

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**

At 6:03pm 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, Travagline, Dewees
Absent: Piergiovanni

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

Council President Dewees welcomed all to the meeting and asked CFO Stollenwerk to brief Council on the capital discussions.

- Capital Ordinance

CFO Stollenwerk advised Council that the list of projects were identified by the department heads as important for the next 5 years; CFO Stollenwerk added road and drainage. If Council wished to get a bond this year they had to do it relatively quickly. They could do so in October if they wanted to do some of these projects. Most important on the list is the match for the body cameras, the Police Department got a grant for \$4,500.00 and an additional \$25,000.00 was needed for accessories and mandatory equipment.

Mayor Chau stressed the importance of the ancillary equipment.

Councilman Dewees asked Council for comment.

Councilman Perri noted that LED signs were not permitted on Shore Road and some of the projects may be funded by the NJEIT.

CFO Stollenwerk noted that typically at this point we would replace \$5 million because our debt service was retiring; the NJEIT would be a separate ordinance but we would back that out of our local ordinance and fund that differently, but the total would still be \$5 million. She needed to know from Council if these are the projects that they wanted to move forward with.

Councilman O'Neill asked if we had the manpower to utilize a vector truck and was it for storm or sewer.

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Council President Dewees replied yes, and both, we have a DEP requirement to satisfy.

Councilman O'Neill asked would it help with sewer.

Council President Dewees replied yes, it is a better piece of equipment than we already had.

Councilman Travagline asked was there another option.

Council President Dewees stated yes, the number listed was a basic truck; there were options.

CFO Stollenwerk advised that other option was a tow behind for a hundred or so thousand.

Council President Dewees explained that tow behinds had less capacity and required more manpower. The number estimated for the truck could go down.

At Councilman Travagline's request, CFO Stollenwerk explain the bond process again.

Councilman Lischin asked about police vehicles.

CFO Stollenwerk reported that they were leased vehicles that were put in budget that were cut.

Councilman O'Neill asked Engineer Nassar to explain the use of a vector truck.

Engineer Nassar cited examples of recent compromised pipe that was found to be filled with sediment.

Darren Boyd, Sewer Operator, in audience, explained in detail the need to jet and vacuum the storm system pipes; right now equipment was shared between sewer and road, and has less ability and capacity than the equipment that was proposed to be purchased.

Councilman Travagline expressed that he was generally okay with the truck, at this stage, for planning purposes.

Council President Dewees took a straw poll; all generally in favor.

CFO Stollenwerk reviewed the priorities for 2017.

Councilman Travagline thought all departments should be asked again to see if any projects were needed.

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Clerk Canesi advised that Council would have one more meeting in September, one in October, two in November and one in December. She reminded everyone that an ordinance takes two meetings.

CFO Stollenwerk would do a capital authorization to allow the Police Department to move forward with the body cams, we can self-fund the cameras from the capital improvement fund that was set aside for down payments.

WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- Potential Land Sale - Update

Solicitor Facenda met with Tax Assessor Sykes regarding valuation of land potentially able to be sold; Mr. Sykes said there are potentially 2 properties that may be profitable.

Councilman Perri asked for a map to illustrate the land to be sold.

Clerk Canesi advised that she would email to the Council - map that shows location and zone, and spreadsheet that has block, lot and physical address.

Solicitor Facenda informed Council that Mr. Sykes just arrived and provided a list that had some of the values; he would provide to Council.

Solicitor Facenda reported regarding the PILOT suit, he had received a copy of the suit and asked if the Council would like him to review the complaint; it will be billable. There were 6 towns who signed on to the suit and it was filed in August 2016.

Discussion ensued amongst all of Council with regard to the PILOT suit, most generally were in favor of Solicitor Facenda reviewing the complaint.

Solicitor Facenda announced that participants in the suit were: the County, Somers Point, Hamilton Township, Egg Harbor, Absecon, Hammonton and Weymouth.

- Request for County Assistance
 - Painting of Hash marks on Zion Road and the Bike Path
 - Signs for the Casto House and Museum on Shore Road and Rt. 9

Council President Dewees spoke regarding the hatch marks on Zion Road at Wabash, advised Clerk Canesi that they are there but perhaps need to be refreshed. He suggested maybe we could change the height of the signs, lower them.

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Clerk Canesi asked are they sufficient then? And believed there was a height requirement and questioned installing a bollard.

Chief Newman responded yes, there was a minimum height; he thought it was six feet but not certain.

Councilman Perri noted the City used to have bollards but they had to be removed because of ADA rules. The opening must have enough width for two wheelchairs to pass.

Chief Newman also noted that the former bollards were plastic and they broke off.

Mayor Chau asked about use of the County car wash.

Council President Dewees said we were still waiting for a decision from the County.

Council President Dewees would like to ask the County for assistance in having signs placed on Shore Road for the Casto House and Museum; would like to have the Mayor send a letter to the County.

Councilman Travagline felt the signs should have the hours of operation, and if not, was not in favor.

Council President Dewees replied what if they change?

No one else was opposed to sending the letter to the County.

Councilman Perri informed Council that Mayor Chau had forwarded a list to Councilman Perri that contained policies and procedures for the bike path, Councilman Perri would like to move forward with it.

Mayor Chau felt there should be rules in place so the City can remove and legislate what is put on the memorial bench locations.

At 6:54pm Councilman Piergiovanni entered the meeting.

All of Council ensued in discussion with regard to the need for an ordinance; it's already city property, the city does not need permission to manage our own property.

Solicitor Facenda said it was difficult to establish a bright line test; very subjective.

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Council President Dewees would talk to Public Works, asked Clerk Canesi to comment.

Clerk Canesi replied that she did speak with Supervisor Qwin Vitale; he felt that it was manageable as it was, felt if criteria were established there would be more ornaments than there are now.

Mayor Chau had addressed these issues and would like to set parameters.

Councilman Travagline was not in favor of more rules and regulations.

Councilman Piergiovanni did not think having some ornamentation was unreasonable.

Engineer Nassar approached Council advising them that he needed authorization to file application for next year's municipal aid; roadway infrastructure. The City could also apply for bikeways; we had a meeting that involved extending Burton Avenue into Birch Grove Park and creating bike trails.

All were generally in favor of Engineer Nassar pursuing the bikeway grant for the extension into Birch Grove Park.

Engineer Nassar had to look at our roads and determine where the money would be best spent.

Mayor Chau referred to resolution 187-2017 and noted his support for it.

Councilman Perri asked about the OEM generator.

Engineer Nassar explained that the grant was for \$80,000.00, we would purchase two generators; this bid came in at around \$40,000.00.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Dewees reviewed the agenda and made assignments.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Dewees opened the meeting to public.

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

At 7:12pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk