

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2011**

At 7:00pm, 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. Kern, Mr. Perri, Mr. Polistina, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vain, Mr. Carew

Absent: Mr. Dewees,

Mayor Vincent Mazzeo and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Perri, second by Councilwoman Kern to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the following 2011 meetings: January 25th, February 10th, and the February 15th budget meeting and the February 15th regular meeting. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. All present in favor, motion carries for approval of minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri said the City was notified by its sewer-main installation contractor that we have to go out to bid; the City Clerk is in contact with Linwood to coordinate the bid process. Perri acknowledged the passing of former City of Northfield employee Jewel Jones and offered condolences to his family

Councilman Polistina noted the introduction of the budget on this evening's agenda; he commended Council, department personnel, CFO Dolcy, Mayor Mazzeo and Council President Carew for working diligently and responsibly on the budget.

Councilman Vain reviewed activities from the recent Planning Board meeting; their next meeting will be April 7th. Changes to the zoning ordinance are in the works. Plans for the flashing light at Zion and Oak are at the County for final revision. Vain said he and Councilwoman Kern are exploring the idea of placing a sign in the front of City Hall to honor the Veterans for whom the flag is being flown. He asked for a motion to spend an amount not to exceed \$150 on the sign.

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Councilman Perri made the proper motion; Councilwoman Kern seconded. All present in favor, none opposed.

Councilman Vain thanked Kern and Mr. Robert Webb for their efforts to honor our local veterans.

Councilwoman Kern noted that the flag was flown in February for Mr. Henderson Hemphill, and for March, based on volume of responses, we will fly the flag in honor of Mr. Robert Burness and Mr. Robert Webb. We will invite them to the March 22nd Council Meeting. Kern announced the annual Cultural Committee Flea Market being held on March 19th from 9a-2pm. The Alliance will be donating \$2000 to the MRHS After-Prom.

Councilman Smith had a meeting on March 3rd with EMS Chief Delgado and Assistant Fire Chief Lauren Crooks. They reviewed a 3 month compilation of response times. Atlanticare has been having meetings with Shore Memorial to discuss patient volume, ensure good communication, and to provide quality service. At the recent school board meeting teachers of the year Sadie Heenan and Victoria Smith were honored; he congratulated them for their achievement. The preliminary school budget calls for a .09% tax increase; there will be a public hearing on March 28th at 6pm. Smith thanked the School Board for donating computers to the Fire Department. At the school board meeting, NCS student Joshua Levy recognized the board for allowing him to perform his mitzvah in the form of an in-school food drive. Smith commended Levy for his work and his public speaking skills. The school election will be held on April 27th.

Councilwoman Kern asked if the schools would be coming to council to discuss their budgets this year; Carew replied that he will be making arrangements for them to do so.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew thanked Council, City employees, department heads and CFO Dolcy for their work on the budget. We will be well under the 2% cap as we introduce. Birch Grove Park opening day will be April 9th and will include a fishing tournament. Carew would like to do the dedication of the Park Center at noon on April 9th and all are invited to attend. The Friends of Birch Grove Park will be having a fishing tournament on July 23rd and the Family Fun Fest will be October 1st. The two days for fishing license exemption are June 11th and 12th.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo held the first Mayor's Wellness Committee meeting and will be initiating a walking club; details to follow. He thanked Vain and Kern for being on the Committee, as well as the residents involved. Mazzeo is looking forward to new members joining the Fun Fest Committee, which held a meeting recently. He attended the Atlantic County Mayors Association meeting at the Country Club; County Executive Levinson was there and urges all to support the County-wide dispatch effort. The cost to municipalities would be roughly 1.5 cents, this is an estimate. Mazzeo thanked everyone for their hard work on the budget; noting that this is the lowest tax increase we've seen in a few years. Mazzeo held a Clean Communities Grant meeting with Mike Dattalo, Jim Clark and the City Clerk; we will be having two household renovation debris clean-up weeks, in the spring and fall, in line with street sweeping. We will buy 4 dog bag dispensers; we have received complaints from residents about pet owners not picking up after their pets. Regarding the recycle and trash cans from the ACUA for the bike path, Mazzeo said we are trying to keep the appearance of the bike path uniform. These cans require liners, are very lightweight, and he does not like how they look. Mazzeo talked to Rick Dovey and was advised that these cans can only be used on the bike path since they were purchased with Clean Communities grant money. Discussion ensued between Mayor Mazzeo, Councilwoman Kern, and Council President Carew with regard to whether or not to use the donated cans. It was decided that the City will purchase the liners required for the cans with our Clean Communities funds and be prudent with how they are placed. If they blow away or if people don't like how they look, then we won't use them. Carew credited Kern with getting the cans at no cost to the City.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the Municipal Clerk's office. There were no updates.

Mayor Mazzeo inquired about sewer clean out caps for individual homes, if they are cracked or missing, does rainwater go inside and enter the system? Doran replied that it will; the sewer vent is in right of way and is City's responsibility. Public Works needs to replace them when they are damaged. Councilman Carew asked that members of the media in attendance consider reporting on the problem, urging residents to check their sewer caps; fixing them can reduce our flows. Councilman Perri noted that the Sewer Department has the equipment to fix them on the spot.

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RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded for consent agenda for resolutions 43-2011 through 52-2011, and 54-2011.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees –absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

- 43-2011** To Authorize a Raffle License for the Charity League
- 44-2011** To Authorize Refund of Overpayment of Pet License Fee
- 45-2011** Self Examination of Budget
- 46-2011** Authorizing Emergency Temporary Appropriations
- 47-2011** Authorizing the Hiring of Stephen McKeone as Seasonal Maintenance Employee at Birch Grove Park
- 48-2011** Authorizing the Hiring of Wayne Thomas as Seasonal Snack Bar Attendant at Birch Grove Park
- 49-2011** Authorizing the Hiring of Dennis McGrath as Laborer in the Public Works Department
- 50-2011** Amending Resolution 42-2011, Authorizing a Promotion in the Public Works Department
- 51-2011** Authorizing Doran to Proceed
- 52-2011** Termination of the Yard Waste Collection Portion of the Contract between the City of Northfield and the Atlantic County Utilities Authority
- 54-2011** 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 (B) (8) Regarding Personnel Matters

Solicitor Bonchi noted for the record that resolution 54-2011 authorizes a closed session of Council to be held at the end of the regular meeting. Councilwoman Kern announced that she would be abstaining from resolution 49-2011.

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded to adopt the consent agenda for resolutions 43-2011 through 52-2011, and 54-2011.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

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ORDINANCES

On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilwoman Kern, all in favor of reading Ordinance 1-2011 by title only.

1-2011 Calendar Year 2011 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)
*Final Adoption/Open to the Public/No Public Comments Received
Published in the Press 03/12/2011*

Full copies of the ordinance are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk and on the City's website.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for final adoption of ordinance 1-2011.

RESOLUTION/2011 BUDGET

On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilwoman Kern, all in favor of reading Resolution 53A-2011 by title only.

53A-2011 Introduction of the 2011 Budget
No public input on introduction
*Budget Synopsis Published in the Press March 12, 2011
Public Hearing and Final Adoption: 7pm, April 19, 2011*

Full copies of the 2011 Budget are available in the City Clerk's Office

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for introduction of the 2011 Budget.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, urged Council to recognize the young Veterans who are overseas. If a sign is not up by Memorial Day he will buy it himself. Webb hopes City employees will do leaf collection as proficiently as the

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ACUA. Webb attended Jewel Jones' viewing; Webb's brother's wife passed away recently also.

Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court, is pleased with in-house leaf collection as it will help keep employees keep their jobs, but noted that the ACUA uses natural gas. We use gasoline and Tanzola is concerned about prices. He urged Council to increase the fire inspection fee to \$75. He said the Allsports budget is flat, need to increase to keep pace. Tanzola suggested a windmill at the park, to offset energy costs and possibly increase revenues.

Council President Carew thanked Tanzola for the windmill idea and clarified that the Allsports budget does not take care of maintenance and improvements; that is paid out of buildings and grounds. Mazzeo noted that when Little League separated, we gave them \$2,500 but left the Allsports budget alone.

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

Councilman Smith read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

The Municipal Clerk read the Paff injunction under which the City of Northfield has been bound with regard to closed sessions of Council, and read Resolution 54-2011 by title. Council President Carew announced that the public session of Council would resume following the closed session, and that formal action may or may not be taken.

54-2011 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 (B) (8) Regarding Personnel Matters

Solicitor Bonchi said this Executive Session will be held to provide Council with information regarding a Step 4 Grievance that has been filed by the PBA; under the grievance procedure a Step 4 must go to Council for decision. The grievance deals with police officers not getting compensatory time during a snow emergency.

At 7:48 pm Council left the dais and entered the caucus room; Solicitor Bonchi was in attendance. At 8:16pm, the closed session was adjourned and Bonchi announced a summary for the record as follows: the discussion that took place was related to the grievance and a public vote will be taken shortly so the outcome of the closed session

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discussion will become apparent. The thought process behind Council's decision may not be made public. The grievance is obtainable under OPRA.

Councilman Vain motioned, Smith seconded to deny Mainland PBA Local No. 77's Step 4 grievance related to the snow emergency on December 27, 2010.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries to deny Mainland PBA Local No. 77's Step 4 grievance related to the snow emergency on December 27, 2010.

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk