

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 17, 2007**

This regular meeting of Council began, with the same members present, following the work session.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Vain, second by Councilman Mazzeo, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of June 12, 2007. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. All present in favor, motion carries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Vain reported that numerous residents have expressed their thanks to Council for installing the four-way stop at Cedarbridge and Oak. He commended Vicki Rutter and her staff at Birch Grove Park for doing a great job. He recently visited the Park and said that the condition of the fields were excellent.

Councilman Martinez reported that the proposed tree removal ordinance has been drafted and forwarded to the appropriate people for review. The draft will be discussed at the Planning/Zoning Board meeting on Thursday, July 19th.

Councilman Mazzeo commented that the new landscaping in front of the library looks great and thanked the Friends of the Library for their work on this project. He reported that the application for Open Space funding for the purchase of property on Oak Avenue was unanimously passed by the subcommittee and will go before the County Freeholders for a vote. Engineer Stinson explained the process that would ensue if the City were to be awarded the grant, which includes a property appraisal, negotiating a contract with the seller, environmental studies and public hearing. Mazzeo reported that he and Engineer Stinson had met with a Gordon Dahl, Director of the South Jersey Economic Development Committee to discuss grant eligibility to the City. Jim Clark, PWM will create a list of sewer repair projects and Stinson will prepare estimates for the next committee meeting.

Councilman Notaro was asked by a resident for installation of a street light at Birch Field Court. Following a Council discussion, Solicitor Bonchi advised that the original plans should be reviewed first, to determine the extent of the developer's responsibility regarding street lighting. Engineer Stinson will follow up.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perri thanked everyone involved in the Fourth of July events, and commented that it was a great hometown community day. He reported that a committee meeting was held regarding the City's emergency medical services. The Rescue Squad is currently having staffing problems due to medical problems, scheduling conflicts, and lack of new volunteers. In the short term, the Mayor hopes that the Fire Department can assist on more calls. Looking at the long term status of the squad, the Mayor stated that it has been very difficult to recruit new volunteers, partly due to the certification and training requirements. Council was advised of the situation last year. Recently the Council President Kern attended a meeting regarding the future of the rescue squad. Perri stated

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that eventually, the squad would need to supplement the volunteers with paid staff. Administrator Bruckler has been requested to look into alternative measures such as third-party billing as well as the future management of the squad.

Mayor Perri read a proclamation recognizing Mr. Jake Eggie for fifty years of service as a Northfield Volunteer Firefighter. Mr. Eggie and his wife, Joan, were present along with many family members, friends, Northfield Fire Auxiliary and Northfield Volunteer Fire Company. Mrs. Eggie was given flowers and was recognized as being a monumental part of her husband's service to the community. Mayor Perri thanked and congratulated Mr. Eggie and presented him with a clock/plaque. Chief Lynn Perri of the Northfield Volunteer Rescue Squad presented him with a plaque and a plant, and thanked him on behalf of the entire Squad. Council President Kern congratulated them and stated that he was a role model for volunteer service. On behalf of Council, she expressed deep appreciation for his many years of service.

The meeting resumed following a brief recess. President Kern reminded everyone that the annual Flora Dickinson Fishing Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, July 21st beginning at 9:00 am. She complimented Vicki Rutter and her staff at Birch Grove Park and said that the park looks great. She stated that unwanted vehicles being parked on residential properties are becoming a problem. Mayor Perri advised that there are ordinances in place which prohibit it. Kern responded that it needs to be enforced. She thanked Police Chief James for addressing some problems at the Tilton Road intersection. Some of the construction signs remain in place because the State has not granted its final approval of the project. She stated that the third quarter tax bills will be mailed out at the end of July and payment will be due by August 27th.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Bruckler reported on the following: The Sewer inter-local agreement will be presented to the Linwood City Council this week for approval; interviews were held for the positions of part time and seasonal grounds keepers for Birch Grove Park – the part time position was filled; street sweeping should be completed soon; a temporary electrical sub-code inspector is filling in while the permanent employee is on a leave of absence. He is in the process of hiring a fire sub-code inspector.

Bruckler announced the following meetings and events: a meeting was held on June 13th to discuss use of the City's sports fields by teams that are not part of All sports; Engineer Stinson, Brucker and the NJDEP met to discuss the wells located at Birch Grove Park – he has submitted the requested Compliance Summary Evaluation requested for the well water usage; a meeting was held on July 17th to discuss the proposed sewer connection agreement with the Mill and Fire Road Construction project in Egg Harbor Township and how it impacts on the Northfield Sewer Infrastructure; he will be attending a waste water information session hosted by ACUA on August 8th; he attended the Oskar Huber Furniture grand opening festivities on July 3rd; he and the Deputy City Clerk attended a conference on Personnel and Labor Law on June 21st; he will be meeting with a

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representative from the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on August 6th with regards to the 2007 EEO-4 online filing system.

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 status of the situation involving the contractor for the pipe bursting at Bay Drive. Councilmen Turon and Vain and Mayor Perri will attend a meeting with Solicitor Bonchi and the contractor. Stinson advised Council of a situation regarding the paving project on Sutton Avenue. Three large trees that are located on private property are posing to be an obstacle in the project. Stinson and Council discussed all of the options, which include removing the trees. Stinson recommends saving the trees and adjusting the curbline and sidewalks of the neighboring properties, at no cost to those property owners, in order to match the new curbline.

Seeing that there were residents of Sutton Avenue in the audience, Council President Kern invited them to speak on the matter. William Brady of 2117 Sutton Avenue approached Council and expressed concern that he was in compliance with the original site plans and should not have to pay out of his own pocket for any changes now. He also described the Sutton Avenue as being a very tight thoroughfare when cars are parked along the curb. He suggested that Council consider making it a one-way street. John Regina of 2115 Sutton Avenue came forward. He and Engineer Stinson discussed cartway width variances along the street and DOT regulations. He asked that any changes to existing sidewalks and curblines be paid for by the City rather than the property owners. Stinson explained that in order to keep a uniform curb line, the trees would have to be removed. Alternatively, the trees could be saved, but the sidewalks and curblines of neighboring properties would need to be moved.

Engineer Stinson provided Council with an update to the proposed redesign of the Cedarbridge & Zion road intersection. He showed Council an aerial-view map with the proposed changes. The City of Linwood has passed a resolution supporting the conceptual design and asking the County to move forward on the project. On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilman Notaro, all present were in favor of adding Resolution 125-2007, to support the conceptual design of the intersection, to the agenda. At the request of Councilman Vain, Police Chief James will look into the possibility of implementing additional no-parking restrictions on Cedarbridge Road.

Stinson advised Council of two storm water sewer inlets that are in need of immediate repairs. Stinson suggested that they could award a yearly contract for these types of repair projects rather than putting them out to bid on an individual basis. On a motion of Councilman Turon, second of Councilman Vain, all present were in favor of going out to bid on the two immediate repairs. On a motion of Councilman Turon, second of Councilman Vain, all present were in favor of going out to bid for an annual contract for sewer inlet repairs.

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Engineer Stinson provided Council with an update to the flooding problems on Davis Avenue. Upon inspection of the area, it was discovered that storm sewer system can not handle the amount of runoff it receives. Additional infiltration will need to be installed to correct the problem.

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

- 114-2007** To Hire Walter Corado as Part-Time Birch Grove Park Grounds Keeper/Utility Maintenance Worker
- 115-2007** Authorization to Extend Third Quarter Tax Payments
- 116-2007** Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 117-2007** To Amend Resolution 111-2007 Regarding the Award of Contract for Reconstruction of Banning Avenue
- 118-2007** To Authorize Award of Contract for the Purchase of Two (2) Ford Crown Victoria Police Cars, NJ State Contract #A-67129
- 119-2007** A Resolution Authorizing the Northfield Police Department to Apply For and Obtain an 'Over the Limit, Under Arrest' Grant
- 120-2007** A Resolution Authorizing the Northfield Police Department to Trade-In Twenty-Eight (28) Handguns
- 121-2007** To Hire Henry Skala for the Position of Temporary Electrical Subcode Inspector
- 122-2007** A Resolution Providing for an Executive Session Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, Regarding Attorney Client Privilege
- 123-2007** A Resolution Providing for an Executive Session Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, Regarding Potential Litigation on the Burton Estates Paving Project
- 124-2007** A Resolution Providing for an Executive Session Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, Regarding Contract Negotiations with Guerro Developers for a Sewer Connection in Egg Harbor Township
- 125-2007** A Resolution to Approve the Conceptual Redesign of Cedarbridge and Zion Road

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Roll Call: Carew - absent, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo- yes, Notaro – yes, Turon –yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes, Motion carries.

ORDINANCES

On a motion made by Councilman Martinez, seconded by Notaro, all in favor of reading Ordinance 8-2007 by title only.

8-2007 Amending Ordinance 11-2003 of the Code of the City of Northfield Establishing Fees for Plenary Retail Consumption Liquor Licenses

Introduction/ No public input/ Advertise in the Press 7/21/07

Roll Call: Carew - absent, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo- yes, Notaro – yes, Turon – yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes. Motion carries.

On a motion made by Councilman Vain, seconded by Turon, all in favor of reading Ordinance 9-2007 by title only.

9-2007 Amending Chapter 111 of the Code of the City of Northfield Approving Two-Way Traffic on Davis Avenue

Introduction/ No public input/ Advertise in the Press 7/21/07

Roll Call: Carew - absent, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo- yes, Notaro – yes, Turon – yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes. Motion carries.

On a motion made by Councilman Vain, seconded by Turon, all in favor of reading Ordinance 10-2007 by title only.

10-2007 Amending Chapter 76 of the Code of the City of Northfield

Introduction/ No public input/ Advertise in the Press 7/21/07

Roll Call: Carew - absent, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo- yes, Notaro – yes, Turon – yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes. Motion carries.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Mazzeo motioned, Councilman Vain seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$2,220,362.43.

Council President Kern, Councilman Turon and Councilman Vain announced their abstention from certain line items on the bill list. Copies will be kept on file with the City Clerk.

Roll Call: Carew - absent, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo- yes, Notaro – yes, Turon – yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes, motion carries.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

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Robin Margulis of 20 Jack Sloan Court came forward to express her discontent that a tree on her property was cut down by the City without her permission. Her family was very upset because the tree was home to many forms of wildlife and was very special to them. After she contacted Administrator Bruckler and Zoning Officer Dattalo they went to her home to investigate. Mrs. Margulis was very upset about the way she was treated by City officials. Council President Kern and Councilman Notaro apologized for the incident and they would set up a meeting with Mrs. Margulis to discuss a remedy to the situation.

Pat McGowan, 2005 Shore Road came forward and expressed support for the idea of a tree removal ordinance. He asked if the City had any plans for gypsy moth control for next year. City Clerk Carol Raph replied that there is a movement amongst municipalities to have the State fund a Gypsy Moth control program next year. A resolution will be on the agenda at the August 14th meeting of Council in support of State Funding to control this pest. Also, a letter requesting the State to conduct a Gypsy Moth egg mass count in Northfield this year will be sent shortly.

Robert Webb of 218 West Revere Avenue came forward and questioned the change to two-way traffic on Davis Avenue. Police Chief James explained the need for the change. Webb expressed concern over City Hall's telephone system – stating that it is difficult to get an answer.

Church Elder Robert Jackson of the Atlantic County Seventh Day Adventist Church, Broad Street, Northfield, came forward and inquired as to what measures the Church would need to take in order to hold a Health Day in August. Council responded that any vendors or activities that were staged on the Church property would not require any approvals from the City; however, he was instructed to speak with Chief James regarding a fitness run along the Bike Path.

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

Councilman Turon announced the next meeting of Council will be held on August 14, 2007, at 7:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 122-2007

Motions were properly made and seconded, to go into an Executive Session not open to the public. After the discussion this Executive Session was adjourned and Solicitor Bonchi announced a summary for the public as follows: An Executive Session was held during which City Council discussed a threat of litigation involving a retiree.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 123-2007

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Motions were properly made and seconded, to go into an Executive Session not open to the public. After the discussion this Executive Session was adjourned and Solicitor Bonchi announced a summary for the public as follows: An Executive Session was held during which City Council discussed potential litigation involving the paving of Burton Estates.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 124-2007

Motions were properly made and seconded, to go into an Executive Session not open to the public. After the discussion this Executive Session was adjourned and Solicitor Bonchi announced a summary for the public as follows: An Executive Session was held during which City Council discussed the concept of entering into an inter-local agreement with Egg Harbor Township relating to a development by Guerro. The pros and cons of the agreement were discussed. Council President Kern called for a voice vote to support the concept of the inter-local agreement. All present were in favor.

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk