

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
OCTOBER 23, 2012**

At 6:00pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on May 12, 2012, in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Brown, Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Polistina, Vain, Carew

Mayor Vince Mazzeo, City Solicitor Keith Bonchi and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance.

The flag salute was led by Mayor Vincent Mazzeo. Following the flag salute, a moment of silence was observed.

**WORK SESSION TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

- **2013 RFQ'S PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Council President Carew referred to the Professional Services RFQ discussion from the last meeting and stated that Northfield should require ten years of experience for Municipal Solicitor. Councilwoman Brown and Councilman O'Neill each noted that they think five is sufficient, and Councilman Vain said he would prefer five to seven years of experience. Councilman Dewees added that a less experienced solicitor may not have the experience to handle a difficult situation and we may pay more in research fees. O'Neill responded and said it would depend on the type of experience they had and reasserted that five years is acceptable.

Council President Carew asked the Municipal Clerk for her opinion. Canesi replied that the Clerk deals with the Solicitor more than any other single individual; with some newer council members, an experienced solicitor may be able to anticipate things that Council or the Clerk does not.

Mayor Mazzeo suggested that we may find out in interview whether or not their particular five years of experience is acceptable. Canesi suggested ranking the years of experience accordingly.

Council President Carew conducted a straw poll, and the majority would prefer five years of experience for a Solicitor.

Council President Carew solicited input on the insurance requirements from other

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members of Council. Canesi clarified that insurance certs must be provided by the successful professional; not submitted as a condition of acceptance of their proposal.

Councilman Polistina and Councilwoman Brown will work together on the ranking and will give recommendation to Council.

Councilman O'Neill referred to the proposed tree ordinance and said a Holly Drive resident has a neighbor that will not allow Atlantic City Electric to trim trees that are entangled in branches. Solicitor Bonchi asked the City Engineer to investigate jurisdictional authority. Councilman Perri suggested that AC Electric evaluate all of Northfield as a post-storm activity, noting that there are numerous problem areas.

Councilman O'Neill suggested the City go to VOIP for phone service; this will reduce costs significantly. However, periodically the phone lines will drop if internet service is interrupted.

Councilman Perri suggested a traditional dedicated line, in the event that any hi tech phone systems go down, so the public can still call in.

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda for the regular meeting.

Councilman Perri asked if Resolution 158-2012 is setting a precedent. Council President Carew replied that this is a contractual matter and deferred to Chief James for further explanation. James stated that this is the first time Council is approving an accumulated leave payout and is being done at the recommendation of the CFO.

Council President Carew opened the meeting to any member of the public wishing to speak on any subject.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue stated that trees overhanging another resident's property are allowed to be cut by the affected resident.

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

At 6:36pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk