

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING**  
**May 9, 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: Kern, Martinez, Notaro, Schlachter, Turon, Mazzeo  
Absent: Carew (entered the meeting shortly after roll call)

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

Council President Mazzeo reviewed the agenda. Councilman Turon inquired if the new Employee Vision Plan as presented in Resolution 77-2006 was equal to or better than the last one. Administrator Bruckler responded in the affirmative and explained that approximately ten different providers were evaluated before making his recommendation.

Councilman Carew arrived.

Council President Mazzeo reviewed the agenda. Councilman Turon questioned Resolution 76-2006 regarding the Inter-local Sewer Agreement with Linwood. Bruckler responded that the Linwood Committee was unable to reach a consensus to agree to the 10% rate for this year. Turon expressed his disappointment with Linwood.

Regarding Ordinance 9-2006, Councilwoman Kern expressed her desire to have the Mayor be the 'appropriate person' to lead the Police Department rather than him appointing a 'designee'. Mayor Perri responded that the matter had been reviewed by a Committee and that the proposed language is intended to bring the City into compliance.

Councilman Turon requested clarification on Part 'C' of 9-2006. Administrator Bruckler explained that the old City Code was contradictory in certain parts of Section 35 and that the proposed Ordinance would bring it into compliance with State Statutes by giving the 'appropriate authority' the ability to appoint an Acting Commanding Officer if the Chief of Police is incapacitated. Bruckler reported that the Northfield Ordinance was adopted in 1925 and amended in its entirety in 1975. Mayor Perri stated that Northfield's Code was outdated, noting that the legislation changed in 2000, and the matter was the first one listed on the consultant's report 18 months ago.

Councilman Carew questioned the specifics on the meaning of 'designee'. He read an old Ordinance in the Code Book and questioned if the lack of examples for the 'designee' in the proposed language would create the opportunity for a Public Safety Director position. Mayor Perri stated that the Ordinance was tabled at the last

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meeting and these types of questions should have been asked/addressed prior to this meeting. Administrator Bruckler read the definition of 'designee'. Carew asked if the Director of Public Safety was still a viable option for the City of Northfield. Perri explained that, while it is an option, it would have to be presented to the Governing Body for a vote and that Ordinance 9-2006 does not create such a position. Carew expressed his desire to have the Mayor be the head of the Police Department rather than a 'designee'.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Turon deferred to Engineer Ed Stinson to explain the sewer back-up on Juniper Drive. Stinson reported that the resident had hired a private plumber to correct a sewer blockage and that during repairs, the plumber found the problem to be at the City's end of the sewer lateral. The City has made the necessary repairs but the resident is requesting that the City reimburse her in the amount of approximately \$2,100.00 for the private plumber's services. Council President Mazzeo feels that some restitution is in order and requested that the City Solicitor follow up on the matter.

Councilman Schlachter reported that the bid for the All-Sports Practice Field has been advertised and is scheduled to be opened on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The football field has been seeded again and the irrigation system has been checked. The parts needed to repair the lighting on the Babe Ruth field have been received and arrangements are being made to complete the repairs. Planning for the reconstruction of the Babe Ruth field is in the early stages and includes pricing, possible material donations and volunteer lists. The repairs are scheduled to begin at the end of baseball season. The irrigation system for the entire complex should be operational very soon and Schlachter offered thanks to Steve Pinto and the volunteers for their hard work. A meeting with the County is being planned to discuss a possible shared work agreement for the roads in Birch Grove Park. Schlachter offered thanks to Councilwoman Kern for her work in obtaining the agreement with the Shaparo School for use of their fields as it will help to alleviate some wear and tear on the Babe Ruth field. He also offered thanks once again to the Public Works Department for their work on the grounds.

Councilwoman Kern reported that the recipients of Science Fair Awards were not able to attend the last meeting due to a field trip, but they have been given their certificates. The Municipal Alliance met last week and has agreed to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Health and Literacy Fair on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Northfield Community School from 4:30 to 7:30 PM. Kern congratulated the Cultural Committee for their award from the County for restoration, rehabilitation and reuse of a Historical Site – the Bayside School. The new shed has arrived at the museum and will be used to display model ships that were built and donated by retired Police Officer, Mr. Robert Webb. The building will be dedicated to the Service men and women. Kern

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requested that Mr. Bruckler add the Cultural Committee members names to the City's web site. Regarding the agreement with the Jewish Community Day School for the use their fields, Kern noted that Administrator Bruckler has agreed to write the school a letter confirming that the church parking lot will be used rather than street parking spaces. Kern announced, on behalf of the Atlantic City Country Club, that they are now open daily for breakfast and lunch. Kern asked Mayor Perri if we would be participating in the Mayor's Cup this year. Perri responded that he had not been contacted as of yet but that he would follow up. Kern announced that the Library will be hosting poetry night on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 'Green Eggs & Ham' in June. Kern congratulated Ms. Margolis on her new position as a Library Board Member.

Councilman Notaro reported that Duane Demaree of Absecon Irrigation has volunteered his time to seed the football field at Birch Grove Park. He offered his thanks and appreciation on behalf of the City. Notaro reported that he will be assessing some areas in the Public Works Department that are in need of repair. A contractor has been retained for tree removal on First Street Playground. The fence on the north side of the parking lot is scheduled for repair soon.

Council President Mazzeo reported that he attended DARE graduation and recognized the job well done by Officer Ramsey and offered thanks to the other officers in attendance that night. Mazzeo reported that Mayor Perri, Councilman Turon and himself had attended the Mainland Budget Meeting. The budget was reduced by approximately \$40,000.00 but Mazzeo conveyed how difficult it is to avoid tax increases due to the rising costs of utilities, health care, and contractual obligations.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Perri proposed to Council that Elizabeth O'Grady of Cedarbridge Road, Northfield, NJ be appointed to the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board. The appointment was added to the agenda as a Resolution.

Mayor Perri reported that there have been complaints from residents in Sutton Woods regarding the lack of lawn maintenance. Notices have been sent to the developer. Perri also reported a problem with drainage and road repairs at Birch Grove Estates. The light for the intersections of Zion, Oak and Cedarbridge as well as the 2-hour parking signs for Northfield Avenue have not yet arrived. Perri offered his thanks to all those involved in the Mainland Budget Meetings. He requests that the yield-to-pets signs be installed along the Bike Path crosswalks and also that the striping be repainted on the intersections as soon as possible. Perri reported that he had met with the Police Department regarding a campaign to notify residents who will be affected by the detour routes during the County road reconstruction project. Perri recognized the inconvenience to those residents and stated that there will be a police presence and that speeding will not be tolerated.

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Mayor Perri requested a correction to the Minutes of the April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Work Session. Specifically, Perri asked that Councilman Carew's statement that the Emergency Management Coordinator position had not been paid a stipend in the last nine years be stricken from the record because it was incorrect. Perri stated that he had copies of the individual's contracts who held the position for several years in the past and that they include a stipend for the duties. Perri expressed concern that the statement was derogatory and misleading to the public and asked that it be deleted from the Minutes.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Bruckler reported that he is currently reviewing quotes for Employee Dental Care coverage and will make a recommendation to Council as soon as possible. He is still awaiting the claims experience report from the State.

Bruckler announced that Candice DiCiano was selected to fill the seasonal position at the Birch Grove Park concession stand and, with the support of Vicki Rutter and Councilman Schlachter, he recommended that a seasonal maintenance person be hired for the Park. The position will be advertised. The Public Works Laborer position has been advertised again.

Bruckler met with representatives from Atlantic City Electric on April 19<sup>th</sup> regarding the acquisition of the Wabash property for Open Space. Both parties are awaiting the final adoption by the Freeholders.

Bruckler reported meetings and announcements as follows:

- Mr. William Guerro has requested a meeting with the appropriate City officials regarding his Mill Road development project and the City's sewer infrastructure.

Mayor Perri requested that everyone agree on a date that evening – pointing out that the project has already taken a long time. Councilman Carew and Bruckler discussed what had been done up to this point. Bruckler believes that Mr. Guerro is prepared to submit his final plans.

- The City of Northfield's Fire Department will be holding a blood drive for the American Red Cross in the courtroom on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Interested persons should call extension 126 to schedule an appointment.
- A representative from Hartford will be available to City employees on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am until noon to discuss the Deferred Compensation Plan.

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- The tax sale is set for June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am. A list will be published in the Press on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Municipal Court will begin daytime hours effective June 7<sup>th</sup> and will start promptly at 9:00 am.

Councilman Turon told Bruckler that he believes the County's Shore Road paving project may conflict with the Memorial Day Parade and asked that he look into it. Councilwoman Kern asked for an update on the Sutton street sign. Bruckler reported that it is scheduled to be installed soon. Councilman Martinez requested an update on the janitorial contract. Bruckler reported that a letter of dissatisfaction has been sent to the current provider, he is reviewing quotes for new providers and will put it on the next agenda. Martinez supported the Police Department's recommendation to go from 2 to 3 days of janitorial service.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Ed Stinson reported that the field work on the Leslie Lane project has been completed and he should have a bid date scheduled by the next Council Meeting. The field work on the reconstruction of Davis Avenue has begun and a bid date for that project is still about 1 ½ months out. The Atlantic County Improvement Authority has notified the City Engineer that the Community Development Block Grant for the 2006 FY has been approved and will be a continuation of previous projects and field work will begin soon. The field work is complete on the Birch Grove Park drainage project and Stinson plans to meet again with the Mayor and Council to discuss his recommendations. The design for the All Purpose Field is out for bid and are scheduled to be received on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Mazzeo opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Seeing no one, he called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn, all present in favor, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk