

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2012**

At 7:00 pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised according to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

The flag salute was led by Mayor Vincent Mazzeo. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed

ROLL CALL

Present: Mrs. Brown, Dewees, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Perri, Mr. Polistina, Mr. Vain, Mr. Carew

Mayor Vincent Mazzeo, City Engineer Matt Doran, and City Solicitor Keith Bonchi were also in attendance.

VETERAN HONOREE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Councilman Vain said he was pleased to honor Mr. Steve Jansen, a Marine Corp veteran that served in the Viet Nam War.

Jansen enlisted in 1966 in the United States Marine Corps in the old Post Office Building in Atlantic City after his graduation from Atlantic City High School. He did his boot camp at the United States Marine Corps Recruit Training Base on Parris Island, SC and Infantry Training Regiment at the Camp Geiger section of Camp Lejeune, NC. Mr. Jansen was then ordered to Vietnam in 1967, and arrived in April of that year for a 13 month tour of duty, on a base in the far northern part of South Vietnam known as I Corps. Along with his regular duties, he did routine perimeter guard duty and volunteered for Augmentation Platoon, which during an attack on the base, that platoon would have to run through the attack to get to and augment the existing guard on the perimeter in order to hold off ground attacks. After enjoying a rather short five day Rest and Recuperation in Tokyo, Japan, he returned to his same unit just before the Tet Offensive of February of 1968. After the Tet Offensive broke out, he augmented the guard and aided with the evacuation of the wounded and dead. He also participated in combat night patrols in search and engagement of the enemy. It was during this time Mr. Jansen and his unit assisted in the retaking of Nam O Village, just north of his base, from units of the North Vietnamese Army. After his 13 month tour of duty was complete, he was given a month's leave which he enjoyed with his family in Margate. He then was reassigned to 2nd Marine Division in Camp Lejeune, NC, and was further assigned to an Amphibious Assault Ship which was preparing for a six month long Mediterranean cruise, which he credits as the greatest time of his enlistment. His ship docked into Spain, France, Italy and Greece, and he had three Amphibious Assault exercises on Corsica and Sardinia. During the cruise, he was the US fleet's only French language Interpreter. Upon arrival back to Camp

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Lejeune in 1969, he was released from active duty, only after being awarded fourteen decorations for his service to our country including the Combat Action Ribbon. When Mr. Jansen retired from the Marines he joined the hotel and casino industry and served as a marketing and sales executive. After the VA retired him because of wounds he received, he has become a volunteer at Shore Medical Center as a Veteran Advocate. In his job at Shore, Mr. Jansen assists other disabled veterans with the disability system so that they can get the compensation they have earned with their service to our nation. Mr. Jansen has lived in Northfield since 1982 with his lovely wife Nancy.

On behalf of the citizens and the City of Northfield, Vain thanked him for the service to our country. Vain also recognized and thanked him for the continued worked with the disabled veterans of the area. He presented Mr. Jansen with a certificate of appreciation and a USMC logo pillow that was a gift from a former student.

Mr. Jansen spoke, and said things like this make up in some way for the less than warm greeting service men and women received when they came home from Viet Nam. He said the honor is deeply appreciated and thanked Council very much. He introduces wife Nancy, and friends and fellow Veterans, Mr. Marco Polo Smigliani, and Mr. John Morris.

Council President Carew announced a five minute recess to allow for photographs to be taken.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/ FEBRUARY 9, 2012

Motion was made by Councilman Perri, Second by Councilwoman Brown to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 9, 2012. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – abstain; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain –yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri said a Senior Meeting was held on February 16th at Park Center. The topic was tax issues for seniors, and it was very educational. The elected

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members will meet Tuesday March 6th at 10am. The Linwood, Northfield Sewer Committee met yesterday; the split was discussed, as was a capital purchase of a new vehicle. Perri said the ACMJIF has seminars that we attend and discuss what we should require of our contractors and professionals, including certificates of insurance, hold harmless etc. Perri said the Risk Management Consultant did not have proper credentials until after the last meeting. He is disappointed in how it was handled. Perri said in the past he expressed concern that our EMS service provider was tracking their own times; Council has not been formally notified of the issue that was in the paper.

Perri motioned, O'Neill seconded to adopt a Resolution to have Egg Harbor Township return to the practice of dispatching our EMS services, as they do with Police, Fire, and Emergency Management calls.

O'Neill asked Chief James if the EMS calls are logged in the CAD: James said they are but that Atlanticare dispatches the rig. The call is pushed to Medcom. Councilman Polistina asked how this change would affect the patient; Perri responded. If there is a delay, it's dispatched to 911, then to Atlanticare, then to the rig. Polistina asked if bypassing Medcom would affect the patient. Chief James advised that Linwood dispatches through Somers Point the way Mr. Perri is proposing; their calls are not pushed through Medcom. Polistina asked if there would be additional costs; Perri replied that we are already paying for it.

Solicitor Bonchi asks if Perri would mind holding the vote until after the Executive Session; Perri replied that he did not want to wait. Bonchi said he wanted to ensure that we are not violating the contract by voting to change how the EMS calls are dispatched. Perri said if it is a violation of the contract then the contract should be rewritten. It is management's right to make the change.

Perri said there are OPRA requests for response time records that went unfulfilled. The Municipal Clerk then stated for the record that her office has not received a request for Atlanticare response times since 2009. Perri responded, saying requestors were advised that they had to go to Linwood, and Linwood said they had to come to Northfield. The Clerk reiterated that her office never received such requests.

Council President Carew reiterated that the motion on the floor is to change EMS dispatch service to EHT, under the same protocols as before the calls went through Medcom, that 911 receives the call, dispatches the ambulance, and tracks all times related to the call.

The Municipal Clerk assigned number 41-2012 to this resolution.

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41-2012 To Change the Method by Which 9-1-1 Calls for Emergency Medical Services are Dispatched

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – abstain; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain –yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

Councilman O’Neill said he is working to make recommendations on technology, to get a local and more reasonable price for servers, and is gathering information on phone, fax, T1 lines etc. and will have a recommendation in 30 days.

Councilman Vain said there will be a Veteran's Park meeting in Council Chambers Monday at 4pm. He explained the City’s attempt to fund the park by donations and solicited volunteer support. He is excited about getting the park.

Councilman Polistina said the budget is still a work in progress, another workshop will be held on March 15th. He said the City hopes to introduce at the 2nd meeting in March. He reads the EMS report for the month.

Councilman Dewees said the ‘Autistic Child in Area’ sign requested by a resident had been installed on East Yorkshire Avenue.

Councilwoman Brown said she has been added to the Chamber of Commerce email list so she will get meeting notices from them. She attended the School Board meeting and announced that board member Tracy Campbell resigned. He was replaced by Patti Fitzsimmons. The Economic Development Committee is moving forward and members will be named soon.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Council President Carew said it was a great turn out at the Senior Meeting, the Tax Office staff spoke on a few topics, and Chief James and Assistant Chief Crooks came out and introduced themselves. It was beneficial to everyone who attended. Carew said no one is more disappointed than he with the Atlanticare situation. He said they will ensure full accountability and they will make sure the correct actions are taken.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo attended a welcome home celebration for Nelson Candelario, who returned home from Afghanistan. Candelario was presented with a certificate and was thanked for his service. Mazzeo said the students learned a lot from Candelario’s experiences. Mazzeo commended teachers Jo Kearney from MRHS and Mrs. Devine from NCS for their work to recognize Veterans. Mazzeo said he attended the Atlantic

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County Mayor's Association meeting, and announced that he is the new treasurer for the organization. Mazzeo said Sheriff Frank Balles was there and talked about new program called Safe Surrender that will be held in April 2012 at the Grace Assembly of God in Atlantic City. Chris Stark from the Governor's office responded to budget questions. Jerry Delrossi from the County was there also, and indicated that Dolphin and Tilton would be paved this year. Mazzeo said the budget is a work in progress, and referred to an unannounced increase in dispatch fees. He said State aid stayed flat this year. There is still a little bit of work to be done, but he is cautiously optimistic. He thanked Council and all involved in the budget. He announced that Dr. Levitt would like to come to Council on March 13th to explain proposed changes in Land Use Ordinance. Mazzeo read the police department report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the Municipal Clerk's office. Updates were as follows: Doran said he got a complaint from a Revere Avenue resident and he and Councilman Dewees met with the resident. As a result, they are now trying to create a phase II for Marita Ann drainage; this resulted from the lack of getting one easement for Phase I. He said they also have a preliminary design for 2nd and Davis and are waiting on final responses from utility companies and from State DOT. This should be ready for bid in 3-4 weeks. They have applied for 2012 CDBG for ADA upgrades at the park.

Councilman Dewees asked if Merritt at Route 9 could be added to the paving list. Doran replied that he will assign a price and add it to the list. Doran said the section of Mill is still the responsibility of the developer; they have some work to do to get the latest bond.

Council President Carew asked for an update on sidewalks on Route 9. Perri replied that Doran received a letter from the State that the project was approved but awaiting funding.

Perri said there were supposed to be 3 basins at Tilton near the park to filter the sediment before it enters the park. Right now it enters the park behind the driving range, unfiltered. He said it was part of the original plan and that someone should look into that.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman O'Neill requested that Resolutions 36-2012, 39-2012 and 40-2012 be voted separately from the consent agenda.

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Councilman Vain motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to vote by consent agenda on resolutions 31-2012 through 35-2012, and 37-2012 through 38-2012.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt the consent agenda for resolutions 31-2012 through 35-2012, and 37-2012 through 38-2012.

31-2012 Authorizing the Issuance of a Raffle License to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey

32-2012 Cancellation of Tax Sale Certificates

33-2012 Refund of Overpayment of Taxes

34-2012 Release of Escrow Monies from the Planning Board – Various

35-2012 Authorizing the Issuance of a Raffle License to St Gianna Beretta Molla Parish

37-2012 Authorizing the Supervisor of Birch Grove Park to Maintain a Change Fund in the Amount of \$250.00

38-2012 To Accept Proposal from ACUA for Yard Waste Collection

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt resolution 36-2012.

36-2012 A Resolution Establishing a Deferred Compensation Plan for the City of Northfield (“Employer”) to be Administered by The Hartford

Councilman O’Neill said this looks like an insurance policy and asked if it was put out to bid. Polistina replied that the Plan is already in place; the IRS rules changed and this brings the plan into compliance.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

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Councilman Vain motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt resolution 39-2012.

39-2012 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 Future Litigation

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and deferred to the Solicitor for an explanation. Solicitor Bonchi explained that this Executive Session would involve the former CFO Marilyn Dolcy relating to issues involving deferred compensation, vacation time, and sick time. It involves the advice of labor counsel due to issues of potential future litigation. We had a prior Executive Session at which point we are hopefully going to complete that today; at some future point, possibly today, there will be a public vote to potentially take a course of action. The decision and the course of action will be made public but the strategy will not. The closed session will be held at the end of the regular session of Council.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt resolution 40-2012.

40-2012 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 Future Litigation

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and deferred to the Solicitor for an explanation. Solicitor Bonchi explained that this Executive Session would involve the Atlanticare contract. It has come to his attention via a call from the attorney for Atlanticare that they had been providing false figures for run times for the last two and one half years. This is obviously a breach of the contract and as a result of that there is going to be the potential for legal action. The purpose of this session is to report this to the members of City Council and the Mayor, and to get some instruction from the elected officials as to how he should proceed. Any vote on what to do in terms of any final resolution will be done in a public session. At this point in time he does not anticipate that tonight; the ultimate decision will be made public but the strategy will not, so that the other side will not know, for obvious reasons. The closed session will be held at the end of the regular session of Council.

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Roll call: Mrs. Brown – no; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

ORDINANCES

Councilman Polistina motioned, O’Neill seconded, to introduce Ordinance 1-2012, to be read by title only.

1-2012 Amending Ordinance 5-2011, Providing for and Establishing Salary Ranges of Officers and Employees of the City of Northfield
Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press March 2, 2012

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, announcing that there would be no public input on introduction. She provided the public hearing and publication dates and noted that full copies of the ordinance are presently posted on the City Website, on the bulletin board at City Hall, and are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – no; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 5,191,480.31.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – no; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for payment of bills.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, said he is upset about the insurance issues. He referred to radio problems in the past and now a problem with Atlanticare. He also commented that employees should not track their own time and that the buck stops at the Mayor.

Dennis Mahon, 7 Twelve Oaks Court, said he was disappointed in watching the video from January 24th. He said spending is higher in this town than most towns

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around us, including Linwood, Absecon, and Margate. He said all who voted on the 24th should be fired. He said he showed the video to several senators and cannot repeat what they said.

Mel Nathanson, 122 East Oakcrest Avenue, expressed concern with regard to recent articles in the AC Press that portray Northfield negatively. He said he has been a taxpayer for 26 years. The road department does not have the equipment or materials to fix his street. He asked who is in charge of street department. Councilman Dewees replied that it was his responsibility. Nathanson asked what happens to snow removal budget. Council President Carew replied that the budget is minimal and is addressed as needed.

Greg Hull, 3 Madison Avenue, said he has lived here for 35 years and hasn't heard this much negativity in his entire life. He wants something positive to read about, and is tired of seeing Mayor or Council president defend the city in Press articles. He said the drainage work on Madison Avenue did a satisfactory job, but feels the work on Mill really made the difference. He said the City needs to deal with the water that falls on Madison. Carew replied that no one thing is going to fix everyone's problem; the work increased the drainage capacity on Madison. Hull said there were already drains there; Doran replied that the old pipes were clogged and were not working well. Hull expressed concern about his street sinking and the height of the curbs. Carew said he would come out to take a look.

Patti Silvestri, Four Seasons Condominiums, asked Council to speak into the microphones, as they are difficult to hear. She said people are enjoying the Senior Committee, but that they feel loosely knit, with no one at the helm. She wants them to become a formal Committee with Frank Perri as their Chairperson. Carew agreed to pursue the matter if the group thinks it's time, and asked the Municipal Clerk to get back to him on options for forming a Committee.

Lynn Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, said her business is located at 517 Shore Road and that she has another business, the Northfield Rescue Squad, on Tilton Road and that she is its President. She is married to the former Mayor and current Council member Frank Perri. She said she wants to add other topics to the executive session, such as Atlanticare sending ALS when only BLS is needed. She claimed Atlanticare was served with a Cease and Desist order by the State and offered supporting documentation if Council wants it. Solicitor Bonchi requested a copy. Perri said Councilman Vain and the Police Chief fudged Northfield rescue squad times. Vain asked her to clarify her accusation; she replied that Vain was quoted and read incorrect response times. She then read from a newspaper article.

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Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court, addressed Councilman Perri and said that everything Perri ever said has become true. He said Perri was picked on and the bar was constantly raised. Perri said the sewer increase was going into general fund instead of funding infrastructure, and suggested line items for budgets. Tanzola said he was in attendance at a meeting where Perri questioned timelines.

Ray Adams, 238 Mt Vernon Avenue, Chief of Northfield Rescue Squad, said Northfield cannot take back dispatch because Northfield does not have a dedicated ambulance, they use dynamic deployment. The real response times read this evening for the past four weeks show consistent violation of the contract. He is disappointed that no one from Atlanticare is here, when they wanted the contract they were here. He expressed the same concern for the Fire Department's lack of presence. Adams said Carew and Councilman Brian Smith altered EMS response times and that only Atlanticare was permitted to show a slide show. He said the Municipal Clerk told him that Linwood had to provide response times in response to an ORPA request, and said Carew said Atlanticare is smarter than the Northfield Rescue Squad.

Seeing no others wishing to speak, Council President Carew closed the public session.

Councilman Vain read the meeting notices, after which Council President Carew announced a brief recess. The meeting resumed at 8:55pm, and Council entered Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

The resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

39-2012 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 Future Litigation

At 8:55pm, Council left the dais and entered the caucus room; Solicitor Bonchi was also in attendance. At 9:18pm, the closed session was adjourned and the regular meeting of Council resumed. Bonchi announced a summary for the record as follows: during the session on the Dolcy matter, legal opinions by Council were discussed as was a proposal set forth by Ms Dolcy's lawyer. Bonchi said he has been instructed to contact him and discuss a counter proposal and bring it back to Council at the next meeting. Any ultimate vote or agreement will be done in public session and be public but the negotiations will not be done publicly, nor released to the public.

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The resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

40-2012 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 Future Litigation

At 9:28pm, Council left the dais and entered the caucus room; Solicitor Bonchi was also in attendance. At 10:10pm, the closed session was adjourned and the regular meeting of Council resumed. Bonchi announced a summary for the record as follows: he reported to Council about his conversation with the attorney for Atlanticare, what occurred at the meeting last Friday and at a meeting today. Bonchi provided his thoughts related to the contract and issues of breach. At this point in time no action is going to be taken. Some information may be released at a future date; there were figures and numbers that were given to us today by Atlanticare that are not subject to Executive Privilege and that can be obtained through an OPRA request. There will probably be another Executive Session at a future meeting.

At 10:12pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk