

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION  
OCTOBER 15, 2019**

At 6:06pm this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 5, 2019, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Council Pro Tempore O'Neill.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Dewees, Korngut, Madden, O'Neill, Perri, Smith, Lischin

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

Council President Lischin announced that Mayor Chau was not able to be in attendance this evening because of his participation at a Complete Count Committee meeting for the 2020 Census.

Council President Lischin asked Councilman Dewees to speak regarding bike trails at the park.

**WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – OLD BUSINESS**

- Bike Trails at BGP – *Signage and maps for public being developed*

Councilman Dewees reported there were minor revisions to the trail map; he should have that completed tomorrow.

- Plastic Bag Restrictions – *Requested by Council President Lischin*

Council President Lischin moved to plastic bag restrictions; he felt it should be left to the State or County to address. He acknowledged his absence from the last Council meeting.

Solicitor Facenda requested direction from Council.

Councilman Dewees felt we should follow the State.

Council President Lischin suggested a straw poll.

Councilman Smith agreed with Councilman Dewees, Council should wait for direction from the State.

Councilman Perri agreed, adding that he read something about paper bags as well.

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Councilwoman Madden agreed; the Governor seemed to have a positive plan.

Councilman O'Neill agreed to follow State or Federal.

Councilwoman Korngut felt it was up to us to lead the way, we should be out front.

Council President Lischin reminded Council that we could always discuss it again; he agreed to move forward and wait for the State. Council could perhaps do something just at the park or something like that but it comes down to enforcement. He suggested removing it from the agenda for now.

Councilman Perri asked if Council would see the plan for the trail map.

Councilman Dewees replied yes.

- Use of Lights on Athletic Fields – *Requested by Councilman Smith*

Council President Lischin asked Councilman Smith to speak regarding light use fee.

Councilman Smith had come up with a fee of \$25 per game.

Council President Lischin asked Solicitor Facenda to come up with wording; he asked if there was not also something about helicopters.

Clerk Canesi stated that she'd contacted Chief Cummings regarding the fee for a stand-by crew for the Fire Department. The Chief's fee recommendation would not cover the City's costs in the unlikely event of an entirely career-man crew, so she'd suggested that Chief Cummings confer with the Mayor before proceeding. We are trying to avoid doing two ordinances, and combine the light-use fee and the stand-by crew fee in one.

Council President Lischin conducted a straw poll, all were generally in favor.

Solicitor Facenda would begin working on a draft.

- Radio Tower, Rear of City Hall - *Solicitor/Clerk RFP Pending*

Council President Lischin asked about the radio tower at City Hall.

Solicitor Facenda reported that he needed to do a little more research; it may take some time to put that together.

**WORK SESSION / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – NEW BUSINESS**

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- Standing Item – New Grant Opportunities

Council President Lischin moved to new business, and referred to several grants we had in the works.

Engineer Nassar also mentioned possible use of the Safe Routes to School Grant to apply for sidewalks on Cedar Bridge on the west side of Route 9.

- Unauthorized Road Openings
  - NJ American Water and SJ Gas – *Requested by Engineer Nassar*

Engineer Nassar explained recent unauthorized road openings. South Jersey Gas Company requested a permit for a section under moratorium and the Engineer could only issue it with conditions because it would require additional paving. They opened the street in three locations but did not follow the conditions. We can issue a fine or we can request the additional paving. Engineer Nassar requested direction from Council.

Councilwoman Korngut asked what happened.

Engineer Nassar stated it was some sort of miscommunication on their part. He explained that they have to perform the restoration anyway, and asked did the Council want the Zoning Officer to issue a summons.

Council President Lischin asked what had been done in the past.

Engineer Nassar recalled New Jersey American Water Company was issued a fine and they did do the extra restoration, but our Ordinance had recently changed.

Council President Lischin did a straw poll; he asked if Council wanted the gas company to just do the restoration or restoration and a fine.

Solicitor Facenda suggested arranging the restoration in accordance with the Ordinance, and get the specifics of how it occurred and make a decision then. He would discuss with Engineer Nassar before the next meeting and have a recommendation for Council.

Engineer Nassar next reported an unauthorized opening by New Jersey American Water Company; they had a County permit for portions of Zion Road. They went beyond the limits of the County permit onto portions of Northfield Avenue, well beyond the County's right of way. They didn't have a permit for what they've done; he asked for Council's direction. He would get them to do the proper restoration.

Council President Lischin's recommendation was proper restoration and a fine in all

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cases. He felt we had to be consistent. He did a straw poll all were in favor of restoration and issuance of fine.

Engineer Nassar referred to the recent completion of the 2018 Road Paving Project, and residents on side streets who raised concerns. There were two gentlemen here tonight that he spoke with about Fairbanks and Maple. He suggested starting on a road paving list for next year now.

Councilman Perri referred to drainage issues in the area of Fairbanks and Maple. Engineer Nassar suggested connecting to the County system at that location; we could make that part of the road program. He would bring possible ideas to the next Council meeting.

Council President Lischin polled Council; all were generally in favor of that plan.

**REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Council President Lischin reviewed the regular meeting agenda and made assignments.

Council President Lischin asked if anyone wanted something voted on separately; there were no responses.

Solicitor Facenda advised Council that Resolution 200-2019 needed approval by 2/3 of Council.

Discussion ensued between Councilman Perri and Council President Lischin with regard to the emergency appropriation and accompanying grant funds.

Councilwoman Korngut announced that Resolution 202-2019 needed to be amended; Solicitor Facenda replied that he would inquire during the break.

**PUBLIC SESSION/ FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Lischin opened this portion of the meeting for any member of the public to speak on any topic; he noted a 5-minute limit per speaker.

Richard Levitt, 2204 Bay Drive, said he was not sure what Council was doing with the cell tower. He asked them to keep in mind that it should be adaptable for cell or Wi-Fi, and said our Ordinance required that City-owned land be given first opportunity. He was also here to discuss another issue, and said Egg Harbor Township had approved a midrise development consisting of five stories, eighty units, on the Margate Causeway. It will result in increased density. He expressed concern about mutual aid and sewer issues; with us being 1st responders it can be an issue. Council should be aware. He distributed printouts from the Egg Harbor

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Township website that show the planned community.

Councilman Perri advised that sewer and water were already there; the hurricane took it out. He said he had been following the decision; it had been approved for development by the Egg Harbor Township Planning Board. The sewer was not in our system, it tied right into the County's main interceptor line.

Chief Newman, in the audience, stated that we were not 1st responder for police.

Council President Lischin asked if we were for fire.

Clerk Canesi advised that she had never seen a Memorandum of Understanding that created such a relationship.

*At 6:42pm Councilwoman Korngut announced she had to leave due to an emergency.*

Councilman Perri replied we provide mutual aid.

Dr. Levitt announced that he was not opposed to development but he thought the height was inappropriate. There may also be issues with the DEP and he encouraged Council to look in to this.

Council President Lischin suggested a letter to Egg Harbor Township so we understand what we were looking at.

Dr. Levitt noted it was at the 'approval for redevelopment' phase.

Heather Mellon, 2509 Herbert Drive, commented that Somers Point had banned plastic bags. Did they have to go through the county and the state for that? She heard someone suggest a 'slow walk'. It seemed like nowadays everything takes so long. Plastic bags were everywhere. There were trash cans but she did not understand why people just don't use them. She suggested that Northfield contact Somers Point to see how they did it.

Councilman Lischin thanked Mrs. Mellon.

Darren Delcher, 681 Pasadena Drive, thanked Council again for the short-term rental Ordinance. Council acted quickly and he believed it is in the best interest.

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

At 6:47pm, on a motion of Councilman O'Neill, seconded by Councilman Dewees, all members present were in favor of adjourning this meeting.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk