

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL 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.

The flag salute was led by Mayor Frank Perri, Jr. He called for a moment of silence to recognize our troops at home and abroad fighting for our liberties, and the passing of Pope John Paul II.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Carew, Kauffman, Kern, Martinez, Mazzeo, Turon, Gerber

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

**RESOLUTION/2005 BUDGET ADOPTION & AMENDMENT**

On a motion by Councilman Mazzeo, seconded by Councilman Martinez, all in favor to read Resolutions 33A-2005 and 33B-2005 by title only.

**33A-2005** Resolution to Adopt 2005 Budget

**33B-2005** Amending 2005 Budget  
General Appropriations/Operations Within "CAPS"/Street and Road Maintenance/Other Expenses – from \$22,000 to 21,900/Reserve for Snow Removal – from \$0 to \$100

Roll Call: Carew – yes; Kauffman – yes; Kern – yes; Martinez – yes; Mazzeo – yes; Turon – yes; Gerber – yes. Motion carried.

2005 Budget figures were read by Municipal Clerk Carol A. Raph:

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Amount to be raised by taxation for municipal purposes | \$ 5,376,030.13 |
| Total revenues   | \$10,040,044.46 |

**8:00 PM: 2005 BUDGET ADOPTION HEARING & AMENDMENT**

On a motion made by Mazzeo, seconded by Martinez, all in favor to open this meeting to the public for input on the adoption of the 2005 Budget.

Phil Homer, 19 Lesley Lane, asked how the budget supports a soccer field in Northfield, for boys and girls of all ages. Councilman Carew responded that, under the AllSports appropriations, the resurfacing of the football field and creation of a practice soccer and football field were included in the budget. Carew explained the field layout and

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2005**

dimensions in detail. Mr. Homer replied that, although the plan is a good movement forward, he feels it is inadequate for supporting the needs of the players, noting that 160 children are currently playing in Linwood. Further discussion recognized the need for clear communication between parents, the AllSports Association and AllSports liaison Councilman Carew.

Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court, directed comments about a soccer field to Mayor Perri, who responded that requests for CAFRA permits for a field have been denied. Perri explained that the current budget appropriations provide only for the down payment on project funding, and that additional funding hearings and issuance of permits would still be needed. Mr. Tanzola stated that soccer accommodations have been neglected in comparison to funding for football and baseball by the AllSports Association and City. He said that 168 children were involved with soccer, which is a growing sport. He asked that the \$100,000 designated to the AllSports Association be distributed equally for all sports. Councilman Kauffman also responded regarding attempts made by the City to acquire land for sports usage. Council President Gerber explained the AllSports Association structure and the relationship of the City budget appropriations, and offered to begin researching the possibility of using the property adjacent to the Volunteer Fire House on Burton Avenue. In response to the question of what is specifically needed and being requested posed by Mayor Perri, Mr. Tanzola asked for two regulation fields within the City of Northfield.

Scott Reed, 6 Lesley Lane, Board Member of Mainland United Soccer Association, acknowledged dire concern regarding inadequate field space, and the need for parents to attend the AllSports and City Council Meetings. He inquired about property within Birch Grove Park. Mayor Perri responded that Northwood Court residents were opposed to development of any kind on that parcel of land, and said, regarding open space in Northfield, there would be a General Election ballot question for voters in November for approval of an Open Space Tax that is dedicated to fields and recreation. Council President Gerber added that local group support is needed for approval of the ballot question which would provide long term funding, which would establish collection of the tax in 2006 for spending in 2007.

Lenny Rataski, 108 W. Oakcrest Avenue, informed Council that, during the meeting of the Mainland United Soccer Association, concerned parents and residents were urged to attend the Northfield AllSports meetings and become more involved in all areas as volunteers.

Lynn Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, Northfield Rescue Squad Chief, asked to be put on record that the Rescue Squad had requested, in writing, for the Burton Avenue property to be looked into for the Rescue Squad two or three years ago.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2005**

Council President Gerber asked if anyone else from the public wished to speak. Seeing no one, the public session was closed.

On a motion to adopt Resolutions 33A-2005 and 33B-2005 by Councilman Mazzeo, seconded by Councilman Martinez, roll call vote: Carew – yes; Kauffman – yes, Kern – yes; Martinez – yes; Mazzeo – yes; Turon – yes; Gerber – yes. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION/2005-2006 NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL BUDGET**

Superintendent Dr. Richard Stepura and School Business Administrator Frank Onorato presented an overview of the 2005-2006 Proposed Northfield Community School Budget to be voted on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Community School. Dr. Stepura addressed specific portions, including factors impacting the budget annually, in particular, no increase in State aid. He listed the factors influencing the budget: including staff and programs the school wants to improve, curriculum with new textbooks, and increases for salaries, benefits, utilities and maintenance. Dr. Stepura mentioned many areas of improvement and Northfield school programs not available in other communities.

Dr. Stepura recognized the Tsunami Relief student project which raised in excess of \$6,000 between the Elementary and Middle Schools.

Council President Gerber asked about the status and proposals of the sports fields. Dr. Stepura responded that the preliminary plan would reposition the existing fields and backstops in a way that would provide for a section to be used for a soccer field and for double basketball courts in the current baseball area.

Mr. Onorato replied to a question from Council President Gerber regarding funding of the engineering and initial expenses for the sports fields. He reported the long range facilities plan in the capital reserve account is in the process of being updated. If the capital reserves are amended, the reserves can be used for funding of the fields.

Mayor Perri asked for the total amount of the budget being presented. Dr. Stepura reported the total amount, including debt service and grants, is \$11,689,694.

Councilwoman Kern referred to the Future Cities Project noting the Committee and Mrs. Fields brought the Project to Council. Kern expressed gratitude to the Community School and its students, particularly for their part in the Centennial Reenactment Program at City Hall, and said it was important for the students to see the School and Council working together. Kern thanked Dr. Stepura and Mr. Onorato for the budget presentation.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2005**

Councilman Kauffman asked about adding one hour to the curriculum for patriotism. Dr. Stepura responded that the request will be addressed during the current character education and curriculum revision. Discussion continued regarding the enrollment and teacher to student ratio.

Councilman Mazzeo questioned the parking problems in the school area. Dr. Stepura advised the problems are being discussed and suggestions for a solution would be a part of the next PTO newsletter.

Councilman Martinez stated the desire to see the continuation of efforts on the self-sustaining programs.

Councilman Turon asked about the possibility of pre-kindergarten schooling. Dr. Stepura responded that all classrooms are being utilized at present and no additional class is available.

Council President Gerber recognized the Northfield Community School for its high quality of education while at the same time containing costs, and thanked Dr. Stepura and Mr. Onorato for their presentation.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES/MARCH 22, 2005**

Motion by Councilman Turon to dispense with reading of the minutes for March 22, 2005. The minutes have been posted in City Hall and are on file in the City Clerk's Office. Seconded by Councilman Martinez, all in favor, motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Turon presented the Fire Department Report for the month of March 2005: Total fire incidents – 15; total EMS incidents – 2; total non-emergency responses – 5. He reported that the Fire Department Lady's Auxiliary Fund Raiser was very well attended, with standing room only.

Councilman Martinez presented the March 2005 Rescue Squad monthly report: Total number of calls – 52; mutual aid provided by Northfield – 1; mutual aid provided for Northfield – 1; total number of Fire Department assists – 6. The top five run takers were: Barry Kraus – 7; Ray E. Adams – 6; Dan Blaine – 4; Ray Norman – 3; and, Heather Newbert – 3.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2005**

Councilman Martinez reported on a letter from Chief Lynn Perri to Administrator Bruckler regarding two issues: Shore Memorial Hospital's request for faxing Northfield's run reports to them; and, for air conditioning in the Squad Room. Administrator Bruckler has sent an email to Chief Perri, copied to Mayor Perri, that nothing can be done with the air conditioning, which funding would be included in Buildings and Grounds, until the capital budget is passed. With regard to Shore Memorial's request, Bruckler checked with the City Solicitor who advised there was no problem with the arrangement, and that it would be up to the Rescue Squad whether or not to honor the request.

Councilman Carew noted for the record that, due to his coaching responsibilities, there would be a conflict over the next four to five weeks for being present at the beginning of Council Session.

Councilman Carew reported the opening of Birch Grove Park. The beginning of fishing season, celebrated by the fishing tournament, is scheduled for Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Kauffman had no report for this session.

Councilwoman Kern had no report for this session.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Perri thanked Administrator Bruckler, CFO Marilyn Dolcy, Department Heads and employees, and the Governing Body for their hard work and dedication during the budget process.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Bruckler had no report for this session.

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

City Engineer Ed Stinson had no report for this session.

**RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA**

**42-2005**      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 Personnel Matters

**43-2005**      A Resolution Providing for an Executive Session Not Open to the Public

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2005**

in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, Regarding Land Acquisition

- 44-2005** A Resolution Supporting Assembly Bill 2764 Sponsored by Assemblyman Francis J. Blee Which Requires the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association to Prohibit the Use by Any Student of Performance-Enhancing Substances
- 45-2005** Requesting Approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to Establish a Dedicated Trust by Rider for Snow Removal Reserve Pursuant to Public Law 2001, Chapter 138
- 46-2005** Self-Examination of Budget Resolution

Council President Gerber referred to two additional Resolutions, 47-2005 and 48-2005, prepared by City Solicitor Keith Bonchi. Solicitor Bonchi read both resolutions.

- 47-2005** A Resolution to Hire William Geiger as a Police Officer with the City of Northfield (Subject to Certain Conditions)
- 48-2005** A Resolution to Hire Joseph Vola as a Police Officer with the City of Northfield (Subject to Certain conditions)

Motion for a Consent Agenda to adopt Resolutions 42-2005 through 46-2005, as stated on the printed Agenda, and Resolutions 47-2005 and 48-2005 as read by Solicitor Bonchi, by Councilman Carew, second by Councilman Kauffman.

Councilman Turon questioned Resolutions 47-2005 and 48-2005 with regard to rate of pay. Mayor Perri responded that rate of pay, terms and probation period are dictated by the Police Department Contract. Mayor Perri added that an additional position would need to be filled shortly, due to retirement of an office currently on the force.

Roll call for Consent Agenda: Carew – yes; Kauffman – yes; Kern – yes; Martinez – yes; Mazzeo – yes; Turon – yes; Gerber – yes. Motion carried

**PUBLIC SESSION/FIVE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

Council President Gerber asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Seeing no one, he closed the public session.

**MEETING NOTICES/KERN**

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2005**

|                 |                |           |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Work Session    | April 26, 2005 | 7:00 p.m. |
| Regular Session | April 26, 2005 | 8:00 p.m. |

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

**RESOLUTION 42-2005** Council President Gerber called for a motion to go into an Executive Session for Resolution 42-2005 to discuss a personnel matter. Motion made by Councilman Carew, seconded by Councilwoman Kern. All in favor, motion carried.

Results of this Executive Session will be released upon completion of the matter discussed.

**RESOLUTION 43-2005** Council President Gerber called for a motion to discuss Resolution 43-2005 regarding land acquisition. Motion made by Councilman Mazzeo, seconded by Councilwoman Kern, all in favor, motion carried.

Results of this Executive Session will be released upon completion of the matter discussed.

Motion made and seconded, all in favor of adjourning Executive Session and returning to regular Council Meeting.

On a motion by Councilwoman Kern, seconded by Councilman Carew, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk