

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION MEETING
APRIL 5, 2005**

This meeting was called to order by Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC. It was properly advertised under Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

ROLL CALL: Present: Kauffman, Martinez, Mazzeo, Turon, Gerber
Absent: Carew (entered during Engineer's Report), Kern (entered during Review of Agenda)

Solicitor Keith Bonchi, Engineer Ed Stinson of Doran Engineering, and City Administrator Jeffrey Bruckler were present.

Council President Gerber reviewed the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Turon questioned the opening of Cresson Avenue by the Gas Company and contractor. Engineer Stinson advised a permit had been issued.

Turon advised the Northfield Community School Board would be presenting their 2005-2006 budget at the Regular Session.

Councilman Martinez reported on the flooding at the intersection of Pasadena and Philmar Circle. Clean out work is scheduled and additional solutions are being discussed with the City Engineer and Public Works.

Councilman Martinez discussed the Public Library maintenance issues and thanked Public Works, Councilman Kauffman and Administrator Bruckler for resolving the problems quickly.

Councilman Mazzeo reported on the March 29th meeting with the Economic Development Committee. He described new Chairman Denny Coleman as being enthusiastic. Coleman wants to proceed with distribution of a "Merchant Kit" to community businesses. The cost of \$100 per Kit includes a \$65 advertising value for the merchant. The Kit consists of a window sticker (indicating Program participation), discount coupons for other merchants and admission to four seminars conducted by the Committee. Mazzeo added there would be no cost to the City.

Councilman Kauffman reported the parking lot addition at City Hall is near completion and the landscaping will be completed by the end of the week. The

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parking plan is for marked police vehicles to be parked in the new area with unmarked cars in the back. This will free up two spaces at the Police Department entrance for on duty cars, and one handicapped parking spot will be added by the sidewalk.

Councilman Kauffman met with Public Works Supervisor Jim Clark at the Library. Landscaping work was in process, including cleaning out flower beds, mulching, trimming shrubs, and removing bushes by the air conditioner, which will be replaced with fencing. Kauffman mentioned additional items scheduled for repair, cleaning and painting.

Councilwoman Kern reported two checks, one payable to the Northfield Cultural Committee in the amount of \$420 and one payable to the Northfield Historical Society in the amount of \$420, were forwarded to her by Joyce Pullan. Both checks represent proceeds from sales of the Centennial Book.

Councilwoman Kern advised the meeting date of April 14th for the Municipal Alliance was being changed to April 21st upon approval by the Administrator and Mayor. Notices will be sent to all involved.

Kern asked that the AllSports 7th & 8th grade girls who won the Absecon Basketball Tournament be invited to the Council Meeting on April 26th and be presented with certificates.

Referring to Assemblyman Blee's Bill No. 2764, Resolution 44-2005, Kern thanked Solicitor Bonchi for reviewing and formatting the bill as a City Resolution, which is on the agenda for approval at the Regular Council Session.

Councilwoman Kern received a call from Compassionate Friends regarding the sculpture they wish to donate. Placement at Birch Grove Park or the Library was not well received by the group. They would like the sculpture on the Bike Path. Kern reiterated the sculpture was tastefully done, was not a memorial and asked for Council's decision in order for her to go back to Compassionate Friends with an answer. Maintenance would be the responsibility of Compassionate Friends. After discussion, Kern offered to provide Council with Mrs. Fitzpatrick's address in order that the sculpture could be viewed, and asked for a decision by next Council meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

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Mayor Perri, having received a conditional approval from the Northfield School Board for the sidewalk project in writing, forwarded the letter to the State. Perri read the list of conditions to Council.

Mayor Perri reported that an acquisition scoping analysis would be forthcoming on the intersection of Tilton Road and Route 9.

Mayor Perri said the Library would be presenting awards for the 100th Birthday Essay Contest on Monday, April 11th.

Perri reported the Shop Stewards for the Police Department are Mark VonColln and, as alternate, Scott Pollak.

Perri was called to the Sutton and Zion Road drainage facility after the recent heavy rain, and requested moving forward with pursuing a bond or guarantee to repair the system. Perri also reported the speed trailer placed on Burroughs Avenue was not signaling properly and has been returned to the City Garage for repair. If repairs cannot be made timely, Perri would request borrowing a trailer from the County.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Bruckler brought attention to the Homestead Rebate Scam notification.

Bruckler reported on a request from the Atlantic County Utilities Management for the Dolphin Avenue properties to waive the \$10 late fee on the sewer billing. Council not in agreement with waiver.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

City Engineer Ed Stinson reported the 2004 Paving Project has resumed, the addition to City Hall's parking area has been paved and the final coat will be applied to Cresson Avenue when the Gas Company has completed its work. Stinson anticipates the Cresson Avenue portion of the project to be substantially completed within two to three weeks.

With regard to the reconstruction of Roosevelt Avenue, Municipal Aid FY2005 Project, City Engineer Stinson has scheduled a bid opening for Thursday, April 21st.

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Stinson said the contracts for Birch Grove Park drainage repair and trail stabilization have been forwarded to D.R. Houck Excavating and a preconstruction meeting will be scheduled within two weeks.

Stinson advised the Sutton Woods drainage basins were inspected and are still holding water. He will contact the attorney representing K Hovnanian on Sutton Woods, setting a specific response time frame to address the problems with the three drainage basins.

With respect to correspondence sent regarding Burton Estates, no timely response has been received and a request will be issued to City Building Inspector Richard Stevens that all building permits and inspections on the site be put on hold.

Engineer Stinson met with Public Works Supervisor Jim Clark regarding the drainage problem at Pasadena, Philmar and Burton Avenue. Mr. Clark will jet the line to determine if there is a blockage.

In response to a question from Councilman Kauffman, Engineer Stinson reported meeting with Councilmen Mazzeo and Martinez to review the rocker gutters at Shore Road intersections. Stinson found a majority of the gutters in disrepair. A motion was made by Councilman Mazzeo authorizing Engineer Stinson to send correspondence to the County requesting they include repair and/or replacement of the gutters in the scope of any future paving of Shore Road. Seconded by Councilman Martinez, all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion followed on the quality of Wabash Avenue paving. Stinson responded that all core testing done was acceptable according to City code and the materials are also subject to State DOT acceptance. Additional areas of reconstruction within the City and contractor compliance were also discussed.

Councilman Turon questioned Stinson on Oak Avenue repair work. Stinson advised the repairs have been delayed by the utility companies. The wires have been removed from the pole, but Verizon has yet to move it. Additionally, the curbing contractor must complete his work prior to the repairs.

PUBLIC SESSION/3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Council President Gerber opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak.

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Bill McConville, 691 Pasadena Drive, asked for clarification of the drainage clean out at Pasadena and Burton. Council President Gerber explained usage of the jet vac machine and camera to determine the scope of the repairs, and contracting if extensive repairs were required. Engineer Stinson added that the clean out was to confirm full capacity operation of the existing system, and that the City Capital Budget Plan included additional drainage improvements. Public Works Supervisor Clark and Council President Gerber responded to questions about Hollywood Drive and Philmar Circle drainage.

Jim Clark, 1924 Cedarbridge Road, spoke about the Compassionate Friends Sculpture being discussed for placement within the City. He had the opportunity to look at the statue at the Linwood Library and offered a suggestion to place the sculpture in the same area as the Centennial Clock.

Council President Gerber asked if anyone else wished to speak. Seeing no one, the Public Session was closed.

Motion to adjourn this meeting by Kern, seconded by Carew, all in favor, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk