

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2007**

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

RESOLUTIONS

140-2007 On a motion of Carew, second of Mazzeo, all in favor of adopting a Resolution Authorizing Doran Engineering to Proceed with Certain 2007 Projects

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

141-2007 On a motion of Vain, second of Martinez, all in favor of adopting a Resolution to Authorize the Cancellation of Sewer Charges on Block 108, Lot 68.

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

142-2007 On a motion of Turon, second of Vain, all in favor of adopting a Resolution to Authorize the Promotion of Acting Sergeant Eric F. Dettinger to Sergeant within the Northfield Police Department.

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

143-2007 On a motion of Carew, second of Vain, all in favor of adopting 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 Matters Related to Negotiations and the Northfield Volunteer Rescue Squad.

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

Mayor Perri administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant Dettinger. Sergeant Dettinger thanked the Mayor, Council, his peers and his family for their support. Council congratulated him on his promotion.

Solicitor Bonchi summarized the executive session for the public as follows: During this executive session City Council discussed various aspects of concerns relating to coverage of rescue squad calls as well as legal issues and contractual issues in dealing with short term coverage.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Vain reminded the public that school is back in session and asked everyone to please watch their speed, particularly on Zion Road where there are no sidewalks. He distributed to Council a document which showed Galloway Township's costs for establishing a municipal skate board park and asked them to please review it. Vain advised Council that Engineer Stinson is working on figures for the redesign of the Cedarbridge, Zion and Burroughs intersection.

Councilman Mazzeo reported that two new recreational impact fees are on the horizon which will bring the total to \$17,500.00.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perri expressed concern that the City is not taking advantage of the opportunity to make money on the cell tower behind City Hall. He said that he would like to readdress the matter with Council and the City Administrator. The Mayor and Council discussed issues related to the tower being located in a residential area. Council decided against allowing the cell tower to become operational. Mayor Perri gave his condolences to the family of Kate Jackson, President of the Mother's League, on her passing and recognized her contributions to the community.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Bruckler submitted a written report to Council.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the City Clerk's office.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Before opening this session to the public, council President Kern announced Council's decision to utilize the Fire Department and mutual aid from surrounding communities to supplement rescue squad staffing in order to allow Council more time to evaluate all of the options.

Faith Lancaster, Lieutenant of the Northfield Volunteer Rescue Squad, came forward and told Council that she has been a rescue squad volunteer for eight years. She explained that she is only able to volunteer during the day time hours and expressed concern that Council is going to pay overtime to the Firefighters. She asked Council why they would not pay the EMT's instead.

Ray Adams, Sr., of the Northfield Volunteer Rescue Squad came forward and expressed discontent over Council's decision regarding the temporary staffing of the squad. He

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questioned whether the fire department's proposal was a violation of their CBA. Solicitor Bonchi replied that he will handle the matter.

John Hill came forward on behalf of his sister who is a resident of Banning Avenue in Northfield. He questioned why the Banning Avenue paving project does not include new curbing. Engineer Stinson replied that the project is being funded by a State municipal aid program for roadway reconstruction and that curbing is outside of the scope for that project. Stinson offered to give his name and phone number to residents who wish to install sidewalks or curbing in the future.

Jackie Somers of 509 Shore Road came forward to ask Council for their approval for the annual Turkey Trot. She was told to coordinate the details of street closings with the Chief of Police.

Robin Perri of West Mill Road came forward and asked if the fire department will be paid to attend sporting events in place of the rescue squad. Solicitor Bonchi replied that the rescue squad presented Council with concerns over staffing the day time hours. As such, the fire department will supplement during their normal day shifts. There was no indication from the squad that night time hours were a problem. He asked the squad to please inform Council if they are unable to cover the communities' sporting events.

Ray Adams of 238 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Assistant Chief of the Rescue Squad, came forward and asked if the fire department will be assisting from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, as is already being done. Council President Kern clarified that the rescue squad will attempt to respond first, but if they are unable to, the fire department will respond to the call. She reiterated that Council expects to evaluate all options and reach a decision in October.

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

Councilman Mazzeo announced the next meeting of Council will be held on September 18, 2007, at 7:00 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk