

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD  
WORK SESSION & COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 22, 2008**

This meeting was called to order by Deputy City Clerk Kimberley Hodsdon. It was properly advertised under Public Law 75, Chapter 231. The flag salute was led by Mayor Vincent Mazzeo. Following the flag salute, there was a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Mrs. Joan Eggie, a long time member of the Ladies Fire Auxiliary.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Carew, Kern, Notaro, O'Grady, Vain and Martinez

**RESOLUTION 24-2008**

Councilman Notaro made a motion, seconded by Councilman O'Grady, for Resolution 24-2008 to Appoint Julie Zlotnick to Fill a Vacancy on Council. All were in favor and the motion carried. Mayor Vincent Mazzeo administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Zlotnick. She thanked City Council for the opportunity, and the Municipal Committee for their support. Councilwoman Zlotnick took her place on the dais.

Council President Martinez reviewed the agenda. Councilman Carew announced that the Little League would not be addressing Council this evening; they postponed their visit until the February meeting.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

Councilman Vain proposed that the City adopt an ordinance to address nepotism. He stated that the City's Policy & Procedure Manual includes a nepotism policy for employees, and that the same should hold true for elected officials. In the best interest of public trust, he believes that elected officials should set the standard and adhere to the same rule. Council agreed that more time was needed to review the matter and it would be taken under consideration. Solicitor Scheffler will review the document and render a legal opinion at a later time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Notaro reported that the sixth round of fertilizer has been applied to the athletic fields. He will be soliciting proposals for field maintenance for the 2008 season. The City has been assessed by the State Department of Agriculture for Gypsy Moth infestation; the results of the assessment rendered Northfield ineligible for State assistance with prevention or treatment.

Councilman Vain is exploring the possibility of getting Birch Grove Park classified as an Historic Site. This designation would allow the City to seek grant funding to help with the maintenance of the park. Vain attended the Library Board meeting during which two new members were appointed. The Board's goal this year is to think of new ideas for events and ways to attract more patrons. He attended an Allsports meeting at which safety concerns over the fence were discussed.

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Councilman Vain advised Allsports that repairs for the fence are tentatively in the 2008 budget. Vain provided Council with an update on the speed-humps and on the redesign of the Cedarbridge & Zion Road intersection. As follow up to the concerns about flags that were posed by resident Lou Milone at a previous Council meeting, Councilman Vain stated that beautification of Tilton and Shore Roads should be a consideration during budget meetings.

Councilman Carew reported that Open Space funds are being pursued to help pay for projects at Birch Grove Park which include a new snack bar and ADA compliant restrooms. The design of the new snack bar will be practical and may include a small meeting room. The 2007 Boardwalk project at the park is going out to bid in the near future.

Councilwoman Kern reported that the Municipal Alliance will be sponsoring many events this year including the Family Fitness & Health Day on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Northfield Community School and the Family Makeover Contest. A Municipal Alliance meeting is scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 – all are welcome to attend. The Cultural Committee's annual Garage Sale is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Northfield Community School; all proceeds from the event benefit the Northfield Museum. The Cultural Committee has placed historical memorabilia about Northfield's first Post Master for display at the County Courthouse. The Historical Society will be hosting an Antique Appraisal Night at City Hall on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Kern reported that she has met with the Court Administrator to discuss security concerns. She gave the Fire Department report for the year 2007. She thanked the Fire Department for their attendance at the funeral services of Mrs. Joan Eggie. She congratulated Mayor Mazzeo and Councilmen Martinez and O'Grady on their successful elections. She was unable to attend the 2008 Reorganization meeting due to the passing of her mother. She publicly thanked everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy for her family. She congratulated Councilwoman Zlotnick and offered her assistance should she need it.

Councilman O'Grady provided an update on technology, stating that he a list of long and short term goals for the City's computer needs. He has received an updated proposal from Eastern IT and is seeking other quotes. The City's current computer technology maintenance contract expires on February 14<sup>th</sup>, so quotes for that service will be solicited as well. As co-chair of the Traffic Safety Committee, O'Grady feels that the speed humps are a good idea and agrees with Councilman Vain that Police Chief James should be consulted as to the location for the device.

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**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Mazzeo announced two new appointments to the Library Board: Peggy Holmes and John Clifford. The Planning Board held its Reorganization meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, during which the Mayor made the following appointments: John Clifford – alternate #2; Jim Shippen – to fill a vacant unexpired term of two years; Clem Scharff – reappointed; Henry Notaro – reappointed; Ronald Roegiers – reappointed. A public hearing is scheduled for the next Planning & Zoning Board meeting for the purpose of discussing the City's revised Master Plan. The Mayor reported that he, Council President Martinez and Councilwoman Kern attended a Department Head meeting at City Hall. Various issues were discussed including computer and telephone problems and court security concerns. The Mayor stated that communication will be very important in the absence of a City Administrator and he encouraged Council to correspond with their applicable Department Heads. Regarding Open Space grants, the Mayor reported that there are a number of tasks which need to be completed in order to execute the purchases of properties at Sheperd & Wabash and Oak Avenue. He reported that Egg Harbor Township will be increasing the 911 fees by four percent in 2008.

Council President Martinez opened this work session to the public. Seeing none, he closed the public session and council took a brief recess.

This regular meeting of City Council was called to order and the Deputy Clerk took roll call as follows:

Present: Carew, Kern, Notaro, O'Grady, Vain, Zlotnick and Martinez

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/ JANUARY 2, 2008 REORGANIZATION**

Motion was made by Councilman Vain, second by Councilwoman Kern to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 2, 2008. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Mazzeo gave the Police Department report for the month of December. The Police Department received two grants recently, totaling nearly \$20,000.00 to assist in purchasing certain equipment.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the City Clerk's office.

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**RESOLUTIONS**

On a motion by Councilman Carew, seconded by Councilman Notaro, all present in favor of a Consent agenda, as follows:

- 25-2008** Appoint Qwin Vitale Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
- 26-2008** Refund of Overpayment of Taxes on Block 160, Lot 8, in the Amount of \$709.08
- 27-2008** Agreement with Commerce Risk Control Services for CDL Alcohol and Drug Testing
- 28-2008** Authorizing Doran Engineering to Proceed with Certain Projects
- 29-2008** Resolution Endorsing the City of Northfield's Application for Grant Funds from the Municipal County Open Space Financial Assistance Program
- 30-2008** Acceptance of the LOSAP Point System and Qualifiers / Rescue Squad
- 31-2008** Authorizing Award of Contract for Professional Services to Norman J. Zlotnick as Planning & Zoning Board Solicitor
- 32-2008** To Authorize the Northfield Fire Department to Apply for and Obtain a 2007 Matching Grant from the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- 33-2008** A Resolution Providing for an Executive Session Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, Regarding Personnel Matters / Deputy City Clerk

Roll call: Carew – yes; Kern – yes; Notaro – yes; O'Grady - yes; Vain – yes;. Zlotnick – yes; Martinez – yes. Motion carried.

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**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilwoman Kern motioned for payment of bills in the amount of **\$3,878,542.69** second by Councilman Vain. Councilman Vain announced his abstention from certain line items on the bill list. Copies will be kept on file in the City Clerk's office.

Roll call: Carew – yes; Kern – yes; Notaro – yes; O'Grady - yes; Vain – yes;. Zlotnick – yes; Martinez – yes. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Martinez opened this meeting to the Public. Robert Webb of 218 West Revere Avenue came forward and expressed concern about light bulbs that need to be replaced at certain entrances to City Hall.

Former Mayor Frank Perri, Jr. came forward as the newly elected President of the Northfield Rescue Squad, Inc. He reported that the Volunteer Squad responded to approximately 920 calls in 2007, with a savings of over \$200,000.00 to the community. He thanked all of the Rescue Squad volunteers for their service to the community. He announced that the Squad has implemented a partially paid staffing program with staff on duty from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm daily. They have passed the first stage of the process to become State licensed in order to bill for services and are moving forward. Mayor Mazzeo recognized Mr. Perri for the service he and the squad provides to the community. He stated that Council will reach a decision soon and that he looks forward to working together.

Councilman Notaro announced the meeting notices. A motion to enter into executive session 33-2008 was made by Notaro, second by Vain. The Deputy Clerk excused herself from the executive session and minutes were taken by Councilwoman Kern. Council came out of Executive Session and motions were properly made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberley Hodsdon  
Deputy City Clerk