

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING**  
**May 23, 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 toward the end of the work session)

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

Council President Mazzeo reviewed the agenda and topics for discussion. He asked for everyone's input on the matter of sending meeting agendas and minutes electronically, via e-mail, rather than distributing hard copies. No objections.

Administrator Bruckler explained that the Municipal Court will be removing the desks from the floor of the Courtroom and replacing them with tables. He suggested that Council could hold their work sessions on the floor – at the tables, to facilitate better communication and offer a more informal setting. Council would sit at the dais for public sessions. Motion to proceed made by Martinez, second by Notaro. All present in favor, motion carries.

Councilman Turon questioned Resolution 81-2006. Discussion ensued regarding the reduction of the Performance Guarantee in light of the fact that reforestation of the Hansen lot has still not begun. Solicitor Scerni stated that moving forward with the Resolution will still leave enough money for that work to be completed. Mayor Perri expressed that the City needs to be more aggressive with the matter. City Engineer Matt Doran stated that a strong letter would be sent to the developer.

Councilwoman Kern questioned the vast difference in the bids on the All-Sports Practice Field project. Doran stated that the low bidder's references had been checked.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Turon questioned the status of the matter involving a resident on Juniper Drive who experienced a sewer back-up and incurred personal expenses. Mazzeo reported that the construction contractor, Lafayette, refused to reimburse the resident. Doran explained that the breakage point was at the street and would have only been a \$500 repair, but the resident called a private plumber who proceeded to do unnecessary repairs from the street to the home before he called the City. Councilman Schlachter asked Administrator Bruckler to be the point of contact and call the resident again to try and reconcile the matter. Doran will follow up with Lafayette.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING**  
**May 23, 2006**

Councilman Martinez attended the NCS Board of Education meeting. The topic of the old Mill Road parking lot was discussed. Residents expressed concern over the condition of the lot and the safety of the children. Residents also questioned when the soccer field at the Northfield Community School would begin to be used. Drainage issues are being addressed. The repairs to the bandstand roof at Birch Grove Park are complete. He offered his thanks to Stretch construction for a job well done and for meeting the timeline set forth. He reported that he met with Administrator Bruckler to explore the possibility of installing solar panels in various city buildings to reduce the cost of utilities.

Councilwoman Kern reported that the Municipal Alliance met for their 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the year. The annual NCS Health and Literacy Fair was held on May 17<sup>th</sup> in memory of Dr. Michelle Battistini and Mrs. Susan Evinski, both former Northfield residents. The Fair was successful thanks to organizers Ashley Jackson and Jennifer Fipp. Kern mentioned that she was present in Atlantic City as the Cultural Committee received their award for the preservation of the Steelman Homestead as a historical site.

Councilman Notaro discussed drainage and grading problems at Philmar Circle with Engineer Doran. He also inquired as to the date of installation for the blinking light at Oak and Zion. Bruckler responded that installation was pending weather conditions. Notaro brought to the attention of Bruckler that many street and traffic signs around the City need to be repaired.

Council President Mazzeo reported that he met with the Economic Development Committee. They are looking for three new representatives. The 'Stop and Shop' program is on schedule to be adapted this summer in the City of Northfield. Mazzeo recognized the City's Tax Office and residents for their outstanding tax collection rate of approximately 99%. A Tax Sale is scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Perri reported that he met with the Sewer Committee to review possible new commercial sites and as a result they found that some properties had defective valves. The developers will be paying for those repairs. On behalf of Marge Malone, Perri announced that volunteers are needed to take over the planning/organizing of Family Fest. Due to personal circumstances, she is unable to continue. He offered thanks to the Fire Department for putting the flags up in preparation for the Memorial Day services.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING**  
**May 23, 2006**

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Bruckler reported that Street Sweeping will begin on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The service will be provided by ACUA under an inter-local agreement at a cost that is approximately the same as last year.

He is currently receiving quotes for a new Dental Care Plan for City employees and will advise Council of his recommendation at the next meeting. The new contract for a Vision Care Plan with Horizon Eye Care has been executed. He provided Council with a copy.

Numerous qualified candidates were interviewed for the vacant Public Works Laborer position and he recommended that Corry Freeman be hired. Interviews for the seasonal Birch Grove Park maintenance position will begin on 5/30/06.

The Memorial Day Parade will be held on Shore Road from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.. He offered thanks to Assistant Chief Jake Lees, Captain Delcher and the Fire Department for putting up the flags along the parade route.

The DEP Bureau of Environmental Measurements and Site Assessment (BEMSA) will continue test borings for an ongoing ground water contamination investigation. The sampling will be conducted on Oak View Drive and Holly Lane.

Bruckler reported the following Meetings and Announcements:

- Councilman Turon, Council President Mazzeo, Mayor Perri, Matt Doran and himself met with Mr. William Guerro to discuss his Mill Road development project and related City Sewer issues. Mr. Guerro has agreed to provide funds to the City for replacement valves at the Zion Road pump station.
- The Fire Department will be holding a blood drive for the American Red Cross on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Call extension 126 to schedule an appointment.
- The Municipal Court will begin day time hours (court will start at 9:00 am) on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

To summarize a few of the current projects, Engineer Doran reported the following:

- As a continuation of previous Community Development Block Grant projects, Bud Concrete has been awarded a contract to install accessible ramps at various City intersections. The contractor has been provided with a punch list and the project will soon be closed out pending some final paperwork.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING**  
**May 23, 2006**

- The 2005 Paving Project involving Country Club Rd., Bonnie Lee Dr., Blue Bell Dr., Heather Dr., and English Lane is complete.
- Reconstruction of 1<sup>st</sup> Street, from Infield Ave. to Fairbanks Ave., is substantially complete.
- Two projects currently under design include the reconstruction of both Leslie Lane and Davis Ave. Field work is underway and bid dates will be announced soon.

Councilwoman Kern questioned the status of Philmar Circle because residents have reported flooding in their basements. Doran responded that the field work has been completed and the project can be escalated in priority if Council should so desire. It is a matter of stormwater and the most reasonable solution according the field work report is a pump station.

Councilman Carew arrives (7:57 pm)

Councilman Notaro asked Doran if the patchwork at the corner of Bonnie Lee and Wilson could be aesthetically corrected. Doran explained that it was most likely cut out to obtain the proper grade, but told Notaro he would look into it.

Councilman Schlachter asked about the situation on Marita and Leeds. Mr. Wagner, a resident, is asking for follow up. Doran reported that the waterfront development permit has been received from the NJDEP but they are now waiting for the Army Corps of Engineers' approval.

**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 by Notaro to adjourn, second by Kern. All present in favor; this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk