

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2006**

This meeting was called to order by Carol A. Raph, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised under Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

The flag salute was led by Mayor Frank Perri, Jr. After the flag salute Mayor Perri called for a moment of silence to recognize those fighting at home and abroad for our liberties that they may return safely to their families.

ROLL CALL: Carew, Notaro, Kern, Martinez, Schlachter, Turon, Mazzeo Solicitor Alfred Scerni, Jr., Engineer Edward Stinson of Doran Engineering, and City Administrator Jeffrey Bruckler were present.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES/JANUARY 17, 2006

Motion by Councilman Turon and second by Councilwoman Kern to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 17, 2006. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. Abstention by Councilman Turon, all others in favor, motion carries.

PRESENTATION

Dr. Dever, MRHS, presented an update on the recent National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE) survey. Due to the volume of responses, a final report will not be available for approximately two months.

Dr. Dever responded to questions from Councilwoman Kern. He said the survey results will be available when he returns to Council for budget processing. Dr. Dever said the survey results will also be helpful for strategic planning in the future. Dever also stressed the importance of following up with graduates.

Dr. Dever expressed concern about the budget vote being scheduled for April 18th when many parents will be out of town due to vacation. Mayor Perri noted that absentee ballots were now available to all residents, without restrictions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Martinez presented the January Rescue Squad Report: Total number of calls – 71; total mutual aid provided by Northfield – 0; total mutual aid provided for Northfield – 0; total Fire Department assists – 4; top five run takers: Heather Newbert – 19, Barry Kraus – 13, Maryann Dagostino – 9, Ray E. Adams – 7, Dan Blaine – 6.

Martinez said an outstanding job was done for the Rescue Squad Dinner and congratulated the award recipients.

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Councilman Schlachter reported repairs to the clock on the bike path are being addressed and covered by warranty. Materials have been ordered for fence repairs on the Bike Path. Schlachter is considering re-introducing the sale of Bike Path benches and trees, and requested feedback from Council. Benches, on hand at the City Garage, will be installed at the First Street Playground in the near future.

Schlachter thanked Councilwoman Kern for opening the lines of communication with the Jewish Day School property owners.

Councilwoman Kern noted that the Bike Path tree sales are still ongoing and offered to work with Schlachter on all Bike Path issues.

Councilman Notaro presented the January Fire Department report: Total fire incidents – 17; total EMS incidents – 31; non-emergency responses – 3; fire fighter injuries – 0; fire fighter fatalities – 0; civilian injuries – 0; civilian fatalities – 0.

Notaro recognized People in Crisis, Inc., a new non-profit charitable organization in our area, which offers assistance to those lacking sufficient health insurance and in need of help. Notaro suggested the City present the organization with a letter of recognition to help with their fund raising efforts.

Councilmen Turon and Carew had no reports for this session.

Council President Mazzeo reported on the City budget meetings. He said the City is currently at a \$.14 increase, but anticipates being able to reduce the increase by at least \$.02. Mazzeo cited rising health costs, fuel costs, contractual obligations, pension system pay back, a 100% increase in natural gas and increases in PFRS and PERS. In addition, capital projects, street improvements and other issues make it more difficult to reduce the tax increase.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perri voiced agreement with Mazzeo's budget concerns. He thanked the City employees for working to keep costs down throughout the year.

Perri reported on the Fire Department Installation Ceremonies and congratulated past and present officers. He also offered congratulations to the Rescue Squad members.

Perri met with the County Engineer regarding the sign for the Northfield Library. During the meeting several improvements by the County within Northfield were reviewed, including the project at Tilton Road and Route 9 which is scheduled to

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start in the fall. Perri said Tilton Road to Shore Road will be re-graded with a third center turn lane.

Perri shared photographs taken at the very successful Stone Soup event at the Library.

Regarding the Birch Grove Park Snack Bar, Perri said correspondence has been copied to Council.

Councilman Carew asked for clarification on the addition of a third center turn lane on Tilton Road. Perri advised the plans are currently available for review in the County Offices, and he will request a County representative come to present a project overview to City Officials. Carew also requested an update on Phase III of Shore Road. Councilwoman Kern raised questions about closing Tilton Road during construction. Perri responded the Tilton/Route 9 project would involve detours and some businesses would be affected.

Administrator Bruckler and Engineer Stinson had no reports for this session.

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Councilman Carew, second by Councilman Schlachter, all in favor of a Consent Agenda on Resolutions 31-2006 through 34-2006. Roll call: Carew – yes; Notaro – yes; Kern – yes; Martinez – yes; Schlachter – yes; Turon – yes; Mazzeo – yes. All in favor of adopting Resolutions 31-2006 through 34-2006 as follows:

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|---------|---|
| 31-2006 | To Establish Rates for Birch Grove Park |
| 32-2006 | Amending Resolution 16-2006/ Inter Local Sewer Contract Dates |
| 33-2006 | 2004 Paving Project/Final Work Change Order No. 1 |
| 34-2006 | Transfer of Liquor License to J. J. Kemp's, LLC |

ORDINANCES

Motion by Councilman Notaro to table Ordinance 2-2006, second by Councilman Martinez. All in favor. Motion carries.

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PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Mazzeo opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak.

Meredith Hunt, owner of the Clay Station in Egg Harbor Township, recommended the City of Northfield raise funds for its residents through Northfield pride activities. She shared details of a Philadelphia two-day fair held in the past for this purpose, and mentioned several possible themes. Mayor Perri referenced the Northfield Family Fest, which is year-long in preparation, and offered to provide Ms. Hunt with information for contacting Northfield residents with regard to such events.

Lynn Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, recognized Jake Eggie for 50 years of service with Northfield's Fire Department. Councilman Carew suggested inviting Mr. Eggie to Council for recognition by the City.

Jason O'Grady, 2531 Cedarbridge Road, a new resident, questioned a property subdivision between Cedarbridge Road and Leslie Lane. Councilman Notaro responded the subdivision has been approved by the Planning/Zoning Board.

Council President Mazzeo asked if any one else wished to speak. Seeing no one, the Public Session was closed.

MEETING NOTICES/KERN

Work Session	February 21, 2006	7:00 pm
Regular Session	February 21, 2006	8:00 pm

Motion to adjourn by Kern, seconded by Carew, all present in favor, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk