

DRAFT

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 25, 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: 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.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES/APRIL 4, 2006 & APRIL 11, 2006

Motion by Councilman Martinez, second by Councilman Turon to dispense with the reading of the minutes of April 4, 2006 and April 11, 2006. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. All present in favor, motion carries.

PRESENTATIONS

Councilwoman Kern presented Certificates of Achievement to Northfield children who were winners at recent Science Fairs held at the Northfield Community School and the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

Kern also presented Certificates of Achievement to several children from the Northfield Community School for their induction into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). Kern noted that this was the first year the school had members in the organization and congratulated the students on this accomplishment. Mrs. Judith McLain, group advisor, gave an overview of the selection criteria for induction into the NJHS and expressed her pride in their accomplishments. Mayor Perri also expressed his pride and congratulated the students.

COUNTY ENGINEER JOSEPH D'ABUNDO

County Engineer D'Abundo reported that the County Executive has earmarked approximately 3.5 million dollars for County highway improvements in the City of Northfield over the next 18 months. The aggressive schedule includes the federally funded project to repave Shore Road. The project is scheduled to begin shortly, starting at the Linwood border and continuing north to Ridgewood in Pleasantville, and will take approximately 75 days to complete. Traffic detours will be necessary during construction.

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Noting the State project planned for Tilton Road & Route 9, D'Abundo reported that the County prefers to repave Mill Road (between Shore and Zion) before the State begins. Additional monies have been earmarked for the paving of Mill Road –East towards the Marina and Margate Causeway; expected to be completed in the Fall. The County's project list also includes the repaving of Dolphin Avenue, West of Route 9, but talks with the City of Pleasantville are required due to a water line planned for installation in their municipality. Engineer D'Abundo reported that the State had allocated funds to install sidewalks along Route 9, between Tilton Road and the Community School however the construction is not slated to begin until State FY2009. D'Abundo emphasized that the County Executive understood the importance of the Northfield road projects.

Councilman Carew questioned the Shore Road project. D'Abundo confirmed an estimated timeline of 60-75 days to complete the entire project. Handicap curbs will be installed at all intersections, but sidewalks are not included in the plans. Carew asked if there were pre-qualifications for replacing curblines. D'Abundo responded that the travel-way concrete gutters will take precedent; badly deteriorated curblines may be repaired but most of the funding will be used for asphalt. Councilwoman Kern noted that the repair of Dolphin Avenue West is badly needed.

Mayor Perri thanked the Engineer for his report and his time. Perri acknowledged the inconvenience to Northfield residents and stated that those residents along the detour routes would be notified. Perri remarked on the historical value of the granite on Shore Road, stating the it would be restored to the same condition and could not be replaced. Perri noted and D'Abundo confirmed that the material, 'Super Pave', which is mandated in all federally funded projects does raise the price of asphalt.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Turon congratulated the winners of the Northfield School Board Elections. Councilman Schlachter congratulated the children who were recognized earlier for the accomplishments. Councilwoman Kern commented on the success of the Town Meeting. Councilman Notaro reported that the 2007 calendar was progressing well with approximately 5 slots taken which will ease the cost on the City. Notaro also congratulated Mr. Qwin Vitale of the Public Works Department for his outstanding achievement and assistance in the Atlantic County Recycling Enforcement Sweep which resulted in a 47% increase in business recycling in the City of Northfield.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perri thanked the Alliance, Councilwoman Kern and Lt. Art Faden for presenting the important topic of underage drinking.

Mayor Perri presented the Police Department report for March 2006: Adult arrests – 36; Juvenile arrests – 4; Drug offense arrests – 5; Calls for service – 1,470; Investigations

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opened – 44; Recovered stolen property - \$17,100.00; Motor vehicle summons issued – 174; DWI arrests – 1; Summons issued as a result of motor vehicle accidents – 28; Motor vehicle accidents investigated – 35; Summons issued as a result of radar enforcement – 15.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator Bruckler, Court Administrator Clark and Deputy Court Administrator Nawrocki met with Court Administrators from the City of Linwood to discuss video conferencing for arraignments and non-compliance issues. As per our Resolution 59-2006, the City of Linwood has agreed to pay for services at a fee of \$30.00 per use.

Bruckler reported that Mr. William Guerro has requested a meeting with Sewer Councilmatic Chairman Turon, Council President Mazzeo, Mayor Perri, the City Engineer, and the Manger of Public Works concerning his Mill Road development project and the City sewer infrastructure. Bruckler requested possible dates from applicable Council members.

Bruckler announced that a pre-construction meeting regarding roadway improvements had been scheduled for Friday, April 28, 2006 at the Atlantic County Division of Engineering.

As of April 15, 2006, Pearle Vision no longer accepts the City’s Vision Benefit Plan. Pearle Vision cancelled the City’s Vision Benefits with no prior notice or warning. Administrator Bruckler has requested quotes from several other providers and will update Council as more information becomes available.

Bruckler reported that Atlantic City Electric would like to meet with the City on Wednesday, 4/19/06 at 2:00 pm regarding the acquisition of the Wabash property for Open Space; Freeholders’ decision in the matter is pending. A draft agreement from the Jewish Community Day School regarding the use of their property for soccer fields has been forwarded to the City Solicitor for review.

Regarding Route 9 & Tilton Road, Bruckler reported that he forwarded a copy of the executed Utility Agreement Modification Construction Authorization between the City and the NJDOT to Councilmatic Sewer Chairman Turon. Bruckler stated that he was contacted by Mr. Mosca concerning the Sewer Inter-Local administrative fees; Linwood City Council is proposing a 7% rate for 2006 and a 10% rate in 2007. Bruckler reported that 10% had been agreed upon for 2006 in a prior meeting with a Linwood Committee. Council members, Mayor Perri and Administrator Bruckler discussed the agreement that was reached for 10% and the affect on the City’s budget if the request for a lower rate is granted. Council members denied Linwood’s request for 7%.

Councilwoman Kern asked Bruckler if the Resolution regarding the Jewish Community Day School would be on the agenda for the next Council Meeting. Bruckler responded yes – pending the Solicitor’s review of the proposed agreement.

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ENGINEER'S REPORT

City Engineer Edward Stinson reported that the bids for the reconstruction of Roosevelt Avenue- Phase II were received on 4/21/06. The low bid was Mount Construction with a price of \$205,602.00. The bids are currently being reviewed with the City Solicitor. Reconstruction of First Street is substantially complete pending final inspection. Stinson remarked that the tie-in to the new all-purpose practice field is nearly complete; the bid date is expected to be set for the project shortly with an expected bid opening in May. As a follow up to the last meeting, Stinson reported that he had contacted the Gas Company regarding gas main upgrades in the Tilton Village area. The Gas Co. has agreed to meet with him on-site and will correct any outstanding restoration items in the area.

RESOLUTIONS

- 64-2006** On a motion of Notaro, second of Kern all in favor of adopting a Resolution Authorizing Doran Engineering to proceed with certain 2006 projects
Roll Call: Carew - yes, Notaro – yes, Kern – yes, Martinez – yes, Schlachter – yes, Turon – yes, Mazzeo- yes. Motion carries.
- 65-2006** On a motion of Schlachter, second of Martinez to adopt a Resolution Authorizing Release of Escrow monies from Planning/Zoning Board
Roll Call: Carew - yes, Notaro – Abstain, Kern – yes, Martinez – yes, Schlachter – yes, Turon – yes, Mazzeo- yes. Motion carries
- 66-2006** On a motion of Carew, second of Turon all in favor of adopting a Resolution Requesting to use County Roads for parades/other functions
Roll Call: Carew - yes, Notaro – yes, Kern – yes, Martinez – yes, Schlachter – yes, Turon – yes, Mazzeo- yes. Motion carries.
- 67-2006** On a motion of Schlachter, second of Martinez all in favor of adopting a Resolution to Certify the Annual Audit – 2005
Roll Call: Carew - yes, Notaro – yes, Kern – yes, Martinez – yes, Schlachter – yes, Turon – yes, Mazzeo- yes. Motion carries
- 68-2006** On a motion of Schlachter, second of Kern all in favor of adopting a Resolution to approve the Corrective Action Plan for 2005 Audit
Roll Call: Carew - yes, Notaro – yes, Kern – yes, Martinez – yes, Schlachter – yes, Turon – yes, Mazzeo- yes. Motion carries.

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- 69-2006** On a motion of Carew, second of Kern all in favor of adopting a Resolution to Authorize release of Maintenance Guarantee Bl 70, Lots 1&2
Roll Call: Carew - yes, Notaro – yes, Kern – yes, Martinez – yes, Schlachter – yes, Turon – yes, Mazzeo- yes. Motion carries
- 70-2006** On a motion of Schlachter, second of Notaro to adopt a Resolution To set the salary for the Emergency Management Coordinator
Discussion: For the record, Carew announced that he would vote no for reasons previously stated. Martinez expressed that the EMC should be a paid position, regardless of the person holding it, due to it's important safety role. Kern agreed that safety is a very important issue. Schlachter announced, for the record, that he is in no way related to Mr. Adams.
Roll Call: Carew - no, Notaro – yes, Kern – no, Martinez – yes, Schlachter – yes, Turon – no, Mazzeo - yes. Motion carries.
- 71-2006** On a motion of Martinez, second of Carew all in favor of adopting a Resolution To Authorize the return of Escrow Fees to In Freedom Rings LLC
Roll Call: Carew - yes, Notaro – yes, Kern – yes, Martinez – yes, Schlachter – yes, Turon – yes, Mazzeo- yes. Motion carries.

ORDINANCES

Motion by Councilman Turon, second by Councilman Carew for Ordinance 5-2006 to be read by title only. All present in favor.

- 5-2006** An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 4-2001 To Revise Certain Fees Relating To Sewers Within The City of Northfield
Final Adoption/Opened to the Public/Published in the Press of 4/29/06
Motion to adopt Ordinance 5-2006 by Councilman Turon, second by Councilwoman Kern.
Roll call: Carew – yes; Notaro – yes; Kern – yes; Martinez – yes; Schlachter – yes; Turon – yes; Mazzeo – yes. All present in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Councilwoman Kern, second by Councilman Carew for Ordinance 6-2006 to be read by title only. All present in favor.

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6-2006 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 1-1974 To Change the Day of the Week on which Municipal Court is Held
Introduction/No Public Input/Published in Press 4/29/06
Roll call: Carew – yes; Notaro – yes; Kern – yes; Martinez – yes; Schlachter – yes; Turon – yes; Mazzeo – yes. All present in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Councilman Schlachter, second by Councilman Martinez for Ordinance 7-2006 to be read by title only. All present in favor.

7-2006 An Ordinance Amending the City of Northfield 1986 Land Use and Development Ordinance
Introduction/No Public Input/Published in Press 4/29/06
Roll call: Carew – yes; Notaro – yes; Kern – yes; Martinez – yes; Schlachter – yes; Turon – yes; Mazzeo – yes. All present in favor, motion carries.

Motion by Councilman Carew, second by Councilman Notaro for Ordinance 8-2006 to be read by title only. All present in favor.

8-2006 An Ordinance Amending the City of Northfield Code Regarding Swimming Pools
Introduction/No Public Input/Published in Press 4/29/06
Roll call: Carew – yes; Notaro – yes; Kern – yes; Martinez – yes; Schlachter – yes; Turon – yes; Mazzeo – yes. All present in favor, motion carries.

PAYMENT OF BILLS \$2,587,720.51

Councilman Schlachter motioned for payment of bills in the amount of **\$2,587,720.51**, second by Councilman Martinez.

Discussion: Councilwoman Kern will abstain on any issues relating to the Northfield Board of Education. Councilman Notaro will abstain on two issues. Duly noted and will be on file at the City Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Carew – yes; Notaro – yes; Kern – yes; Martinez – yes; Schlachter – yes; Turon – yes; Mazzeo – yes. All in favor. Motion carries.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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Council President Mazzeo asked if anyone from the public wished to speak.

Mr. David Tucker of 6 South Second Street, Hammonton, NJ, President of the United Workers Union, came forward to speak. He stated that the Union's presence that evening was to bring attention to the many issues they feel are outstanding. Tucker acknowledged and expressed appreciation to the Council members who have inquired about the Labor Management issues, but stated that there has been no resolution to many issues. He reported that some Public Works employees have gone without pay raises since 2004. As a result of previous mediation, it was agreed upon that the two parties would revisit salary scales for the laborers in January of 2005. The Union submitted several proposals, met three times with the City Administrator on the issue, and felt that they had reached a conceptual agreement. Mr. Tucker stated that the Unfair Labor Practice charges filed against the City were a result of the lack of response/communication from the administration. A future date has been set to meet again and discuss these issues. Tucker announced the Union's desire to move forward and develop a positive working relationship with Council representatives.

Mr. Ray Adams of 238 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Northfield, NJ came forward to address references that had been made to the Mayor's family. Adams reported that 7 members of the Mayor's family, both blood relatives and extended, who are volunteers in the Northfield Rescue Squad have dedicated 55 years of service; six members in the Rescue Squad Auxiliary Club have given 40 years of service. Adams took exception to Councilman Carew's attack on the Mayor's family. Carew responded that he has commended the Rescue Squad several times over the years but felt that the two issues were separate and apart from each other.

Lynn Perri of 7 Haddon Avenue, Northfield, NJ came forward and asked Councilman Carew to repeat his reasons for voting no to Resolution 70-2006. Carew responded the position was not a paid one in the past nine years. Additionally, with the Mayor being the Majority Leader, he does not feel it appropriate to put another one of his relatives on the City payroll because it does not reflect well on the City of Northfield. Councilman Martinez stated that on January 17, 2006, Councilman Carew voted yes to Ordinance 1-2006 which approved salary ranges for City employees – including the Emergency Management Director. Carew responded that the Resolution to hire Mr. Adams did not include a stipend. Mayor Perri commented that previous employees from the Republican club were hired without objection or comment.

Mr. Ray Adams came forward again and asked Councilwoman Kern if she had ever received a report from Mr. Lees when he was the EMC. Kern could not recall. Adams stated his discontent with Councilmen Turon and Carew for voting no and felt it was a slap in the face to the City volunteers. In regards to family members on the payroll, Adams encouraged them to read the City's Policies and Procedures Manual.

Council President asked if there were any other members of the public who wished to speak. Seeing no one, the public session was closed.

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MEETING NOTICES/KERN

Work Session	May 9, 2006	7:00 pm
Regular Session/ Final 2006 Budget Adoption	May 9, 2006	8:00 pm

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Kern, second by Councilman Carew. All present in favor, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk