

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2013**

At 7:36pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 7, 2013, in accordance with 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: Mr. Carew, Mr. Dewees, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Perri, Mr. Polistina,
Mr. Travagline, Mrs. Brown

Mayor Vince Mazzeo, City Solicitor Kris Facenda, City Engineers Dan Kwapinski and Dave Scheidegg, Chief Robert James, and Deputy Clerk Mimi Marlors were also in attendance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri said there would be a Seniors Committee meeting Thursday at 6pm at City Hall, and a Seniors Luncheon at the Country Club on February 7th. The luncheon can accommodate 50 attendees and County Intergenerational Services will be in attendance to provide an overview of available services. Perri said there will be a new slate of officers that he would like approved by the governing body.

Councilman O'Neill said the City is looking at VOIP for our phone system, and preliminary numbers from Kathi Smith in Finance look to bring considerable savings. He also mentioned looking for a new IT vendor who is local. Our current vendor is great but we pay travel time.

Councilman Travagline said he is still learning the bill process, and that Councilman Polistina and the CFO have been helpful. There will be a budget meeting with all three next month.

Councilman Polistina read the EMS report; he said there are disputed times that are being investigated and that he will report with more information at the next meeting. He read the Fire Department for 2012, and said preliminary budget meetings will begin soon.

Councilman Dewees stated that there was an error on the trash route map that affected recycling collection; it has been corrected.

Councilman Carew had no committee report this evening.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Council President Brown had no report this evening.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo stated that Shannah Smith had been reappointed as Library Board President, and said she is doing a great job. The addition is coming along and he encourages anyone interested to visit. Mazzeo noted the Planning Board reappointments as well. He provided an update on the Cedar Bridge Road home that was damaged in the storm; we are working with the bank and our last communication from them was that they were going to seek a demolition contractor. Mazzeo spoke with the Police Department in light of the incidents in Connecticut. He said the police and the school will be working to enhance their presence at the school, including unannounced visits. He read the Police Department report. Mazzeo said Chief James has recommended that the City change the towing ordinance to limit to four the maximum number of towing providers who can be licensed; Mazzeo agrees with this recommendation.

Council President Brown requested that the solicitor draft the amendment to the towing ordinance for Council's consideration. Councilman Polistina asked what would happen to our other towing vendors; Mazzeo replied that we only have four, but that is all that we want.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman O'Neill, second by Councilman Carew to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 2, 2013. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the Municipal Clerk's office. A report was also provided by Doran Engineering, with regard to the projects they are still managing. There were no updates.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Brown reviewed the agenda.

On a motion of Councilman Polistina, second by Perri, all were in favor of extending the due date for the PBA Step 4 grievance by another 30 days.

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Council President Brown noted for the record, that Resolution 40-2013 would not be adopted this evening.

Solicitor Facenda noted that Resolution 36-2013 should be amended to include a condition that prior to the indemnification agreement being executed, that we have in-hand a written notice of invitation from the property owners formalizing that we have been invited. Councilman Carew motioned to amend as per the Solicitor's recommendation; Polistina seconded. The Municipal Clerk read the amendment as dictated by the Solicitor. All were in favor by roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to vote by consent agenda on Resolutions 29-2013 through 39-2013. Council President Brown noted for the record that the Executive Session would be held at the end of the regular meeting

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

- 29-2013** Ratify and Approve the Hiring of a Substitute School Crossing Guard
- 30-2013** To Confirm the Reappointment of Harold L Bogie as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II
- 31-2013** To Confirm the Reappointment of George R. Clark as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II
- 32-2013** Reappointment of Regular and Substitute Adult School Crossing Guards for the City of Northfield
- 33-2013** Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 34-2013** To Hire Temporary Mechanic
- 35-2013** Authorization to Apply for a Municipal Alliance Grant for Calendar Year 2013
- 36-2013** To Authorize an Indemnification Agreement between the City of Northfield and Shore Mall Associates
- 37-2013** Recognizing Northfield Little League, and Family Association of Northfield, Inc., as the Entities Responsible for the Administration of The Sporting Programs Within the City of Northfield

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38-2013 Award of Contract for 2012 Paving Project

39-2013 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 in the Matter of an Insurance Claim Filed Against the City of Northfield that was Previously Denied

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 29-2013 through 39-2013.

At the request of Councilman Perri, a list of streets to be included in the paving project was provided to him by the Municipal Clerk.

Councilman O'Neill asked if Resolution 34 was for a full time employee; Council President Brown responded that it is a full time temporary position. Councilman Perri asked if the position was advertised; Councilman Dewees responded that the candidates interviewed were chosen from applications we had on file.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 404,308.49.

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

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Brown opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject. Seeing no one wishing to speak, Council President Brown closed the public session.

Councilman Carew read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

The resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

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The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

Solicitor Facenda stated that a resident named Mr. Yarger of 137 East Revere Avenue had filed an insurance claim with the City when a tree from the Bird Sanctuary fell and damaged his porch during Hurricane Irene. The closed session will be convened to discuss that claim and a settlement offer that Mr. Yarger has proposed. He does not feel the City's strategy will be disclosed but if there is a decision, it will be disclosed and voted on in public.

At 7:59pm, Council left the dais and entered the City Clerk's Office; Solicitor Facenda, Mayor Mazzeo and Deputy Clerk Mimi Marlor were also in attendance.

At 8:21pm, the closed session was adjourned and the regular meeting of Council resumed. Facenda announced a summary for the record as follows: during the closed session Council discussed the claim. Yarger has made a settlement offer to Council and Council considered it. His claim was rejected. Council has proposed an alternative solution that they would like to convey to Mr. Yarger. Facenda requested that Council consider that the City pay the property owner of 137 East Revere Avenue the sum of \$500 in full and final settlement of all claims and any potential litigation, and that there is no admission of guilt on the part of the City. These terms would be part of a release that make the matter final.

Councilman Carew motioned to authorize the settlement as dictated by the Solicitor; Perri seconded.

Councilman Carew motioned, Perri seconded to adopt

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

Facenda stated that the minutes of the non-public session can be released when the matter has been concluded and when the threat of litigation has been concluded.

At 8:28pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk