

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
JUNE 12, 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 Perri. Following the flag salute he called for a moment of silence, in observance of Memorial Day, to recognize those who have fallen to protect our liberties.

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

Attorney Frances Ballak was present in place of 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. City Clerk Carol Raph stated that Resolution 112-2007 was added to the agenda amending Resolution 82-2007 in order to be in compliance with the State Pay-to-Play, Non Fair and Open requirements, as per the City Auditor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Engineer Stinson and Council discussed the City's tax maps in conjunction with the revaluation process and associated timelines. Stinson explained that the maps must be updated and submitted to the State before a revaluation can begin. He has given them to the City's Tax Assessor Mark Sykes for review. Councilman Carew asked when the City should begin looking for a revaluation service provider. Mayor Perri commented that there are not very many and some are more reputable than others. Administrator Bruckler will follow up on providers. CFO Dolcy stated that the cost of a revaluation is not budgeted for. Mayor Perri stated that emergency appropriations were utilized to fund the last revaluation in 1996.

Regarding the removal of the City's old web site, Council President Kern stated that many people are still going there for information and finding it to be outdated. Administrator Bruckler responded that he is working with Solicitor Bonchi to come to an agreement with the site's private owner.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Vain announced that the Municipal Alliance is seeking volunteers to assist with Northfield Night Out. Regarding his quest for a speed limit reduction on Burton Avenue, he stated that the State does not have enough manpower to perform the required traffic study therefore the responsibility lies with the City. In his conversations with the State, Vain emphasized the presence of recreation fields and new residential developments on Burton Avenue. He advised Council that he sent a letter to the County Executive regarding a speed limit reduction on Zion Road and

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will keep them updated on the matter. He reported that he met with Councilman Notaro and Administrator Bruckler to discuss the 'Welcome to Northfield' sign program. They will be giving Council a list of proposed locations and asking for feedback.

Councilman Vain asked Bruckler about follow up on a possible City skateboard park, requested by some of the community's children. Bruckler responded that, while the increase in liability insurance appears to be a minimal \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00, the hidden costs could be as much as \$50,000.00 per year. Councilman Carew asked for all of the pertinent information, as he does not understand the broad range in estimated costs. Councilman Martinez stated that he had done some preliminary research and discovered that there may be grant monies available to help cover the cost of construction. He suggested that Council form a committee to more thoroughly evaluate the matter. Bruckler will ask the City's insurance consultant, Stan Gunnison, to attend a future Council meeting in order to explain the costs associated with a skate park.

Councilman Martinez advised Council that the removal of trees is becoming more prevalent and the issue was discussed again at a recent Planning/Zoning Board meeting. Engineer Stinson will be drafting an ordinance for the City Solicitor to review. The Planning/Zoning Board will then present it to Council. Martinez made Council aware of a recent incident on Lesley Lane where many trees were removed when the lot was cut for housing construction. The proposed ordinance would require the development plans to indicate specifically which trees would be cut and which ones would remain. It would also establish accountability and fines for violations. Engineer Stinson and Council discussed Galloway Township's ordinance as an example of one that requires permits for tree removal. Councilman Carew noted that the public should be clear on the fact that these proposed changes would not apply to the individual homeowner when tree removal is unrelated to new development or construction.

Councilman Carew commended the Friends of Birch Grove Park for all the work they have done. He said that the park entrance looks fantastic and the new bike racks are great for the kids. He encouraged the public to come out and enjoy the park, including the recently refurbished miniature golf course.

Councilman Mazzeo reported on a shared services feasibility study regarding 911 dispatching. He summarized the recommendations of the study and stated that Northfield could save money by using the County for this service. He will be meeting with the Northfield Community School in the near future for further discussions about shared services. He attended a 2008 budget meeting on June 6th where a representative from the South Jersey Economic Development Committee discussed different grant opportunities that the City might want to pursue.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perri reported that the Police Department had 166 applicants sit for the entrance exam. The Police Department logged eighty-six hours in May for 'Click-It or Ticket' enforcement. Another accident occurred at the intersection of Oak and Zion Roads. Even with installation of flashing lights above the stop signs, the intersection is a dangerous one and the Mayor stated that a speed limit reduction would help.

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; interviews will be held for the part time position June 15th as the previous person has declined the position; the DPW has installed the four-way stops at Cedarbridge & Oak; street sweeping is scheduled for the week of July 9th and all appropriate public announcements will be made; the County Clerk has alerted municipalities of a scam involving a private company that is charging homeowners an excessive fee to purchase a certified copy of their property deed – this alert will be communicated on the City's web site; the City's electrical subcode inspector has taken a leave of absence and the inspector from Egg Harbor Township will fill-in on a temporary basis.

Bruckler announced the following meetings and events: There will be a meeting in the near future to discuss the Volunteer Rescue Squad; a meeting is scheduled with AllSports on June 13th to discuss non-AllSports teams utilizing the recreation fields; the NJDEP has requested a meeting with Administrator and Engineer Stinson to discuss the wells at Birch Grove Park – this meeting has been scheduled for 1:00pm on June 19th.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the City Clerk's office. Engineer Stinson discussed the tie bid for the Reconstruction of Banning Avenue project. The Local Public Contracts Law allows the municipality to choose whom they award the bid to in cases of a tie. Upon review of both bids, it is the recommendation of the City Engineer that the bid be awarded to A.E. Stone, as he believes it would result in lower costs to the City. Attorney Ballak advised Council that Arawak Paving Co. has requested that Council refrain from making a decision on the bid award until they have had more time to review the Engineer's recommendation. Ballak stated that it is up to Council to choose to give them more time or not. Councilman Mazzeo questioned the pump station on Burton Avenue. He commented that many residents called to report flooding after the last storm. Stinson replied that he is awaiting a response from Atlantic City Electric on the cost

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of providing service to the pump station and that he will update Council as that information becomes available.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Kern opened this meeting to the public. Cynthia Green of 2537 Cedarbridge Road, Northfield, came forward and expressed her support for the idea of a tree-cutting ordinance. She stated that she resides nearby where the trees were cut down on Lesley Lane and feels that the regulations need to be more strict and enforceable. Trees are a precious asset in Northfield and they should be respected.

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

On a motion properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC