

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MAY 15, 2018**

At 6:06m this meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 13, 2018, in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present: Lischin, Murray, Perri, Travagline, Dewees
Absent: Korngut, O'Neill

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

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS

Council President Dewees deferred to Solicitor Facenda for an update on the potential land sale.

- Potential Land Sale – Update

Solicitor Facenda did not have an update; he was waiting on the fairness hearing that was scheduled for June.

- Request for County Assistance - Signs for the Casto House and Museum on Shore Road and Rt. 9

Council President Dewees announced that the signs had been approved, and we received a letter indicating as such from County Executive Levinson. Council President Dewees announced planned locations.

- “Parks and Recreation Areas” Ordinance Changes

Council President Dewees advised that he had no update on the parks and recreation areas ordinance, he had asked the Superintendent of Public Works to follow up and make a recommendation.

Councilman Perri stated that Joyce Pullan provided him with a history of the bandstand for distribution to Council; she wanted to attend tonight but was unable. Councilman Perri distributed the document to Council.

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Councilman Perri asked if there could be subcommittees in the park ordinance. He suggested that Veterans Park and the Bandstand could be their own subcommittees in the legislation.

Council President Dewees agreed as their interests may be separate.

Councilman Perri noted that the original location of the bandstand is the current location of the practice field; it was actually dedicated to them in some sort of deed at one point.

Solicitor Facenda asked what their concern was.

Councilman Perri replied that the Cultural Committee felt they would lose control over the gazebo, and the veterans groups would lose control of Veterans Park.

Councilman Lischin responded that the Cultural Committee had a say in the scheduling.

Solicitor Facenda asked for clarification about the Parks and Recreation Committee, colloquially referred to as the Advisory Board, and the "sub committees".

Councilman Perri advised that the Cultural Committee wanted their own control over the bandstand.

Mayor Chau stated that we were not getting younger people involved to become members of committees, as Councilman Perri and Mrs. Pullan pointed out. Many of us may not be familiar, but when they go, who will step in? Mayor Chau said he understood that it's hard to get people involved.

Councilman Lischin reiterated that the Cultural Committee did not want to lose control of the bandstand, they have worked very hard to make it what it is and to maintain it. He felt the City staff, specifically Public Works, could help them.

- Sign Ordinance Changes

Council President Dewees asked for an update on the sign ordinance.

Councilman Lischin would have an update at the next meeting, he has not had a chance to meet with local businesses.

Councilman Travagline felt the current draft was acceptable.

Mayor Chau asked Zoning Official, Mike Dattalo, to make recommendations with regard to signs. Mayor Chau had presented the recommendations to the sign

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committee for their review. He wanted to make sure that there was a clear definition of how to determine square footage when it came to LED signs - they may not be perfectly square. When Mayor Chau was on Council, there was a clear determination, and even though the wording has not changed, over the years, the interpretation has changed. He wanted to make sure the calculation method was clear.

Councilman Lischin was looking more into the use of LED signage, colors, etc. adding the LED terminology where the ordinance currently referred to neon lighting. It was still not permitted in certain zones, and Planning Board approval may be needed.

Mayor Chau asked about animation.

Councilman Lischin replied, to his understanding that it was not permitted; this is why LED use, specifically is being reviewed.

Solicitor Facenda did not recall the calculation being changed.

Mayor Chau responded that several years ago, he asked Council what it meant, and no one knew the answer. He asked the zoning official and was told it was okay.

Solicitor Facenda advised that if the language was unclear we could certainly change it.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Letter to Volunteer Organizations Regarding Use of City Facilities

Council President Dewees refers to the letter to volunteers regarding use of city facilities.

Councilman Murray asked for Solicitor Facenda's opinion.

Solicitor Facenda did not see any harm in it. Whether or not the Council wanted to do it now was up to Council.

Councilman Lischin had an issue with having volunteers sign it.

Solicitor Facenda did not recall that we were asking anyone to sign it.

Clerk Canesi replied that it was her suggestion; some groups are quite large, if they weren't at a meeting where the topic was discussed, they may never know.

Solicitor Facenda felt sending the letter to the body chair was sufficient.

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Councilman Murray asked if it would be sent to all organizations.

Solicitor Facenda replied, yes.

Councilman Travagline did not feel it was necessary mid-term.

Councilman Lischin was okay with it as long as everyone was not asked to sign it.

Councilman Murray hoped it did not chill volunteerism.

Clerk Canesi asked how volunteer groups knew what they were supposed to do, now.

Councilman Perri replied, they don't, they would rely on someone who had been around for a while to explain things.

Clerk Canesi stated that generally she felt that people wanted to do the right thing. This issue came up because it became apparent that maybe, sometimes, on occasion, they don't know what that right thing is. That's all.

Solicitor Facenda asked Clerk Canesi to prepare a list of volunteer groups.

WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS

- Bike Path Bollards – Update from Engineer Nassar

Engineer Nassar received a quote for bollards, the cost would be around \$3,000 for galvanized, paintable steel; they were removable for plowing, maintenance, etc.

Council President Dewees asked if there was sufficient clearance to satisfy the ADA.

Engineer Nassar replied, yes.

Council President Dewees advised that he would speak with the Superintendent of Public Works tomorrow.

**OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE FROM ATLANTIC COUNTY
MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND**

- Court order and written opinion in the *West Wildwood v. NJ MEL* matter.

Solicitor Facenda explained that the JIF had sent a letter to all municipalities and had requested that the letter be reviewed - it pertained to a lawsuit in West Wildwood. Solicitor Facenda reviewed the highlights of the case.

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AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Dewees reviewed the agenda and made assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Dewees opened the public portion of the meeting for any person to speak on any topic.

Gary Wolf, 311 Franklin Avenue - thanked Council and the Mayor for some of the positive things he's seen, he had lived here since 1977 and served on the school board at one point. He commended the City and Public works on their snow removal activities, they did a great job. He knew the City had been working on some of the houses that had been foreclosed, they were being sold, or improved, which will help the property values in Northfield. He would like to present a flooding problem on the corner of Franklin and Ireland Avenues, he explained that he entered and exited through the side door of his home and with as little as a quarter inch of rain, he had flooding issues. In the winter it was bad as well. He passed around a photo for Council to review. He hoped Council would do something to fix it.

Engineer Nassar noted it could possibly be addressed with pitching the pavement as part of a road paving project.

Councilman Lischin felt we needed to have a plan to do these going forward.

Mr. Wolf asked if it would be a short-term plan.

Councilman Lischin and Council President Dewees couldn't answer that right now.

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

At 6:49pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk