

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 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 to recognize those who are fighting at home and abroad for our liberties, as well as local volunteers serving the community, that they may return home safely to their families.

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

City Solicitor Keith Bonchi, City Administrator Jeffrey Bruckler, Engineer Ed Stinson, CFO Marilyn Dolcy, Deputy City Clerk Kim Hodsdon were present.

Council President Kern reviewed the agenda. Councilman Notaro, with the advice of Engineer Stinson, asked that Resolution 158-2007 be removed from the agenda.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Dr. Richard Levitt, Chairman of the Planning Board, came forward and provided Council with an update on the progress of revisions to the City's Master Plan. He provided Council with a written summary of the goals and objectives of the new plan and spoke about objectives that have been completed since the last update. New objectives include better access to childcare, energy conservation, and shade trees. The three major points to be considered in the revision are: The Country Club and the desire to keep the area undeveloped; parking and storage of heavy equipment on City streets; COAH and affordable housing. Mayor Perri thanked Dr. Levitt and Clem Scharf for the time and energy they have put into the Master Plan update.

Council President Kern told Council that Solicitor Bonchi has revised the proposed Tree Protection ordinance and Councilman Martinez will be presenting the changes to the Planning Board.

Hunter Hurst, a resident of Northfield and sixth grade student at Northfield Community School, presented the Mayor and Council with a report on Recycling at Birch Grove Park. Her goal is to increase the public's awareness of the Park as a natural resource and the importance of recycling to keep it clean and to protect the environment. Her report revealed that there are no dedicated recycling cans at the Park and therefore, the trash cans are often filled with recyclable items. Council asked that Mr. Bruckler follow up with the Atlantic County Utilities Authority to get proper cans installed at the Park. Mayor and Council thanked Hunter for taking the initiative and bringing the matter to their attention. They assured her that it would be taken care of.

Council President Kern announced that Council was not ready to make a decision regarding the rescue squad. She apologized and stated that the previous commitment to a decision in a three-week time frame was unrealistic. She reported that the City

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Solicitor has been communicating with the rescue squad's attorney and that more time is needed to evaluate the proposal. Mayor Perri thanked the rescue squad committee for their consideration of the squads proposal.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Kern opened this meeting to the public. Dr. Richard Levitt, Chairman of the Planning Board came forward. He told Council about a proposed development project in Egg Harbor Township, located in the meadows abutting Northfield. He described the proposed development as being a high-rise condominium project that would require several variances be granted by the Township's Planning Board. He asked that Northfield Council voice their opposition to the project, stating that the view of the meadows would be obstructed and Northfield bay front properties could decrease in value as a result. He also expressed concern over the impact the new homes would have on Northfield's EMS resources in regards to providing mutual aid the to the area. Mayor and Council discussed the matter. It was decided that the issue would be readdressed at the next Council meeting.

John Fredericks, volunteer rescue squad member and resident of 18 Forrest Drive, came forward to speak about the status of the rescue squad. He stated his opinion that the squad has been capable of handling the operation adequately in the midst of an alleged crisis.

Patricia Struett of 213 East Surrey Avenue came forward. She commented that the rescue squad provided very professional and compassionate service when they responded to a call for her ill mother. She addressed the matter of a City Skateboard Park. She described her fifteen year old son as being a good kid who's passion is to skate. He has been asked to leave area business parking lots by the police, and as a result has negative feelings about them. She expressed concern that the kids have no safe place to go to skate and would support the idea of forming a parents association to help the cause. She stated that parents are willing to pay an annual fee and volunteer time, as is done at the Egg Harbor Township park. Council members Martinez and Vain will follow up with her.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, she closed the public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC