

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
MAY 13, 2014**

At 6:06pm, 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: Devine, Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline  
Absent: Chau

Mayor Jerry McGee, Solicitor Kris Facenda and Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski, CFO Stollenwerk, Chief James and Detective Sergeant Steinecke were also in attendance.

**WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

- Request to amend Chapter 76

Council President Travagline referred to the request to amend Chapter 76 of the Northfield Code and introduced Detective Sergeant Steinecke.

Detective Sergeant Steinecke stated there are currently four pawn shops and a fifth one is coming. He noted that the current regulations only require paper reporting but there is a new opportunity for an automated system that will ensure instant reporting, with digital photographs. This would be a minimal cost to the vendor and they would no longer have to come in person to deliver the paperwork and photographs.

Mayor McGee asked why the vendors can't email now and why do they have to come in person.

Detective Sergeant Steinecke stated it's the issue of the quality of the images.

Mayor McGee asked if it will be a mandate.

Detective Sergeant Steinecke answered yes.

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Council President Travagline asked if it will improve efficiency for the Police Department.

Detective Sergeant Steinecke answered that it would. He also noted that the system is in place country wide and in many towns locally, including Egg Harbor Township and Atlantic City. He added that it will also improve communication between local police agencies and it affords for an automated search by suspect name instead of searching manually through paper records.

Councilman Perri asked what happens if the business cannot afford the system or does not want to purchase it.

Detective Sergeant Steinecke stated they would not be able to operate as a pawn shop. He commented that he does not think a \$300.00 expense would be cost prohibitive for any of the local pawn shops.

Chief James added that we do deal with a lot of stolen property, not only with our pawn shops but those in other towns. He stated that it isn't just jewelry but also electronics. He explained the efficiencies of the new system via elimination of manual search processes. He shared this is a tool to help get stolen property back to the victims.

Council President Travagline urged Council to come forward with questions. He stated that he plans to introduce this on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

- 2014 Stormwater Spot Repair

Engineer Kwapinski referred to the usage of the stormwater maintenance contract to repair many area potholes and expressed support of the contract as an appropriate use for this purpose due to the effect of potholes on stormwater drainage and vice versa.

*At 6:18pm Councilman Chau entered the meeting.*

Council President Travagline asked if anyone has concerns with the use of the contract for this purpose and asked Engineer Kwapinski if he will be on site to oversee the repairs.

Engineer Kwapinski stated that he would be on site.

Mayor McGee asked who would oversee the project.

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Engineer Kwapinski recommended the City Engineer, or possibly Public Works; but does not know if anyone in house would be qualified.

Councilman Perri stated he would like pricing compared to today's pricing.

Engineer Kwapinski stated he has that and shared that the prices are competitive; but this will be slightly higher because the areas are spread out rather than in one area.

Councilman Perri suggested vouchered increments to track spending and asked how it's funded.

CFO Stollenwerk explained that when the contract was awarded the funds were encumbered.

- New Jersey American Water – 6pm Presentation of \$1,000 Grant for Fire Department communications equipment

Council President Travagline moved to the presentation of the grant by New Jersey American Water.

Kevin Kerwin, Director of Operations, for Coastal Division of New Jersey American Water stated that four years ago a grant was introduced for emergency personnel and first responders. He stated it was because of the large number of volunteers that New Jersey American Water has working for them. He presented the check in the amount of \$933.00 to Chief Martinelli and Assistant Chief Crooks. He commented that New Jersey American Water appreciates the opportunity to serve Northfield and other area communities.

Assistant Chief Crooks noted that the funds will be used to purchase communications equipment that is much needed by the Fire Department.

Councilman O'Neill asked the origin of the grant.

Councilman Chau stated that Assistant Chief Crooks has applied three times and we have received it twice.

- Sewer Inter-local

Councilman Perri stated that he reached out to Linwood twice to schedule a meeting to discuss the inter-local agreement. He shared that both times they said they do not want to meet and don't want to make any changes. He noted that CFO Stollenwerk's

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recommendation was to increase the not to exceed amount by \$5,000.00. He further added that Linwood is the chair this year and Northfield will chair next year, for two years.

Councilman Chau asked for an explanation as to why Linwood did not want to meet.

Councilman Perri explained that the Sewer Committee is an autonomous body. He also stated that there were changes made when the last agreement was negotiated and the split between the towns increased at that time to 50/50.

Councilman Chau referred to the truck we share with Linwood and asked if it is stored here in Northfield.

Councilman Perri answered yes and only one is kept inside due to temperature sensitivity of the mechanicals.

Mayor McGee stated that in a meeting he attended with Councilman Perri he remembered that Linwood said that it might be a possibility to store vehicles in their facilities. He noted that he wasn't aware at the time that they were not talking about all vehicles but were referring to the shared vehicles.

Councilman Dewees stated staff is housed here and it may not make sense to have them have to go to Linwood to get the vehicles.

Council President Travagline will put it on the agenda for a vote, but shared that he was uncomfortable that Linwood has not agreed to it.

Councilman Perri reiterated that Linwood said for the record that they did not want to meet. He also noted that he contacted Linwood's Clerk.

Council President Travagline asked Municipal Clerk Canesi to add it to the agenda.

Municipal Clerk Canesi assigned Resolution 93-2014 and noted that a draft copy of the resolution is already part of the work session agenda packets.

Council President Travagline reviewed the agenda for the regular meeting.

Councilman Perri stated that he would like the budget amended to add the \$35,000.00 to a dedicated line for the Administrator.

Council President Travagline noted that the line is not a dedicated grant writer line.

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Councilman Perri disagreed and stated that when he voted on the budget it was to be \$35,000 for an administrator only.

CFO Stollenwerk indicated that her understanding was that Council wanted flexibility in the budget if Council chose to hire an Administrator. She further explained that if that should happen, the money would be transferred to the administrator line. She said the grant writer sub-line is for the CFO's reference only and it doesn't mean that the money cannot be used for an Administrator. She stated that amending the budget would require new publication and public hearing dates and would push our budget adoption dates into the future.

Mayor McGee asked if the COAH planner and attorney would be coming out of the grant line.

CFO Stollenwerk stated if necessary, at the end of the year, these monies can be transferred from the grant line to fund these unforeseen expenses. She noted that the budget was reviewed line by line and cut in many areas to be very close to last year's actual, including legal expenses and Planning Board. Now there are unforeseen expenses that have to be funded.

Councilman Chau clarified that the \$35,000.00 can be used for another purpose besides Grant Writer or Administrator.

CFO Stollenwerk confirmed but added that will need to be done by majority vote of Council.

Councilman Chau noted that either way, even if it were put in the administrator line by itself, Council could still vote to spend it on something else.

CFO Stollenwerk confirmed that to be correct but clarified not until after November.

Councilman Perri asked if recent report by State Comptroller affects Resolution 87-2014.

CFO Stollenwerk stated no, and clarified that it's regulated by the state, no compensatory time, payout is for sick and vacation and is in accordance with Chief James' contract and local Ordinances.

Council President Travagline completed making the assignments for the regular meeting agenda.

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**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, offered condolences to Chief James on the passing of his mother. He asked if women are allowed to join the Volunteer Fire Company.

Councilman Chau stated yes and noted they presently have one female member.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, stated his dissatisfaction with Comcast and wants the City to get rid of Comcast.

Councilman Chau explained that when a franchise renews, it is open to the public but often only one provider expresses interest.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, asked again what happened to the money from Atlanticare. He thanked those who helped install the statues at Veteran's Park, including Frank Perri, the Mayor, Nick Piergiovanni and Steve Vain. He also commended Steve and Bill Vain for all their work on the park. He also noted the passing of former Police Officer Bill O'Donnell.

Gail Poholsky, 114 East Revere Avenue, thanked Councilman Dewees and Council President Travagline for speaking on her behalf about the benches on the bike path. She stated that she walks or drives near the bike path four or five times a day and says she routinely observes people running the stop sign at Wabash Avenue and Oakcrest Avenue. She suggested installing a flashing crosswalk. She also commented that she can sit at Mazza's and can see the stop sign run regularly. She stated she is hoping they can at least offer a police presence to address the problem.

Larry Carlson, 922 First Street, mentioned drunk driving enforcement, alcohol education, drive sober or get pulled over, and municipal alliance. He noted an increase in municipal alliance.

CFO Stollenwerk explained change in calendar year to fiscal year to align with the state, so ½ of one year was appropriated this year.

Larry Carlson, 922 First Street, questioned why the other items he mentioned were not budgeted.

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CFO Stollenwerk explained that grants are added when we find out we get them, budget is amended once we get them, it's a timing issue.

Larry Carlson, 922 First Street, thanked CFO Stollenwerk for the explanation. He wanted to ensure that these lines were not cut.

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

At 7:03pm on motions properly made and seconded this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC  
Municipal Clerk