentation.

- Street vacation request – 5' public alley adjacent to Block 41 Lots 22 and 24
- Future adoption of a street vacation ordinance

Solicitor Facenda reviewed the request for a street vacation on Northfield Avenue; he visited the site with Engineer Kwapinski. Solicitor Facenda asked the requestor's surveyor to confirm that there are no utility encroachments on the property in question. He is not sure of any future use for the alley, and deferred to Engineer Kwapinski to speak to any engineering issues there may be.

Engineer Kwapinski agreed with Solicitor Facenda stating he didn't see any need for the City to keep it but agreed that the requestor will need to provide proof that there are no utility issues.

Councilman Perri asked why the City would do it without a fee, legal fees, engineering, etc., and stated the Tax Assessor can give us the value. He also suggested that we require the requestor to do a title search.

Solicitor Facenda stated he would contact the Assessor.

Councilman O'Neill suggested we sell it for fair value plus our professional fees.

Council President Travagline noted that if we request a fee, they may not want it, but if we do give it to them at least it's tax revenue.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

Solicitor Facenda noted that we don't have a street vacation ordinance on the books that would outline an application process, fees, escrows, etc., since we don't have one it is something we should endeavor to do.

Council President Travagline requested that Solicitor Facenda draft a street vacation ordinance.

- SJ Gas Paving Agreement

Solicitor Facenda stated he has had discussions with South Jersey Gas regarding a potential paving agreement. If agreed upon, it would not be voted on tonight, Council would agree to waive certain future paving restoration requirements on designated streets, and in return, SJ Gas would agreed to do a curb to curb resurfacing on certain other streets, for which they will provide all labor and materials. They would comply with all other requirements of the ordinance.

Councilman O'Neill asked the value of the paving.

Engineer Kwapinski believed it is over \$100,000.00.

Council President Travagline thought it was closer to \$200,000.00.

Solicitor Facenda asked if he could send the proposed agreement to South Jersey Gas for review and comment.

Council President Travagline asked council and had no objections.

- New Transitional Duty Policy

Council President Travagline announced that JIF is recommending that the City introduce a new transitional duty policy that funnels transitional duty assignments through a Transitional Duty Coordinator and the use of a job bank. He read an introduction from the JIF bulletin verbatim, and read the list of benefits. He explained briefly and suggested that the Deputy Clerk be the TD Coordinator. Council President Travagline asked if there were any questions, seeing none he moved on to the budget.

- 2015 Municipal Budget

Council President Travagline stated that he has spoken with the CFO, Dawn Stollenwerk, about the budget; he has to leave tomorrow's budget meeting by approximately 6:15pm. He asked council to take out their budget documents. He noted that the Fire O/E will be reduced and the physicals would be taken out. He also stated that the vehicle maintenance for Public Works would be reduced to

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

\$70,000.00. O/E for buildings and grounds would be reduced to \$75k. Council President Travagline said he had discussed the funding with some of the non- profits groups and stated that Babe Ruth did not have any fund raisers this past year.

Councilman Dewees stated that they do share some snack bar revenue. He will meet with them to discuss future fund raising.

Councilman Perri reviewed the cost the City pays for insurance for these groups noting that is \$15,000.00 total, including \$10,000.00 for FAN.

Council President Travagline stated FAN has over \$30,000.00 in the bank and has been doing an excellent job; he felt moving them off of funding over the next few years is possible. The other organizations would need to encourage fund raising as well. He noted the amount of money that the City spends on the fields, electricity etc.

Council President Travagline suggested reducing the capital to \$30,000.00 from \$50,000.00. He has discussed this with the CFO. He also suggested that all Councilmen to back to their departments to see where they can cut. He felt we can get to 2.9 cents with these changes.

Councilman O'Neill asked if the potential legal settlement will go into this year's budget.

Council President Travagline stated that some of it may.

Councilman O'Neill asked who will handle the sale of the fire truck.

Council President Travagline stated that CFO would handle it.

Councilman Dewees noted that she would do the online portion; the departments take the photos etc.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Travagline reviewed the agenda.

Council President Travagline distributed Resolution 54-2015 and Municipal Clerk Canesi explained why it was not in the original packet.

Councilman Perri asked that Resolutions 54-2015 and 57-2015 be voted on separately.

Solicitor Facenda noted that based on conversations during the work sessions, Resolution 58-2015 is no longer needed.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

Council President Travagline asked if further discussion is needed on 57-2015, which would warrant an Executive Session. If so that is what Resolution 56-2015 would serve for. Seeing no response he noted that 56-2015 would be deleted as well.

Council President Travagline asked Council if there were any questions on Ordinances 4-2015 through 8-2015.

Councilman Perri asked if we can charge the gas company a usage tax.

Solicitor Facenda replied no.

Seeing no further questions, Council President Travagline opened the public session.

PUBLIC SESSION

Aubrey Gerhardt, Library Director, 241 West Mill Road, thanked the Department of Public Works. The library has had issues with the electrical systems and had lost power 3-4 times in the recent weeks. The system is fully operational now. She stated Qwin from the Department of Public Works and Lauren from the Fire Department responded right away, and she felt like she was in a neighborhood, and it was much appreciated. She stated she was not sure if a decision had been made about ACUA and maintenance, but felt that moving away from using our own resources was not good, she likes knowing that if she calls, there is staff available, our staff.

Council President Travagline asked if she was objecting to the outsourcing, or is it that she just wants the resources and if the resources would be reallocated to Department of Public Works would that be ok.

Mrs. Gerhardt answered yes, she would.

Mrs. Gerhardt also stated that the library roof is leaking and has been since January. No one has yet shown up to even look at the roof that is an older section of the library. She informed Council that Kathi has been working hard but no one has ever shown up. She would appreciate any help Council could give. The library also received a grant through the State for an early literacy program and will begin teaching sign language to babies as part of the "Bring Your Own Baby" program. The library is also in the process of hiring a new library assistant; she encouraged Council if they know anyone who may be interested to ask them to apply.

Seeing no one else in the public wishing to speak, Council President Travagline closed the public session and announced a 10 minute break before starting the regular meeting.

At 7:29pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk