

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 13, 2010**

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. Martinez, Mr. O'Grady Mr. Perri, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vain, Mr. Carew

City Solicitor Keith Bonchi and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance.

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Council President Carew announced this evening's Community Service Award being presented to Michael Mazza.

Councilwoman Kern introduced Mr. Mazza as an outstanding citizen who has made a great contribution to the City of Northfield. Born in Northfield on February 21, 1918, he was a farmer with the Mazza brothers. He served as a City Councilman from 1957-1977, was past Vice President of the Atlantic County Market Growers Association, and joined the Northfield Fire Company in 1945, becoming a life member in 1969. Mr. Mazza was a member of the Atlantic County Fireman's Association, a life member of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association, and helped to establish Birch Grove Park. A member of the St. Bernadette's church, he is still very active in community functions.

Mayor Mazzeo presented Mr. Mazza with a certificate of award, and thanked him for a lifetime of service and dedication to our citizens.

President Carew announced a 5 minute recess.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Martinez thanked the Planning Board solicitor and President for meeting with him to discuss their budget, which was reduced by \$7,000 as a result. Martinez is also working with Allsports President John Palmieri regarding field maintenance and other issues.

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Councilman Perri said all is flowing well in the sewer department. He received emails regarding the crossing guard situation, and said he is taking the situation very seriously and the emails are under consideration.

Councilman Vain encouraged census participation as an important mechanism to ensure future funding. Northfield's participation rate is currently higher than the County's, and is above the national average. Referring to the resolution for award of contract for drainage improvements at Madison Avenue, Vain said the contractor will need about 15 days to get started with an anticipated completion date of 45 days.

Councilwoman Kern said the Northfield Municipal Alliance held its 3rd luncheon last week at the Atlantic City Country Club in a partnership with Pleasantville. Two additional events have yet to be scheduled. The recent Antiques Appraisal was very successful. Shared Court continues to go well; Kern thanked the Court personnel for their efforts.

Councilman Smith read the EMS report statistics for the month of March. Northfield Little League opened last night, and will have a triple header this weekend. Smith announced that the School election will be held Tuesday, April 20th, from 2pm-9pm at NCS. All are encouraged to vote.

Councilman O'Grady said the Library Board of Trustees met on April 8th, and read a list of events planned for this week, which is Library Week. The City is working on switching cell phone carriers as a cost savings measure. Three proposals for the energy audit were received and are being reviewed.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew said opening day at Birch Grove Park went well. The area is busy with traffic and he encouraged safety.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo announced that residents and business owners can register for assistance with storm damage losses through FEMA's website. At the April 7th Funfest meeting it was discussed that we may charge vendors a nominal fee, and may hold a 50/50 raffle to raise money for the park and offset expenditures. Mazzeo recognized the presence of members of the public in response to the crossing guard issue; he said he is exploring an option to put 2 of the 4 guard posts back, but has reached an impasse with the supervisor. He said he will continue discussions in an effort to find resolution. Northfield is not alone facing these budget challenges.

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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 to the report.

Council President Carew mentioned substandard work on Mt Vernon Phase I, as well as efforts being made by the City to remedy the situation.

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Perri inquired about the need for Resolution 62-2010. Solicitor Bonchi replied that the resolution was recommended by the JIF and it was reviewed by his office. Federal law requires that we have a policy in place.

Councilwoman Kern motioned, Councilman Vain seconded for a consent agenda for Resolutions 62-2010 through 64-2010.

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O'Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

62-2010 Local Unit Civil Rights Resolution

63-2010 Award of Contract Drainage Improvements at Madison Avenue

64-2010 Authorizing Doran to Proceed

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded to adopt Resolutions 62-2010 through 64-2010.

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O'Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

ORDINANCES

Councilman O'Grady motioned, Councilman Smith seconded for the adoption of Ordinance 3-2010 to be read by title only.

3-2010 An Ordinance to Amend Section 35-12 of the Northfield Municipal Code
Final Adoption/No Public Comments Received
Published in the Press 04/17/2010

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Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for final adoption of Ordinance 3-2010.

Councilman Martinez motioned, Councilman Perri seconded for the adoption of Ordinance 4-2010 to be read by title only.

4-2010 An 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/Published in the Press 04/17/2010

Debbie Doherty, 405 Chestnut Avenue, asked if this ordinance was related to layoffs. President Carew replied that it was not.

Greg Hull, 3 Madison Avenue, asked what it meant to establish a cap bank. CFO Dolcy explained, adding that it is a routine ordinance, done annually.

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

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for final adoption of Ordinance 4-2010.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Greg Hull, 3 Madison Avenue, is opposed to the lights at Babe Ruth field. He asked for an update on Madison Avenue and the City Engineer responded.

Debbie Doherty, 405 Chestnut Avenue, is opposed to the Lights at Babe Ruth field and expressed dissatisfaction with Council with regard to the crossing guard situation. She feels it is a waste of gas to have the Police Chief drive a car home.

Robert Pantazes, 1 Madison Avenue, is opposed to reducing crossing guards and feels it will bring more cars to the school.

Mary Sundra, 2115 Shore Road, feels no crossing guard posts should be eliminated. She expressed concerns about the functionality of the traffic control buttons on the lights at Mill and Shore Roads.

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Peri Pantazes, 1 Madison Avenue, thanked Council for addressing flooding issues and said someone at City Hall needs to be looking for grants. President Carew explained how grants are researched and by whom. Pantazes expressed concern about the 'walk' signal at Tilton and Burton.

Carolyn Peterson, 2312 Shepherd Drive, supports the crossing guards. She said cars routinely run the stop sign at Merritt and Wabash and that all Council members should look at all departments for budget cuts.

Sunny McCarthy, 2002 Bay Drive, supports the crossing guards. She said Yorkshire and Shore is a difficult intersection to cross for an adult and that an additional crossing guard survey should be done in warmer months.

Eva Gadon, 7 Ridgewood Court, walks to school every day and would not feel safe without crossing guards.

Dennis Gitsas, 227 East Rosedale Avenue, said 12 kids live on his street and there will be more next year. He supports the guards and said they do more than just cross the kids.

Kim Blake, 13 Ridgewood Court, said there are 34 kids in her development and 200 in Sutton Woods, but residential growth did not bring added guard posts.

Gina Wallace, 3 Surrey Avenue, supports the crossing guards. Her child uses two guards every day.

Karen White, 207 Mt Vernon Avenue, said crossing guards do more than cross the kids and stop cars.

Angelique Delcher, 681 Pasadena Drive, shared the story of a former guard who would call her when her child didn't cross on any given day. They do more than just cross the kids.

Jim O'Neill, 7 Cara Court, said he reviewed the budget and suggested that the Mayor, Council, CFO and Chief of Police take pay cuts to bring the crossing guards back.

Dawn Gadon, 7 Ridgewood Court, has 2 children who use the guards and is concerned about Shore Road. She urged Council to remember the level of concern shown here tonight by residents.

Adriane Larsen, 502 Pincus Avenue, said Tilton Village children cross without guards and asked how children will get to school safely on walk to school day.

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Seeing no one else from the public wishing to speak, President Carew closed the public session.

Councilman Smith read the meeting notices.

At 8:13pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk