

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

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, Martinez, Mazzeo, Notaro, Turon, Vain, Kern

City Solicitor Keith Bonchi, Engineer Ed Stinson of Doran Engineering, CFO Marilyn Dolcy, City Administrator Jeffrey Bruckler, and Deputy City Clerk Kim Hodsdon were present.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES / February 6, 2007

Motion by Councilman Carew, second by Councilman Martinez to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 6, 2007. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. Mayor Perri requested that a change be made to the minutes. The requested amendment was duly noted. All present in favor, motion carries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Turon gave the Fire Department's Report for the month of January and stated that copies of the Fire Inspection Report are available upon request.

Councilman Martinez attended a recent Planning/Zoning Board meeting and reported that Oscar Huber Furniture has requested a variance to allow for their signage at Kensington Square. Martinez commented that the proposed sign is in good taste and will look great on Tilton Road. Councilman Mazzeo thanked the Economic Development Committee for their attendance at the meeting and for their support.

Councilman Carew reported on his attendance at the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board Meeting. Spring clean-up has begun in preparation for an anticipated opening of April 7th.

Councilman Notaro reported that he will be working with the County to resolve some lighting issues on Dolphin Avenue and asked residents to please inform him of any additional street lighting concerns that involve County roads.

Councilman Mazzeo spoke about the Resolution for the Open Space Grant. The property owner of the site has received a proposal from a builder, but has not yet accepted it. Mazzeo asked Council to consider a Bond Ordinance in order to purchase the property in a timely manner and prevent further development within the City. Solicitor Bonchi recommended that the City Engineer be involved considering there were environmental concerns based on the previous use of the property. The Mayor, Council and Administrator discussed how to move forward. Mazzeo and Bonchi will look into whether or not the City is able to utilize the City's Tax Assessor to perform an appraisal of the property.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perri recognized local schools for their participation in Read Across America, scheduled for March 2nd in honor of the Birthday of Dr. Suess. He reported on recent events at the Library and noted that their Spring newsletter is very informative.

Perri reported that Councilman Mazzeo, the City Administrator and CFO met with Seth Brilliant to discuss Library financial matters. CFO Marilyn Dolcy explained that the State Librarian has given approval to municipalities to pay twenty-five percent of last year's allotment at this time due to the fact that State Legislators are still working on new regulations. Dolcy further explained how the City's tax collection schedule conflicts with the current regulations and how that affects payments to the Library. Mayor Perri requested that Council vote to make a payment to the Library in March to make up the difference of more than \$11,000.00. The total amount paid to the Library in 2007 will be the same; the crux of the issue is the timing and amount of the installments. It was decided that Councilman Mazzeo will have further discussions with the Library Board.

Mayor Perri requested that a committee be formed to evaluate the American Legion's proposal to convert to a semi-public facility. Councilmen Turon, Vain and Mazzeo agreed to serve on said committee. Perri commented that Kensington Square is aggressively seeking tenants for their business property.

Police Chief Robert James stood and commended Officers Peary, Ramsi, and Dever as well as Lt. Faden, Lt. Clark, and Detectives Steinecke, Pollak and Buccafurni for their excellent response and teamwork during the recent bank robbery. He announced that the Sun National Bank was very pleased with the department's response and that the suspect was apprehended within 13 hours of the incident. James announced that the DARE program is in full swing at the Northfield Community School and acknowledged a quote by Officer Ramsi on the front cover of a DARE brochure. He expressed appreciation to Officers Ramsi and Cornell for their work in the DARE program. Council President Kern added that the Northfield Community School is committed to a year-long anti-bullying program which has been funded by the Municipal Alliance for the past two years.

Chief James discussed State parking regulations and suggested that the City mark the curblines and start enforcing parking restrictions. He provided Council with written job descriptions for the police department and asked for their feedback.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Bruckler reported on the following: The budget meeting that was scheduled for February 13th was cancelled due to inclement weather; State Aid figures are anticipated to be available in late February; he asked for Council's approval to proceed with the Open Space Grant in order to purchase property on Oak Avenue; a meeting was held between representatives of the Northfield and Egg Harbor Township Fire Departments to discuss mutual aid for the Margate Causeway; the State implemented

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

Civil Union effective February 19th; he is in the process of gathering information pertinent to building a skate-park; trees on Casey Drive have been cut back; the yield to pedestrian signs have been removed; the four-way stop at Oak and Cedarbridge is to be installed as soon as possible; school crossing signs for the Jewish Day School have been installed; he will be attending a Shared Services meeting at Linwood City Hall on February 22nd at 5:00 and a Sewer Inter-local meeting in Linwood in the near future.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the City Clerk's office. In addition, Stinson reported that he had met with the Police Department regarding the yield-to-pedestrian signs. His office has completed a field survey and they are awaiting a written response from the Department of Transportation.

RESOLUTIONS/Consent Agenda

- 37-2007** A Resolution to Authorize the Cancellation of Certain 2005 Taxes

- 38-2007** A Resolution to Authorize a Refund of Taxes on Block 40 / Lot 18.21 in the Amount of \$1,076.14

- 39-2007** A Resolution Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Municipal Insurance Fund (JIF)

- 40-2007** A Resolution endorsing the City of Northfield's Application for Grant Funds from the Municipal County Open Space Partnership

- 41-2007** A Resolution Authorizing a Raffle License to the Northfield Education Foundation, Inc.

- 42-2007** A Resolution Authorizing a 50/50 Cash Prize Raffle License to the Northfield Education Foundation, Inc.

- 43-2007** 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 the Transfer of a liquor License

Roll Call: Carew - yes, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo- yes, Notaro – yes, Turon – yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes. Motion carries.

ORDINANCES

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

On a motion made by Councilman Carew, seconded by Notaro, Ordinance 2-2007 was read by title only. All present in favor.

2-2007 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 35 of the Code of the City of Northfield Regarding Certain Positions within the Police Department
Final Reading/Open to the Public/ Advertise in the Press 2/24/07

A motion was made by Councilman Carew, and seconded by Councilman Vain to amend Ordinance 2-2007 to delete the Administrative position within the Police Department and add a Captain's position. A roll call vote was taken on the amendment.

Roll Call: Carew - yes, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo- yes, Notaro – yes, Turon – yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes, Motion carries.

On a motion made by Councilman Turon, seconded by Martinez, Ordinance 3-2007 was read by title only. All present in favor.

3-2007 Amending Ordinance 13-2006 to Establish the Reimbursement of Expenses to the City of Northfield for Hazardous Materials Spill Clean Ups
Final Reading/Open to the Public/ Advertise in The Press 2/24/07

Roll Call: Carew - yes, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo- yes, Notaro – yes, Turon – yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes, Motion carries.

On a motion made by Councilman Notaro, seconded by Carew, Ordinance 4-2007 was read by title only. All present in favor.

4-2007 Amending Ordinance 4-2005 of the Code of the City of Northfield
Final Reading/Open to the Public/ Advertise in The Press 2/24/07

Roll Call: Carew - yes, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo- yes, Notaro – yes, Turon – yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes, Motion carries.

On a motion made by Councilman Vain, seconded by Mazzeo, Ordinance 5-2007 was read by title only. All present in favor.

5-2007 An Ordinance Approving a Multi-Way Stop Intersection at Cedarbridge and Oak Avenue
Introduction/No Public Input/ Advertise in the Press 2/24/07

Roll Call: Carew - yes, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo- yes, Notaro – yes, Turon – yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes, Motion carries.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Mazzeo motioned, Councilman Carew seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$2,954,912.96.

Council President Kern, Councilman Vain and Councilman Turon announced their abstention from certain line items on the bill list. Copies will be kept on file in with the City Clerk.

Roll Call: Carew - yes, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo- yes, Notaro – yes, Turon – yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes, Motion carries.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Detective Scott Pollack, of the Northfield Police Department, came forward and thanked the Mayor, City Council and Police Chief on behalf of the PBA and stated that he looks forward to a positive working relationship in the future.

Robert Webb of 218 West Revere Avenue, Northfield, came forward and congratulated the Police Department for their response to the robbery. He expressed concern over the safety of children with regard to the removal of the yield to pedestrian signs. He commented on land acquisition.

Guy Schlachter of 14 Mazza Drive, Northfield, came forward and commended Council for supporting the Police Department. He urged Council to consider down-sizing City government, stating that the City's administrator and department heads manage the City business on a daily basis and that a Council of seven is not necessary. He also suggested open dialogue with the school board regarding cutbacks and regionalization.

Susan Schmitz of 1703 Philmar Circle, Northfield, came forward to report street flooding at that location. Engineer Ed Stinson responded, explaining the problem with a storm water pump station that ties into Birch Grove Park. He said that Public Works can be called in to fill-in any potholes in the meantime and that he will look into it.

Raymond Welsh and Linda Foy, both residents of Sheperd Circle in Northfield, came forward and presented Council with a signed petition regarding parking problems in their area. They displayed a hand-drawn map and described how commercial patrons were parking along the streets, causing unsafe conditions for motorists and pedestrians. The Mayor and Council discussed City parking ordinances and decided that the Zoning Officer needs to address the matter. Councilman Turon addressed a few points that were made in the resident's petition. He explained that some jurisdictional issues with State and County roads are involved.

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

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

Councilman Martinez announced the meeting notices. On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned and Council entered into Executive Session 43-2007.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 43-2007

On a motion properly made and seconded, this Executive Session was adjourned and Solicitor Bonchi announced a summary for the public as follows: An Executive Session was held during which City Council, Chief Robert James and Acting Lt. Arthur Faden discussed various aspects of a pending liquor license transfer. The City is still awaiting a complete application. Once the application is considered complete, the Police Department will advise the Governing Body of their recommendation.

On a motion of Carew, second of Martinez, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk