

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING  
OCTOBER 23, 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.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Vain reported that Sgt. Dettinger is looking into proposed speed humps; other municipalities use them for speed control and he is still evaluating their feasibility for use in Northfield. Solicitor Bonchi suggested that he consult with the JIF to see if they have an opinion on the matter. The City Clerk will follow up with the JIF.

Councilman Mazzeo announced that a Capital Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Perri stated that he received a letter from the State DOT requesting that the City waive the noise ordinance along certain sections of Route 9 to allow for street milling and repaving in the Spring of 2008. It was decided that the Mayor would advise the State Project Engineer that Council will consider the request and respond at a later date. The Mayor reported he has not yet received any word from the State regarding the approved sidewalk project along Route 9.

Regarding the Library, he reported the results of the annual audit have been received and that there were very few recommendations. The library is proposing an expansion project and the Mayor invited Library Board President Seth Brilliant to come forward and address Council on the matter. Mr. Brilliant provided Council with a written proposal outlining the associated costs. Councilman Carew suggested that some of the programs the library sponsors may be eligible for alternative funding such as grants. Brilliant said that he was open to exploring those possibilities. Councilman Turon felt that the estimates included in the proposal were too low and did not include the cost of renovations to the existing building. He offered to get additional estimates if the Library Board would provide appropriate schematics. Council President Kern suggested that the expansion be discussed during the Capital Budget meeting. Kern suggested that the matter be proposed to the voters as a referendum. She thanked Mr. Brilliant for attending the meeting.

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Regarding the Rescue Squad, Mayor Perri reported that they developing a budget to present to the Committee and the City Solicitor. Solicitor Bonchi explained the two pieces of information that are needed from the squad are: the amount funds, not already dedicated to another purpose, available to pay salaries; a revised budget, which takes into consideration the Garcia Act. The Squad would need to have enough funds in reserve to cover the first six to seven months of operating expenses while they go through the process of becoming licensed for third-party billing. If they do not, the City would have to determine how to supplement it. The Mayor and City Solicitor will meet in the near future to discuss the matter further.

Council President Kern reported that the recent Cultural Committee events were very successful and announced their annual Garage Sale on November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Northfield Community School. She reported the Country Club is interested in hosting a 'Northfield Day' golf event next Spring.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Kern opened this meeting to the public. James Turner of 6 Joseph Court came forward. As President of the Homeowners Association of Burton Estates, he expressed concerns over the condition of the streets, curbing and drainage basins in the development. Solicitor Bonchi stated that Council must be cautious about what information they reveal about the matter because of potential litigation with the developer. He assured the residents that Council is aware of the problems that exist and has attempted to work with the developer to rectify them, however the matter may take several more months to resolve. With respect to the drainage basins and access ways, Engineer Stinson stated that sod and irrigation was not part of the approved site plans, and therefore, the developer is not obligated to install it. Bonchi stated that all aspects of the approved plans must be adhered to or the City may take action against the developer's bond. Glenn Martins of 12 Jack Sloan Court came forward and said that he was encouraged to see that Council was aware of the problems at Burton Estates and asked Council to take an aggressive approach with the developer.

Dr. Richard Levitt came forward and advised Council that copies of the Master Plan are available with the Planning Board Secretary, Robin Atlas.

Robert Webb of 218 West Revere Avenue came forward and expressed concerns over vandalism to political party election signs.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC