

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION 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.

ROLL CALL: Present: Carew, Notaro, Kern, Martinez, Schlachter, Turon, Mazzeo

Solicitor Alfred Scerni, Jr., Engineer Edward Stinson of Doran Engineering, and City Administrator Jeffrey Bruckler were present.

Council President Mazzeo reviewed the agenda. Councilman Schlachter, responding to a question from Councilman Carew, said the Birch Grove Park campsite rates were increased 15%, the camp site number of persons was changed to a limit of 10 and the rates on the picnic tables and grills were increased. Discussion followed regarding comparison with rates in surrounding communities.

Councilman Carew asked for clarification of the ninety-day change on Resolution 32-2006, amending Resolution 16-2006 for the Inter-Local Sewer Contract. Council President Mazzeo advised a meeting will be scheduled for negotiations of possible contract changes. Brief discussion followed.

Councilman Carew requested clarification of Ordinance 2-2006. Discussion of fees, openings and inspections set forth by the ordinance followed. (This ordinance was tabled at the Regular Meeting.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Turon congratulated members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Department sworn in for new and returning positions.

Councilman Martinez reported the Communications Committee discussed the date of connection with Egg Harbor Township Dispatch incorporating use of an air card which would allow the City server to communicate with desk top computers in the Police Department and within City Hall, and which will replace the dedicated phone line. Martinez said the air card cost to the City would be \$575.88 per year as opposed to \$3,000.00 per year for the phone line. Martinez commended Acting Captain Robert James for his efforts on this project, which allows officers to laptop access, expediting procedures and reports.

Martinez reported on attending the Northfield Community School Board of Education meeting on January 23rd, and invited the Boys Cross Country Team to

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visit Council for a presentation in the future. He said the Board is proceeding with bid proposals for the Mill Road parking lot.

Councilman Schlachter reported the playground equipment at Birch Grove Park is being assembled and asked Engineer Stinson to speak about the drainage problem in that area. Stinson spoke to Public Works Manager Jim Clark about cleaning the existing drainage system, which will allow it to function properly. A topo was taken on the area where trees were removed and Stinson recommended fill to level the area. Stinson detailed additional work necessary to stop runoff from the picnic area.

Schlachter said the utility field project is moving forward and the engineer will have final plans shortly and will go out to bid in approximately three weeks.

Councilman Carew reported all was going well in the Building Department.

Councilwoman Kern reported on a meeting held to discuss the Library Maintenance Agreement. The Library will be having a Valentine Program on Saturday, February 11th from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Kern thanked the Volunteer Rescue Squad for inviting her to their Annual Dinner and congratulated the award recipients. Kern reported on the Cultural Committee's concern about the lack of lighting behind the bandstand during evening concerts. Councilman Schlachter will look into the matter.

Kern referred to the question raised at a prior Council Meeting regarding lack of field space, and approached the owner's of the Kresge School property, currently the Jewish Day School. The Headmaster of the Jewish Day School asked for the City's request in writing, which Kern handled. Kern hopes to be invited to the Day School's Board Meeting on February 15th to open lines of communication.

Kern brought attention to the ongoing problems with the City Hall telephone system. Council President Mazzeo asked Administrator Bruckler to follow up with our system provider and resolve the problems.

Councilman Notaro reported on the outline received from Public Works Manager Clark addressing sanitation and recycling schedules for the residents. Notaro requested Council review the outline and provide feedback. Mailing options were discussed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

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Mayor Perri reported the City has a letter indicating guarantees in the amount of \$161,000.00 for the Sutton Woods Project. Perri recommended moving forward with the options if the drainage problems are not resolved within two weeks.

Perri has been advised by the NJDOT that a four-way stop is warranted for the Cedarbridge and Oak intersection, and that Council needs to approve an ordinance as outlined by the NJDOT. Signs can be installed after final approval is received by the City. Solicitor Scerni advised that approval of a four-way stop was necessary for installation of signs with blinking lights. Engineer Stinson responded to Perri that application to the State had been for blinking lights for signs on Oak Avenue only, and recommended lights on the Cedarbridge signs or an overhead red light, blinking on both Oak and Cedarbridge, to provide advanced notice to motorists. Stinson also explained the type of signs and light/sign combinations that would be acceptable to the State. Discussion followed regarding existing signs being inoperative intermittently.

Perri reported the new breathalyzers had been received and asked for a Police Department representative to elaborate on the equipment. Acting Captain James responded the equipment is easy to operate and State Police will be performing follow up inspections on equipment and testing procedure. Perri inquired about the new Crime Stopper Signs. Acting Captain James said they were available for pick up.

Perri said he has requested Mazzeo inform the Police Committee for reviewing issues.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Bruckler distributed his written report to Council and is available for any questions.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Stinson reported on the Final Work Change Order for the 2004 Paving Project (Ridgewood, Rosedale, Wabash, Cresson, Maple and City Hall Parking Lot). Stinson also presented to the Mayor and Council his letter discussing Phase II of the Stormwater Pump Station Project. Due to back up of stormwater from the County system into the City's system, which contributes to the flooding issue at Juniper and Forrest, Stinson recommends installation of a check valve on the connecting line.

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The cost of the check valve and inlet to house the valve is estimated at under \$10,000.00. Motion by Councilman Carew for Doran Engineering to move forward with the project, second by Councilwoman Kern. All in favor, motion carries.

Due to weather concerns, Stinson reported the Reconstruction of First Street has been rescheduled for the Spring.

The engineer for K. Hovnanian has been contacted by Stinson, and the borings and field investigation are scheduled to be completed February 8th. The report will be submitted to Doran Engineering and the City.

The feasibility study for the soccer field requested by the Mayor will be finalized next week and forwarded to the Administrator, Mayor and Council, Stinson said. Stinson will meet with Schlachter after the amount of fill, which will impact the final design, is determined.

PUBLIC SESSION/3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Mazzeo opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Seeing no one, the Public Session was closed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk