

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
MAY 8, 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 Council President Cindy Kern.

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

City Solicitor Keith Bonchi, City Administrator Jeffrey Bruckler, Engineer Ed Stinson, CFO Marilyn Dolcy, Deputy City Clerk Kim Hodsdon, and Police Chief Robert James were present.

Council President Kern reviewed the agenda. Mayor Perri arrived at the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Vain thanked Administrator Bruckler for having a storm fence installed along a drainage ditch at Birch Grove Park in order to make the area safer for children. He announced that the Northfield Community School's 'Think Day Team' had placed first and second at recent academic competitions. He suggested that Council recognize them at the next meeting.

Councilman Martinez commended the Sewer Department for their quick and professional response to a recent sewer emergency. He advised the public to utilize the non-emergency police dispatch telephone number to report sewer emergencies and stated that dispatch was very effective in handling the matter. Martinez announced that he will be attending a meeting with Council President Kern, Administrator Bruckler and representatives from the Northfield Volunteer Rescue Squad in the near future to discuss the status of the squad.

Councilman Mazzeo gave the monthly finance report. He attended a budget meeting with the Mainland Regional High School's Board of Education and, along with the other sending districts, they were able to agree on a reduction of \$35,000.00. Mazzeo reported that he attended the Emergency Management meeting at the Northfield Community School and noted that it was well done.

Council President Kern reported that the Library is considering expansion and asked for Council representation on the committee. Councilman Mazzeo suggested that the matter should be discussed in conjunction with the budget, rather than forming a separate committee. Kern questioned the status of shared services with the Northfield Community School. Mazzeo will follow up. Kern reported that the Jewish Community Day School has agreed to allow Allsports to use their grounds for girl's softball, and she thanked the school for their support. She discussed an article that she submitted to the Current newspaper, which described the various City

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departments and the services they provide to the community. She thanked all City employees for doing a great job.

Council President Kern expressed dissatisfaction at having learned of the appointment of the new Emergency Management Coordinator at a public meeting. Though she respects the Mayor's right to appoint certain positions, she asked him for the courtesy of advanced notice. Mayor Perri explained that the position is a mayoral appointment and the importance of having it be someone he is comfortable with. Regarding the issue of non-communication, he pointed to a matter that was proposed by Councilman Carew to increase the City's staffing without advising everyone in advance. Councilman Turon stated that he was unaware that the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator position existed and expressed concerns over nepotism. Mayor and Council discussed the matter of qualifications for the EMC position.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perri reported that the State Department of Transportation has honored his request for the City to sponsor the garden area at the Route 9 and Tilton Road intersection. The State will pay to install a 'Welcome to Northfield' sign and landscaping. The Mayor and Council President Kern discussed the area and will defer to Engineer Stinson regarding a large electrical box at the site and whether or not it can be concealed by landscaping. Perri attended the recent Emergency Management meeting at the Northfield Community School. He thanked Lieutenant Faden of the Police Department for taking part in it. He commented on the technologies of Reverse 911 and Global Connect, stating that it would be beneficial to have something like that in the community for notification of emergencies. He will follow up with the City Administrator and Council President Kern to discuss the matter further. Regarding school budgets, Perri recommended to Council that they request detailed versions next year in order to have more information. He announced that testing for open police officer positions will be conducted on June 12th at the Northfield Community School. He talked about the 'Welcome to Northfield' sign program that began in 1996, stating that some of the signs are missing, the fees need to be re-evaluated and renewal letters should be sent to all of the original participants. Mayor Perri congratulated the police officers who were promoted.

Mayor and Council discussed the issue of bulk waste. Mayor Perri stated that the Zoning Officer is unable to follow up on the volume of rejections notices given out lately and asked for suggestions from Council. Administrator Bruckler was asked to follow up on the cost of waste management contractors.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Bruckler reported on the following: The Sewer inter-local agreement will be presented to the Linwood City Council in the near future; he is looking for

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new communications providers and will update Council at the next meeting; the position of seasonal grounds-keeper is open for applicants until May 10th and interviews will begin shortly thereafter; he is receiving quotes for repairs and installation of air conditioning equipment for certain areas within the municipal building; implementation of the new court security plan will begin with him receiving quotes for the installation of various features.

Bruckler announced the following meetings and events: The American Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive on June 1st in Council Chambers from 12:00 to 6:00 pm; He and Engineer Ed Stinson have scheduled a meeting on May 17th at 4:00 pm with the Egg Harbor Township MUA and developers to discuss the proposed development on Mill and Fire Roads and it's impact on the City of Northfield; a meeting is scheduled with Council President Kern, Mayor Perri, Councilmatic Chair Martinez and Chief Lynn Perri to discuss the status of volunteer enlistment in the Rescue Squad; a public hearing is scheduled on May 22nd at 8:00 pm for the purchase of property on Oak Avenue as Open Space preservation.

Councilman Turon asked that Jim Clark be included in the sewer meeting. Council discussed the seasonal grounds-keeper position as it relates to pension and unemployment. Mayor Perri explained the State's unfunded liabilities such as pensions and benefits, and noted that the League of Municipalities' website is very informative about the topic.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the City Clerk's office. Mayor and Council discussed correspondence received from the City of Pleasantville regarding the installation of sewer extensions for properties on Dolphin Avenue. Engineer Stinson requested Council's involvement in the matter. He will be meeting with the Sewer Committee for further discussions. Councilman Turon suggested that Pleasantville put up escrow monies to cover Northfield's cost of engineering and attorney consultation fees. Administrator Bruckler was asked to write a letter to the County asking them to refrain from making a decision regarding Pleasantville's request until they agree to cover Northfield's costs.

Councilman Carew entered the meeting at approximately 8:00 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC