

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
MARCH 13, 2007**

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. Following the flag salute, he called for a moment of silence to recognize those fighting at home and abroad for our liberties, as well as those who serve the community that they may return safely to their families.

ROLL CALL: Present: Carew, Martinez, Mazzeo, Notaro, Turon, Vain, and Kern

Solicitor Jeff Light, Engineer Ed Stinson, CFO Marilyn Dolcy and City Administrator Jeffrey Bruckler were present.

Council President Kern reviewed the agenda.

Councilman Vain reported that the All Sports practice field is in good shape. He will be attending a shared services meeting with Linwood in the near future. He spoke about the Oak and Cedarbridge intersection, stating that the 'stop ahead' sign should be moved to allow for better visibility and to give drivers more advanced warning. He requested that all stop signs be uniform and requested that installation be done correctly. Councilman Carew agreed and asked that the Public Works Manager work with the City Engineer on further enhancements to the intersection.

Councilman Notaro praised the Police Department and Northfield Community School for their ability to serve as an emergency shelter. He updated Council on the status of street lighting issues on Dolphin Avenue. He stated that he was glad to have attended the Atlantic County Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) 20th anniversary luncheon.

Councilman Mazzeo commented on the March 12th Budget meeting, stating that it is the toughest budget in years. He highlighted a few areas of the budget that have increased over last year. He described the proposed State's 4% CAP and will be in addition to the existing CAP. Mazzeo remarked that shared services and consolidation is necessary. This year's budget yields a 9.77% tax increase.

Mayor Perri reported that the State has approved an award of \$150,000.00 for the construction of Banning Avenue under the 2007 Municipal Aid Program, and funded through the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act; he congratulated the City employees for their outstanding performance in the 2006 Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Program; Police Department promotional tests for Captain and Lieutenant are scheduled for April 2nd and the Sergeant's test on April 6, 2007. Mayor Perri congratulated the Police Department for a job well done in apprehending the robber of Sun Bank; he accepted the resignation of Peri Pantazes and thanked her for providing fine service to the Library; the new Otto Bruyns Library sign that includes a reader board will be installed shortly, and "One City One

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Book” discussion will be held on April 11th; the 2006 Audit proved great results of hard work.

Concerning the street parking on Shepherd Circle, the Zoning Officer has been there twice, President Kern mentioned that the business owners should encourage their patients to park in their business lots instead of the street.

The placement of the pedestrian signs was discussed again. The Engineer stated that authorization will be required from the DOT. Traffic Officer Dettinger spoke with the DOT and there is not an easy way to place a stop sign in certain instances.

Council President Kern referenced a letter from Emily Bonchi, a Girl Scout and Junior at Mainland Regional High School. She is scheduling a Community service project in order for her to receive the scouting Gold Award. She is organizing a “Walk for Relief” for the purpose of donating school supplies to the Edward Hynes Elementary School in New Orleans that was hit by Hurricane Katrina. The walk will be held on March 24, 2007 and Emily’s invitation was for everyone interested in participating. Kern attended the 20th year celebration luncheon for the Joint Municipal Insurance Fund, and the City received a clock as a member since 1987.

Council President Kern invited representatives of the Atlantic City Country Club to address Council. Bill Downey of the Fox Rothchild Law Firm, and Michael Bowman came forward. Councilman Turon asked the representatives to give an overview of the intended operations at the Club, commenting on the City’s concerns that the quiet residential atmosphere be maintained. Mr. Bowman described how the facility would be open to the public for breakfast, lunch and golf seven days a week. Many of the Club’s operations will stay the same. They plan to offer a dinner service to begin at a later date. They intend to protect the world-class integrity of the golf course. The greatest opportunity for utilizing the liquor license will be to cater to social events such as weddings. There are no intentions to sell package goods. Turon asked that they consult with the Zoning Department before installing new signage. Turon asked if there are any plans for residential development. Bowman replies that information is unknown to him. Turon advised that, should development become a consideration, a master plan would be required. Bowman described how they strived to maintain the historical charm and ambience of the Club. Mayor and Council offered their appreciation for that.

Council President Kern asked if the Country Club would still be willing to host Northfield Day, as they have done so for several years in the past. Mr. Bowman responded that the Club would be honored to host the event in the future. Councilman Mazzeo explained how Leo Frazier Drive was named and described the role of his own father as a previous member of City Council. He wished them luck. Mr. Downey presented Council with a signed indemnity agreement as per the discussion at the last Council meeting.

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Administrator Bruckler thanked Council for deciding to eliminate the Friday following Thanksgiving as an optional employee holiday. He gave a brief overview of the budget, stating that the tax increase will be \$0.977 per \$100 of assessed value. He reported on the following: He has received the 2007 Open Space Acquisition Grant forms and complete and return them as soon as possible; he, Councilmen Mazzeo and Carew met with Ranae Fehr of the Atlantic County Office of Land Acquisition; promotional testing for the Captain and Lieutenant positions within the Police Department will be given on April 2nd and letters of interest must be submitted to Chief James no later than March 27th; promotional testing for the Sergeant position within the Police Department will be given on April 6th and letters of interest must be submitted to Chief James no later than March 30th; the City has received a request from MUSA for use of the practice field; he has spoken with Jim Mogan, the Director of Community Education & Recreation in Brigantine regarding their Skateboard Park; he described the park to Council and stated that he is still awaiting the figures on the cost of construction and insurance; soccer nets from the Northfield Community School are to be moved to the practice field at Birch Grove Park as soon as possible; he has received correspondence regarding a shared services committee meeting to be held at Linwood City Hall on Thursday, March 15th at 5:00 pm; a sewer inter-local meeting will be scheduled with Linwood for the month of March.

Mayor Perri questioned the status of the agreement with Egg Harbor Township regarding a pumping station. Bruckler responded that he has received a report from the City Engineer on the matter and recommended a meeting with the Township. Councilman Martinez and Bruckler discussed MUSA's to use the practice field and the related certificate of insurance that is required. Councilman Vain stated that the group is working with the All Sports organization directly as to when they may use the field.

Council President Kern and Bruckler discussed the idea of a Skateboard Park. Kern commented that she had not necessarily envisioned a facility that is comparative to that of Galloway's or Brigantine's. Bruckler responded that he believed the level of liability insurance would be the same regardless of how elaborate the facility is. Kern requested that he complete a cost analysis. Mayor Perri commented that there may be City owned areas along the bike path that could be enhanced for skateboard use. He mentioned a spot by Arthur Henry and the NJ American Water Company that should be considered.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the City Clerk's office. Council President Kern questioned the Safe Routes to Schools Grant. Stinson replied that the State's announcement of awards is anticipated in May. Mayor Perri questioned the status of the DOT award for the sidewalk project

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along New Road. Stinson replied that he has not heard anything back from the State, but that he would follow up.

Council President Kern opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Seeing none, she closed the public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC