

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
JANUARY 24, 2017**

At 6:11pm this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. 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 Council Pro Tempore Murray.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Mayor Chau

Solicitor Kris Facenda, Municipal Engineer Rami Nassar and Police Chief Newman were also in attendance.

**WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

Council President Dewees announced a late field use application that has been presented to Council, and asked if there were any objections.

Councilman O'Neill suggested waiting until next meeting to vote on it.

Council President Dewees asked how many children are from Northfield, and said that was a consideration.

Councilman Lischin added that there is wear and tear on the fields with increased use.

Councilman Murray commented that the request for use listed 40 participants, and questioned the number of teams. Was the request for 5 + teams?

*At 6:16pm Mayor Chau entered the meeting.*

Mayor Chau asked about preference to Northfield residents and if we were charging a fee for use of the field.

Solicitor Facenda replied that we do not charge a fee and said that many applicants may not be Northfield residents. He asked Clerk Canesi for details about this application.

Clerk Canesi replied that she was not certain, but typically someone on Council was familiar with the group or the application. In this case, the applicant said they'd already spoken with Councilman Travagline.

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Councilman Travagline noted that one child was from Northfield.

Councilman Perri added that perhaps it could result in over use of the field.

Mayor Chau didn't want excuses to deny field use.

Solicitor Facenda noted that wear and tear and associated expenses would be a legitimate reason for denial.

Discussion ensued amongst Council as to use of the fields, availability or lack thereof of bathroom facilities, and the suggestion that the application being discussed could be approved for a probationary period.

Solicitor Facenda noted that once it's approved it's approved.

Council President Dewees informed all that the bathrooms were not open until March; there was a port-o-pot by the baseball field.

Councilman Perri and Councilman Travagline again suggested a probationary period.

Solicitor Facenda reiterated that we couldn't really do that.

There was general agreement to the suggestion made by Clerk Canesi to amend the application to reflect a one month period, contingent upon Northfield Little League allowing use of the port-o-pot, or the applicant would have to bring their own.

Clerk Canesi noted that the record shall reflect that the application was amended to reflect 1/28-2/28, and the applicant would have to reapply to extend beyond that period, at the 2/24 meeting. She assigned Resolution 54-2017 for the Use of Facilities request of the auxiliary football field.

Councilman Lischin suggested more guidelines, to include fees, bathroom facilities, clean up, etc.

Council President Dewees stated there was a meeting scheduled for next week with the heads of the sports groups to discuss field use.

Councilman Travagline asked to discuss the lacrosse application for field use that was also on the evening's agenda; he was under impression it was only for the back field. He noted that there were problems last year, they were addressed, but there were problems. He asked Councilman Murray if there were more issues than normal.

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Councilman Murray replied that he personally felt there was more than enough time, but we, the City, did not act in enough time. He said he thought this year's request would be fine.

Council President Dewees suggested that common sense should prevail if the field was wet from several days of rain; the City did not have a representative out there policing the use once it was approved.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Council President Dewees reviewed the agenda and made assignments.

*(The record shall reflect that the audio recording equipment was not activated until 6:35pm due to technical difficulty with mouse and keyboard.)*

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Dewees opened the meeting to public.

Tim Carew, 1512 Shore Road – Advised that the practice field was built to alleviate pressure on the use of the regular field; there was a lot of use on the fields. He was not in favor of the idea to let outside groups use the fields and felt it would spill over onto the baseball fields. He referred to the Birch Grove Park Trust; he had heard that the money was used for salaries and wages. Much of the money in the Trust had been used to pay for salaries and wages last year. Forty-Seven thousand dollars was transferred to pay for salaries and wages. He asked Council to leave the park alone; all the City paid for was salaries and wages. He predicted that there would be no more volunteers if the Trust was used to pay salaries. The Trust was going to be used to build bath houses and now the money was gone.

Council President Dewees advised Mr. Carew that he had run over his time limit.

Mr. Carew noted that no one informed the Advisory Board.

Mark Doherty, 405 Chestnut Avenue – was a long time former President of the Advisory Board, there were many lean years with the Trust and it was illegal to use the Trust Fund money to pay for salaries and wages. He requested an investigation and wanted the Solicitor to report at the next meeting.

Steve McKeone, 219 Mt. Vernon Avenue – advised Council that the practice field was flooded, had asked the meter readers to not drive on the field but they did anyway.

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Councilman Travagline suggested that the City have someone visit the fields before they are used to determine if they are playable, on each date.

Clerk Canesi suggested to Solicitor Facenda that the agreement would need to be modified; there was no provision that we evaluate the field conditions on any scheduled date and that use could be revoked.

Councilman Perri asked if the football application was for profit.

No one knew.

Council President Dewees suggested that with this many questions, that Resolution 54-2017 should not be voted on this evening; Councilman Travagline was not in favor of removing it from consideration by Council at this meeting.

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

At 6:48pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk