

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 25, 2014**

At 6:03pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2014 in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor McGee. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chau, Devine, Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Mayor Jerry McGee, Solicitor Kris Facenda, Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski, and Chief Robert James were also in attendance.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- Field Use Policy

Council President Travagline introduced the Field Use Policy for discussion and reviewed the existing field use procedures. He commented that there is excessive use of fields by various organizations, at times year round. He added that users should have to put the fields back in the condition they started in. He noted that the use of lighting and equipment costs the City money.

Councilman Dewees stated that using the football fields year round could affect the ability of the fields to regenerate themselves.

Councilman Piergiovanni suggested charging a fee, especially for users who are playing multiple events on the same field.

Councilman O'Neill stated that users last year made very generous donations to the sports organizations, and that going forward, Council should sit down with the users to ensure that they are cleaning up etc. He also suggested that the sports organizations give feedback about whether or not groups can be granted field use in the future based on how well they took care of the fields.

Councilman Chau asked if we looked at other towns and how they do it.

Solicitor Facenda stated he doesn't recall but will check other area towns.

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Mayor McGee asked who oversees the field usage and who makes sure that the users have permits.

Councilman Perri suggested that the Park Ranger has jurisdiction.

Council President Travagline asked the Park Council Chair to make sure the Park Ranger has the schedule and asked Park Council Chair to come up with a fee structure for review at the next meeting.

Municipal Clerk Canesi stated this would have to be in the form of an Ordinance.

Mayor McGee expressed concern that giving preference to donors may not be a good practice.

- Necessity of Test Bores for 2014 Paving Project

Engineer Kwapinski introduced two proposals for 2014 paving project and explained each of the proposals.

Mayor McGee expressed concern about possible cost overruns.

Council President Travagline assured him that the Engineer will stay on top of it.

Engineer Kwapinski continued his proposal explanation and noted it will have a total of 8" of sub base.

All of Council stated preference for option #1.

Council President Travagline noted that Ryan Carr from Commercial Utility Consultants was here and asked if anyone had any questions for him.

Councilman Perri asked Solicitor Facenda if he was in favor of the agreement.

Solicitor Facenda stated yes and that he had reviewed it. He asked Mr. Carr to comment on the issue with the rate counsel letters.

Ryan Carr, of Commercial Utility Consultants, stated that Margate is the lead agency for the Cooperative. They will take the initiative that the appropriate comments made by the rate counsel are taken into account before going out to bid.

Councilman Perri asked who would handle customer complaints.

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Ryan Carr answered that Commercial Utility Consultants would handle complaints. He also noted that Northfield would be encouraged to put as much information as possible out on the website.

Councilman Perri asked what is the term of the agreement?

Solicitor Facenda stated it is two years from the date of the agreement with a sixty day notice of cancellation.

Councilman Piergiovanni asked what a resident would do, who did not want to participate.

Ryan Carr, explained the opt out procedure. He added there are various options to do so, including an inbound call center whose staff is trained not to try to encourage someone who wants to opt out to change their mind.

Council President Travagline reviewed the agenda for the regular meeting and made assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to any member of the public wishing to speak on any subject.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, asked if residents have to participate in the energy agreement.

Council President Travagline answered no, you can opt out.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, stated he was not in favor of shared dispatch and asked what will happen with the Chief of Police. He added that city employees who do not live in Northfield should pay a wage tax. He stated that 12 hour shifts are ridiculous and added there should be a Police officer at City Hall 24/7. He commented that the sports organizations should not be discussed at every Council meeting.

Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Avenue, stated he has been involved in Northfield sports for many years and no one wants to volunteer at the fields any more. He added it is not like it used to be. He suggested that they rent out the fields and hire someone full time, year round. He asked who picks the streets to be paved.

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Council President Travagline stated that Council does.

Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Avenue asked if anyone knows where Davis Avenue is and commented it is the worst street in Northfield.

Helen Havlick, 203 West Revere Avenue, asked if Commercial Utility Consultants will do a budget payment plan, like Atlantic City Electric, because most 3rd party suppliers will not.

Ryan Carr, of Commercial Utility Consultants, stated that the RFP will mandate that suppliers will accept Atlantic City Electric's budget billing.

Helen Havlick, 203 West Revere Avenue, commented that there are constantly pot holes between Wabash and Route 9 and wants her street on the list to be paved.

Gail Poholsky, 114 East Revere Avenue, stated she had to call 911 and they didn't know where she was located. She added that the next day she came to the Police Department and there was no one there. She commented that she heard there are only two police cars in town at a time. She said that businesses are disappearing and the City should advertise for new businesses.

Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Avenue, asked why Burton Estates was paved when it's only ten years old. He also asked what happened to the money from the lawsuit.

Solicitor Facenda stated that the law suit is still pending.

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

At 7:15pm on motions properly made and seconded this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC
Municipal Clerk