

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
JULY 25, 2017**

At 6:04pm 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 Mayor Chau.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

Council President Dewees welcomed all to the meeting and deferred to Chief Newman for an update on the Medicine Drop Box.

**WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

- Medicine Drop Box – Update

Chief Newman was pleased to announce that the installation of the Medicine Drop Box was complete. Chief Newman was waiting for approval of the press release at which time he would announce the installation to the public.

- Potential Land Sale - Update

Solicitor Facenda did not have an update; he is still working on ascertaining values with the assistance of Mr. Sykes, Tax Assessor.

- American Flag Program

Council President Dewees asked Mayor Chau to speak regarding the flag program.

Mayor Chau advised that a resident inquired with Councilman Perri about the flags. The Mayor said he was scheduled to meet with Atlantic City Electric in August, and during that meeting wanted to propose 20" x 36" vinyl banner-style American flags. If Atlantic City Electric would approve of the installation, Chau intended to have donors pay for the flags, but the City would have to install them. This particular flag has an expected life of 5 years. Mayor Chau explained how the flags needed to be installed parallel to the street, as opposed to perpendicular to the street. Mayor Chau

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was hoping to get Atlantic City Electric to agree to allow us to install them in the preferred manner.

Councilman O'Neill questioned why we couldn't do what the other towns did.

Mayor Chau explained that Atlantic City Electric said we got a letter that offered an agreement that would have allowed us to be grandfathered, and have the flags the way everyone else did, but Northfield did not respond.

Councilman O'Neill asked when did the letter get sent and to whom.

Mayor Chau replied the letter was sent a few years ago, but that Atlantic City Electric did not know to whom it was sent. He also noted that there was also an annual fee to use the pole, and said that Municipal Clerk Canesi sent a letter on Mayor Chau's behalf last year asking someone from Atlantic City Electric to come to a meeting and explain these issues. Mayor Chau asked Clerk Canesi what the letter of response from Atlantic City Electric said.

Clerk Canesi did not recall.

Mayor Chau asked if Council liked the flag idea, and if he should he proceed with discussions with Atlantic City Electric on this topic.

No one on Council disagreed.

- Verizon Small Network Nodes

Mayor Chau announced that he recently met with a representative from Verizon, and that Clerk Canesi had provided information to the Council. Mayor Chau asked Council if they had any questions.

Councilman Lischin said he was not in favor of them; Verizon was only one provider, with other providers we'll need have many of them to satisfy the need. The nodes are bigger than Councilman Lischin anticipated; if we allowed Verizon, we'd have to allow AT&T, Sprint, and others.

Mayor Chau advised that Pleasantville had the same concerns; they were considering an ordinance that would address that issue.

Councilman Perri would like it to go through the Land Use Ordinance.

Councilman Lischin felt that if Atlantic City Electric won't let us put a flag on a pole, they aren't going to let Verizon put a node on a pole; then they're going to put up their own pole in the County right of way.

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Councilman Perri reiterated the need to have this go through the Planning Board; there should be an application process and individual approval. The sample resolution provided by Mayor Chau allowed them to put them wherever they wanted.

Solicitor Facenda noted this goes back to Council's original question, how many nodes did they want to install and where.

Mayor Chau replied that they wished to install between 6 and 12 on New Road and Tilton Road.

Solicitor Facenda recalled that the numbers had been previously relayed to us as 1-2, then 4-6, and now it's 6-12.

Mayor Chau asked Solicitor Facenda to write a letter to Verizon outlining our position.

Solicitor Facenda replied that if it was that we wanted to know how many and where, that letter had already been sent, months ago.

Councilman Perri felt there were viable sites in Northfield for cell towers, and they were sources of revenue.

Mayor Chau asked for confirmation that the City's position remained unchanged.

Solicitor Facenda recapped that if it's 1-2 nodes that may not be a concern, but if it's 12 or 50 it may be. He was not entirely certain it was a Planning Board issue but for now we need more information and that has not changed.

- NJDOT Grant – Cresson Avenue Paving, Scope of Project

Engineer Nassar distributed a map to Council and explained the area that was not covered by the grant because we did not get sufficient funding from the grant to complete the project. He would like Council to consider supplementing the grant funds by \$40,000 to complete the original scope of the project.

Council President Dewees polled Council individually, all present were in favor of having the Engineer design specifications for the additional work.

Engineer Nassar advised that he would have the specifications prepared sometime in September, for Council to review and approve.

Clerk Canesi reiterated that Council was not at this time authorizing any expenditure of funds, just giving the Engineer guidance on design of the bid spec.

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- Rosedale Pump Station

Engineer Nassar moved to discuss the Rosedale Pump Station and explained the recent change order; he asked Council for approval for another change order to acquire additional accessories for the station from the contractor. There were additional funds in the contract, so the net to the City remained the same. Engineer Nassar also offered praise to Sewer Department employee Darren Boyd, who was extremely helpful and offered proactive assistance on the project.

Council President Dewees polled Council; all were in favor of authorizing the Engineer to request the change order. He thanked Darren Boyd for his assistance.

- PILOT Lawsuit Resolution

Mayor Chau reviewed the PILOT bill lawsuit proposed by the County and asked Council to consider adopting a resolution in support of the lawsuit.

*At 6:43pm Councilman Piergiovanni entered the meeting.*

Mayor Chau read from an email sent by County Administrator Jerry DelRosso which provided insight into the County's position with regard to the lawsuit. The County was asking us to join the suit; there would be no cost to Northfield. Mayor Chau was told there was a previous suit that was thrown out because the municipalities were not part of it. The County Executive has asked all municipalities to put their name on the suit for that reason.

Solicitor Facenda noted that the email that Mayor Chau just read into the record was the response to questions Solicitor Facenda had raised. Solicitor Facenda drew Council's attention to a section of the resolution that seemed to lack definitive proof that supported the language in the resolution that Council was being asked to adopt. Mr. DelRosso indicated that the language in the resolution could be modified. Solicitor Facenda asked Council if it wanted to put its name on the lawsuit.

Council President Dewees stated he would feel more comfortable if the language in the resolution was modified and we could vote at the next meeting.

Solicitor Facenda asked Mayor Chau if he was saying that unless all municipalities participated, that the County couldn't bring the suit at all.

Mayor Chau confirmed that this was his understanding; believed that 7 towns had already joined the suit.

Solicitor Facenda would try to find the prior case law and reach out to the County.

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**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Dewees reviewed the agenda and made assignments.

There were no questions from Council regarding the Regular meeting agenda.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Dewees opened the meeting to public.

Jerry McGee, 1620 Zion Road - asked who the County was suing, the State or Atlantic City?

Mayor Chau replied that the lawsuit was challenging the PILOT bill, so it was legislation at the State level.

Mr. McGee noted that we pay County taxes, so we will pay for the lawsuit. He then asked if CUC program was still viable and if they ever get a rate will everyone be switched?

Solicitor Facenda deferred to Clerk Canesi for an update.

Clerk Canesi replied they had at least 2 bids but couldn't get a sufficient rate, they haven't done another bid in years.

Mr. McGee felt the Ordinance should come off the books.

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

At 6:58pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk