

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION**  
**MARCH 14, 2017**

At 6:04pm this meeting was called to order by Deputy Municipal Clerk Shannon Campbell. 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 Mayor Chau.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Perri, Travagline

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

**WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

- Medicine Drop Box – Requested by Chief Newman

Council President Dewees welcomed everyone to the meeting and deferred to Chief Newman.

Chief Newman explained that he was approached by Mr. Zlotnick, from Atlantic Prevention Resources, for Project Medicine Drop. The box would be permanently installed in City Hall or the Police Department. The Police Department currently does "Operation Take Back" 2 times per year.

*At 6:06pm Councilman Perri entered the meeting.*

Chief Newman noted initial concerns of his, including what to do with the medicine. To dispose of the medicine, the Police Department would have to do paperwork and a member of the department would have to take the medicine to a specific location in Camden; he put in his budget for an officer to take the medication 4 times a year. Additional funding was received recently and a box could be donated, they will do a site visit; we can hold onto discarded waste in the evidence room and dispose of it during "Operation Take Back". There was also an onsite program that could be done at locations such as the Four Seasons.

*At 6:07pm Councilman Travagline entered the meeting.*

Councilman O'Neill asked who takes the medicine.

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Chief Newman replied that we could keep the medication until “Operation Take Back”. He noted that the project coordinator would do an onsite visit to choose the best location.

Councilman Lischin was concerned with monitoring, he was not sure this option was the best for us due to the monitoring requirement and the size of the box.

Chief Newman stated that he had spoken with Pleasantville; theirs is in the lobby, Officers did not need to hover over it. Video surveillance was required, but the box would be drilled into the floor.

Council President Dewees asked for Chief Neman’s opinion.

Chief Newman was in favor of having the box as long as it was done properly.

Mayor Chau asked if other municipalities have it available 24hours.

Chief Newman replied that some towns have it in the police lobby.

Councilman Perri noted that Mr. Zlotnick gave a presentation to the Senior Committee; Perri showed Council charcoal bags that were provided by Atlantic Prevention resources. He handed out information to councilmembers regarding Project Medicine Chest - sponsored by Atlantic Prevention Resources.

Chief Newman said he believed the drop box would benefit residents who did not want to wait, however we could refer to them other towns.

Council President Dewees and Chief Newman discussed the next step which included a site visit from the project coordinator.

All of Council were in favor of moving forward.

- ACIA Redevelopment Initiative

Council President Dewees deferred to Engineer Nassar for explanation. Engineer Nassar requested a committee from Council to begin discussions with the ACIA.

Council President Dewees asked for volunteers.

Councilman Lischin volunteered.

Engineer Nassar thanked Councilman Lischin noting that one volunteer was enough.

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- Potential Land Sale of Landlocked City Owned Property

Council President Dewees explained that the City owns 10-15 parcels of land, many that are landlocked. We usually find out about one of these parcels when a tree on the parcel falls onto adjacent land. Recently a resident from Banning Avenue called about a tree that fell behind her property onto land that was owned by the City. Council President Dewees asked Council if they would be interested in selling these parcels of land.

Clerk Canesi informed Council that Council President Dewees had a map if they wished to look at it. If we wanted to offer them at auction the adjacent property owner may want it, however first we may want to make sure we had clear title to them.

Council President Dewees noted that some parcels back up to the Country Club, and some are wetlands; he distributed tax maps to Council for review. He added there was a large strip along the Arthur Henry property that could perhaps interest the owners of that property.

Councilman Perri noted that there was another piece by Arthur Henry that was by the library that the City may be interested in acquiring.

Solicitor Facenda explained the auction and quit claim deed process.

- Land Donation – Tilton Road

Council President addressed Council asking if they still wanted to pursue the lot by the golf range on Tilton Road.

Councilman O'Neill said he visited the site, he saw a few dead trees; he did not think if they fell they would hit any structures.

Council President Dewees advised that the City would have to do a title search.

Solicitor Facenda suggested looking at historic records to make sure nothing was ever on the property.

Councilman Murray asked if the property was next to Birch Grove.

Clerk Canesi explained the piece in question and where it was located in relation to the driving range and another business.

Mayor Chau expressed his concern with land condition.

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Councilman Lischin noted he was favor doing a land sale and acquiring the parcel by Birch Grove.

Councilmen Murray and Piergiovanni agreed with Councilman Lischin.

Councilman Travagline was not in favor of the parcel by Birch Grove but was not opposed to the land sale.

Councilman Perri asked how long Mr. Santori had owned the property.

Council President Dewees believed several years.

Solicitor Facenda said the City should compile a list of properties for land sale so that Council could determine what they wanted to auction and what they may want for other purposes.

Councilman Dewees noted that some were easements.

Solicitor Facenda recommended selling “buyer beware”; let the buyer do the title work.

Councilman O’Neill suggested that since Mr. Santori was paying taxes on the piece he should do the title work, so it doesn't cost the City.

Solicitor Facenda would reach out to Mr. Santori to see if he would do the title work and would check on the cost of the title searches.

Solicitor Facenda noted he would also come back to Council with auction procedures.

- Coin Drop Ordinance

Solicitor Facenda addressed Council regarding a coin drop ordinance. Council must have a rational basis in the formation of the ordinance. The terms cannot be unreasonable; they must be fair for all. If Council wished to define certain dates they would need to be determined. There were several questions that needed to be answered before moving forward.

Clerk Canesi noted there was a certain level of ambivalence; the concept was to adopt it and repeal it if it didn’t work out. She commented that she was not sure how effective it was to make a law in this manner.

Solicitor Facenda asked if Council looked at the changes suggested by Chief Newman and Clerk Canesi.

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Councilman Lischin was in favor if Council restricted coin drops to 2-3 dates a year.

Council President Dewees was not in favor of coin drops.

Councilman O'Neill was in agreement with Councilman Lischin.

Clerk Canesi explained that Council would need to decide the dates prior to the reorganization meeting each year.

Mayor Chau asked if Council proceeded would the open dates be open to anyone.

Solicitor Facenda replied absolutely; Council cannot restrict who could apply.

Mayor Chau was concerned that an organization that deserved an opportunity wouldn't be able to apply.

Solicitor Facenda agreed that there was a possibility that with limited dates someone would be turned down.

Clerk Canesi explained the process that Egg Harbor Township used in terms of ranking.

Councilman Murray suggested the deadline be several months prior to event and he would prefer to favor hometown organizations.

Solicitor Facenda reminded that Council needed to look at all of the criteria.

Clerk Canesi explained there were desirable intersections. She noted that there was an approval process beyond the City; the County also has to approve the applications, Council would need to vote on applications quickly.

Solicitor Facenda requested a committee to work on the conditions should Council still be in favor.

Council President Dewees reiterated that he was not in favor the coin drops.

Councilman Travagline noted he would be willing to help with the committee should Council wish to move forward.

After a straw poll vote, Councilmen Lischin, Murray, Travagline and O'Neill were in favor of moving forward; Councilmen Perri, Piergiovanni and Council President Travagline were opposed.

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**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Dewees asked all to review their agenda and asked if anyone wanted to vote on any of the resolutions separately.

Councilman Lischin asked to vote on Resolutions 74-2017 and 76-2017 separately.

Council President Dewees made assignments.

Councilman Travagline questioned Resolution 79-2017.

Council President Dewees explained that Public Works needed permission to go across the property to get to the easement for cleaning purposes.

Solicitor Facenda explained the packet provided to Council from Tilton regarding the Verizon small network nodes. Tilton asked for consent from Council to install the nodes; the company does not know where the nodes would be installed. Solicitor Facenda asked that they come back when they knew where they would be. They could be installed on a new pole or existing pole. He explained how the nodes would be installed; there were expected to be 4-6 nodes along Tilton Road.

Councilman Perri replied that he was not consenting without more information; he would like schematics and locations.

All of Council was in agreement that they would like to narrow down locations.

Councilman Perri would still like an application fee for administrative overview.

Councilman Lischin questioned their motivation behind the installation on Atlantic Electric poles and wondered if they were trying to get around using the cell towers.

Councilman Piergiiovanni explained it's the changes in technology and that these nodes were filling in gaps for better service.

Clerk Canesi confirmed with Solicitor Facenda that initially Tilton had reported that they were installing 2 nodes and they were now wishing to install 6.

Solicitor Facenda confirmed and noted that he would again reach out to the representative from Tilton.

Councilman Perri addressed Council regarding the insurance for the Family Association of Northfield. He reminded Council that several years ago they said they would be self-sufficient. When they switched from All Sports to FAN they created this situation and should pay the premium; the fees are around \$16,000.00 per year.

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Councilman Travagline disagreed, several things were going on at the time, and he felt the organization was not as transparent as they were today.

Councilman Perri asked how much money they had and could they help.

Councilman Travagline noted they had a lot of money; he felt that over time we could put more pressure on them to pay.

Council President Dewees felt council liaisons should have a conversation with all of the sports organizations.

Councilman Travagline noted that baseball was looking to get their insurance through Little League International.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Dewees opened the meeting to public.

Paul Grace, 553 Zion Road, EHT - applied to use the Babe Ruth baseball field for SJ Mens baseball league. They play 16 games on Sunday mornings and chose Birch Grove for their home field because they have the best field in the area. Players on his team are from EHT, EHC and Ocean City; no Northfield residents. He also introduced their sponsor from Northfield. Mr. Grace gave an overview of his team and their connections to Northfield. They were willing to donate \$25 per game to the City for maintenance of the field; they were also willing to maintain the field before and after the games.

Mayor Chau thanked Mr. Grace for recognizing our field; we take pride in maintaining the field. It was difficult opening up the field to organizations outside of Northfield, he asked Mr. Grace if his team was for profit and if there was a fee.

Mr. Grace replied that there was a \$1,100.00 league fee for insurance, field fees if needed and umpires.

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

At 6:57pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Campbell, Deputy Municipal Clerk