

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 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 all those who are fighting at home and abroad for our liberties, that they may return home safely to their families.

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

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

Council President Kern reviewed the agenda. Council had no comments or questions regarding the agenda. Kern opened this work session meeting to the public. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, she closed the public session.

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

**OATHS OF OFFICE TO NEW POLICE OFFICERS WERE ADMINISTERED
BY MAYOR FRANK PERRI, JR. FOLLOWING THE READING OF EACH
RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:**

189-2007 On a motion of Carew, second of Martinez, all in favor of adopting a Resolution To Approve the Hiring of Geoffrey Bentz, Police Officer

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

190-2007 On a motion of Vain, second of Mazzeo, all in favor of adopting a Resolution To Approve the Hiring of William VanPelt, Police Officer

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

204-2007 On a motion of Martinez, second of Turon, all in favor of adopting a Resolution To Approve the Hiring of Justin Heller, Police Officer

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

205-2007 On a motion of Turon, second of Carew, all in favor of adopting a Resolution To Approve the Hiring of Kenneth Drake, Police Officer

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

Council President Kern recognized the following retirees for their service to the community: “Pete” Percival Foster – twenty-six years as a City employee in the

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Department of Public Works; Robert M. Carty – twenty-five years of service in the Northfield Police Department; Robert A. Bergmeister – eighteen years of service in the Northfield Police Department.

Kern recognized Councilman Michael Turon for his nine-years of service on City Council. Councilman Turon was first elected to office in 1999 and served three consecutive terms. Over the years, Councilman Turon served as a member and officer of the Volunteer Rescue Squad, and as a member of the Planning Board. He was Council liaison to various groups such as the Rescue Squad, the Fire Department and Municipal Court. He served on several committees including Cultural and Family Fest. Kern stated that it has been a pleasure working with him and she wished him health and happiness in the future. Councilman Turon thanked his family and friends for their support. He thanked the residents of Northfield's Second Ward for their votes and his fellow Council Members for their cooperation over the years. Councilman Turon was presented with a clock/plaque.

Council President Kern recognized Mayor Frank Perri, Jr. for his seventeen years of service as an elected official, with two terms as Councilman and three terms as the City's Mayor. Mayor Perri has been involved in the community as both a member, and President, of the Northfield Volunteer Rescue Squad and the Library Board. President Kern said that he should be applauded for his perfect attendance during his tenure in office and for his active participation in various organizations such as the League of Municipalities and the New Jersey Mayor's Association, where he also served a time as President. Kern stated that it has been a pleasure working with Perri and she wished him well. Mayor Perri thanked his parents for raising him in the Northfield community and for his solid up-bringing and education; thanked his wife Lynn and their children for all of their support and personal sacrifices throughout his years of service; thanked the various volunteers and board members for the time that they give to make the Northfield community a great place to live; thanked the City's employees, stating that they deserve much credit for managing the day-to-day operations; thanked the citizens of Northfield, all Council Members, past and present, and City Clerk Carol Raph for their support over the years. Council President Kern presented Mayor Perri with an engraved clock.

Council President Kern announced that Tom Subranni is retiring by years end after serving thirty-five years as the Solicitor to the Planning/Zoning Board.

PRESENTATION TO THE NORTHFIELD MOTHERS LEAGUE

RESOLUTION

203-2007 On a motion of Carew, second of Vain, all in favor of adopting a Resolution In Appreciation and Recognition of the Northfield Mothers League

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

Council President, and former member of the Mothers League for eighteen years, Cynthia Kern recognized the League for their seventy-five years of community service.

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Mayor Perri presented the resolution to members Maureen Sullivan, Donna Roesch, Ro McDonnell and Heather Von Colon.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Vain, second by Councilman Mazzeo, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of November 13, 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 Turon gave the Fire Department report for the month of November and stated that a year-end synopsis is available from Assistant Chief Crooks.

Councilman Vain thanked Mayor Perri for his years of service to the community. He recognized Councilman Turon for his service and thanked him for his help during his first year on Council. Vain reported that the 'Welcome to Northfield' sign program is moving along and thanked the Deputy Clerk for taking the lead on the project. The redesign of the Cedarbridge and Zion Road intersection is moving along and he is looking to the County for financial recommendations. He and the City Engineer met with the owners of the Arthur Henry site on Wabash Avenue and has requested that the City be kept informed of their intentions regarding the sale of the property.

Councilman Vain distributed information about traffic calming devices (speed humps). He asked Council to agree to purchase one of these devices to use as a test. Council discussed matters of snow removal equipment and budgetary concerns. Vain described how another New Jersey municipality received grant funding for the purchase of such devices. Police Chief Robert James advised that the devices do not require DOT approval for use on City streets, however they may not be used on County or State roads. On a motion of Carew, second of Mazzeo, all present were in favor of allowing Councilman Vain to proceed in purchasing one traffic calming device not to exceed \$3,500.00.

Councilman Martinez thanked Mayor Perri and Councilman Turon for their years of service. He reported that the Planning Board is not in agreement with Council's latest revision to the Tree Protection Ordinance and that they would be resubmitting it to Council for further consideration. Regarding the Rescue Squad, he reported the committee has been meeting regularly, but that no decision has been reached.

Councilman Carew thanked Mayor Perri for his years as an elected official and community volunteer. He thanked the entire Perri family for their personal sacrifices during the Mayor's tenure. He thanked Councilman Turon for his years of service, both elected and volunteer. He commended Council President Kern on a job well done in 2007. Councilman Carew made a motion to allow volunteers to build restroom facilities at the football field. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vain and a roll call vote was taken; all present in favor, motion carried.

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Councilman Mazzeo offered well wishes to Councilman Turon and thanked him for his years as an elected official. He thanked Mayor Perri for his dedication and years of service. Mazzeo spoke about the 2008 budget and named a few of the proposed Capital Projects. He announced that the City's application for Open Space Funding for the purchase of property on Oak Avenue has been approved by the County and he explained the steps to be taken in the process.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Perri wished Councilman Notaro a speedy recovery. Regarding the Rescue Squad, the Mayor stated that he hopes the Governing Body will allow the Squad to continue to serve the community. He thanked the committee for their time spent on the matter and hopes that an agreement can be reached in the new year. He reported the City Administrator met with the Atlantic County Utility Authority and the new trash collection ordinance, as it pertains to construction debris, has saved the City money. The mayor gave the monthly Police Department report.

Council President Kern reported that the City's tree lighting ceremony was a success, with a very good public turn-out, and she thanked all those who participated. She reported that the City Solicitor is seeking clarification from the State regarding the request of Esthetica Salon to provide permanent cosmetic procedures. She will provide more information at a future meeting. Kern announced the Northfield Community School's Family Health & Fitness Day on February 9th; a family health makeover contest is included in this year's event. She is continuing to work with the Atlantic City Country Club to organize the Northfield Day golf event in the Spring. She thanked Mr. Paxson Keates of Jeffries & Keates Funeral home for donating new cabinets to the City Hall employee coffee area. The gift was unsolicited and very much appreciated. Kern thanked the Governing Body for their cooperation and support during her year as Council President. She was proud to say that she accomplished her goals of open communication and mutual respect among Council Members. She thanked her family for their support.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion of Councilman Turon, second of Councilman Martinez the following resolutions were adopted as a Consent Agenda.

189-2007 removed from the Consent Agenda/ adopted separately/see page 1

190-2007 removed from the Consent Agenda/ adopted separately/see page 1

191-2007 Authorizing a Bingo License to the Church of St. Bernadette

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- 192-2007** Refunds of Overpayment of Taxes
- 193-2007** A Resolution for the Cancellation of Grant Fund Receivables and Appropriation Reserves
- 194-2007** Transfer of Funds
- 195-2007** Reconstruction of Roosevelt Avenue, Phase II, Final Change Order No. 2
- 196-2007** Authorizing the Release of a Performance Guarantee for Block 79, Lots 20-24, Road Restoration at #102 and #104 West Rosedale Avenue
- 197-2007** Authorizing Doran Engineering to Proceed with Certain 2007 Projects
- 198-2007** Reconstruction of Banning Avenue, Final Change Order No. 2
- 199-2007** To Award Contract for Reconstruction of Yorkshire Avenue, Birch Grove Road and Wabash Avenue
- 200-2007** A Resolution Endorsing the City of Northfield's Application for Grant Funds from the National Recreational Trails Program
- 201-2007** Authorizing the Hiring of George C. Delrossi as Substitute School Crossing Guard
- 202-2007** In Agreement of Accepting an Over the Limit/Under Arrest Year-End Crackdown Grant from the State Division of Highway Traffic Safety
- 203-2007** *removed from the Consent Agenda/ adopted separately/see page 2*
- 204-2007** *removed from the Consent Agenda/ adopted separately/see page 1*
- 205-2007** *removed from the Consent Agenda/ adopted separately/see page 1*
- 206-2007** Appointment of Judge Henry G. Broome, Jr.
- 207-2007** 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 the Local 2364, Northfield Professional Fire Fighters Union
- 208-2007** *removed from the consent agenda/ adopted separately/see page 6*
- 209-2007** 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 Possible Litigation Concerning the Pipe Bursting at Bay Drive

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

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PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Mazzeo motioned, Councilman Carew seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$1,959,509.88. Roll Call: Carew - yes, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo- yes, Notaro – absent, Turon – yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes, motion carries.

PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Kern opened this meeting to the public. Robert Webb of 218 West Revere Avenue came forward and congratulated Mayor Perri his years of service and thanked the Perri family. He commended Kern for doing a good job as Council President.

Residents of Jack Sloan Court came forward and advised Council that they were asked by the Home Owners Association to attend Council meetings to keep abreast of on-going matters related to the Burton Estates development. He stated that he hoped Council would continue to give attention to their concerns in the new year.

Andrea Dickinson of 250 Mill Road came forward on behalf of the Friends of Birch Grove Park and thanked both Mayor Perri and Councilman Turon for their years of service.

Police Chief Robert James, on behalf of the department, wished the Mayor, Council and Northfield residents Happy Holidays. He announced that DWI checkpoints will be operating throughout the holidays and asked everyone to drive safely.

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

Councilman Turon announced the 2008 Reorganization Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 2nd at 7:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 207-2007

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 reviewed and discussed the proposed collective bargaining agreement with the Northfield Professional Fire Fighters Union.

RESOLUTION 208-2007

On a motion of Carew, second of Vain, council voted to adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Northfield and Northfield Professional Fire Fighters Union, Local 2364

EXECUTIVE SESSION 209-2007

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Motions were properly made and seconded, to go into an Executive Session not open to the public. Engineer Ed Stinson and Councilman-Elect Jason O'Grady were present. 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 settlement proposal with Metra Industries to resolve a matter of dispute over the pipe bursting at the extension of Bay Drive.

RESOLUTION 210-2007

On a motion of Carew, second of Vain, council voted to allow the City Solicitor to execute a settlement agreement with Metra Industries in the amount of \$20,212.61. All present were in favor, motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk