

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 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: Mr. Dewees, Mrs. Kern, Mr. Perri, Mr. Polistina, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vain, Mr. Carew

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

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda. The presentation of the retirement clock to Captain George R. Clark has been postponed until February.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Smith, second by Councilman Polistina to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 4, 2011. 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 he was invited to and attended a service at the Good Shepherd Church held to thank the public safety and rescue personnel, including the Northfield Police and Fire departments, Atlanticare, Northfield Rescue Squad, and the Ladies Auxiliary for their support. It was a well-attended event, and Perri thanked Pastor Rice for reaching out to those who service the community. Perri noted the passing of many Northfield residents in recent weeks. He knew Bob Wheeler and went to school with his children; he also recognized Mike Trimble as a respected Police Officer with 29 years of service and a founding member of the Northfield Rescue Squad. Long time Northfield resident Lorraine Whaley was also remembered, as were Ron and Terry Lupton, and Carol Sturgis. All of these individuals did a lot for the community and they will be deeply missed.

Councilman Polistina announced budget workshops being held on Thursday, February 10th, and Tuesday, February 15th; both meetings will commence at 5pm.

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Councilman Vain said the cross walks at Burton Estates at the ball fields have been delayed due to weather. The ‘no parking’ signs from Juniper to the bike path will be done within a few weeks; we need to borrow a boring machine from Linwood to install them. Vain said he heard back from the County about flashing lights at Burton and Mill, and Tilton and Wabash; they will do 50/50 split. Our share will be approximately \$25-30,000, total, for both. We need to give the County an answer so they can plan their budget. Council President Carew commented that these are high profile areas and are important to pedestrian safety; he asked Chief James for his input. James agreed that these are appropriate locations, and said there are others as well, including Mill and the bike path, and Zion and the bike path. Vain replied that we can add others to pursue at a future date. Councilwoman Kern noted that Burton Avenue and Mill Road both lack sidewalks. Vain replied that the County said we would have to pay for the installation of sidewalks. Carew said we will pass this along to the County and if we can make it happen we will.

The Municipal Clerk conducted a straw poll to gauge willingness to enter an interlocal agreement with the County for the flashing lights at Burton and Mill, and Tilton and Wabash. All present in favor. Council President Carew directed the Municipal Clerk to notify the County in writing as to the City’s agreement.

Vain issued a reminder about the January 31st Elected Officials Seminar. He attended his first Planning Board meeting; it was very interesting and they will meet again on February 3rd, when there will be 3 applications considered. He has been working on a program to honor local veterans by flying the City Hall flag in honor of one veteran each month, using the reverse of the map board for the announcement of the honoree. This will start in February.

Councilwoman Kern echoed Perri’s thoughts about Mrs. Whaley, Mr. Wheeler, and Mr., Trimble. Kern said she worked with Carol Sturgis as a crossing guard for 20 years. She was a diligent worker who was committed to the kids. Mrs. Sturgis also spent a lot of time at the park; Kern offered condolences to her family. The Municipal Alliance will have another program in February. Mainland has asked for an after-prom donation, which the Alliance will agree to. The Cultural Committee will be hosting Dennis Levinson on February 21st with a program called “What You Don’t Know about Your Presidents”; the event has a snow date of February 24th. Kern has been approached by a Daisy troop who wants to visit City Hall. She will coordinate with the Municipal Clerk and Mayor Mazzeo. Kern received a letter from a gentleman on Wabash Avenue about a fence. Council President Carew replied that we are looking into the situation. Kern inquired about the speeding on Forest Drive, mentioned by a resident at the last meeting. Chief James responded that the poor weather has impeded the use of the speed analysis device, but now that the snow is off the streets, they will be able to get better data. Kern said names were drawn out

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of a hat, and that the first veteran to be honored under the flag program will be Mr. Henderson Hemphill.

Councilman Smith read the Fire report for month of December, and said he got a year-end report from Chief Delgado, which he will forward to the Municipal Clerk for distribution to Council. Smith attended the School Board meeting last night; the deadline for School Board candidates is Tuesday, March 8th, at 4pm. Smith asked if we have had contact with Linwood about upcoming shared services meetings. Carew replied that this will occur shortly.

Councilman Dewees attended the Allsports meeting on January 19th; they've expressed concern about the football and practice fields and are putting a program together as of March 1st.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew said Birch Grove Park Center is coming along well; by the end of February we may have the C.O. The walkway project funded by CDBG monies is now complete. Carew also echoed the sentiments expressed by others with regard to the passing of so many residents in recent weeks.

Councilman Vain asked if there will be a Grand Opening for the Park Center; Carew replied that it will probably coincide with opening day at the park, and that the Advisory Board will work on it.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo announces new appointments to the Library Board, Planning Board reappointments, and new members of the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board. He said all background checks have been completed for the liquor license; he thanked Detective Steinecke for his efforts. Mazzeo said he hopes to see a Grand Opening for Bootleggers in April. We would like to do another Clean Communities-funded construction clean up in the spring, with more advance advertisement. He met with Atlanticare representatives today to discuss the Mayor's Wellness Campaign initiatives, and would like to form a committee involving a few residents, and possibly a council representative. One idea was a walking club.

Council President Carew replied that Councilwoman Kern will be the council representative; and Councilman Vain as well, if more personnel are needed.

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Mazzeo extended his condolences to Mike Trimble's family.

Mazzeo asked Chief James to explain an incident that occurred today at 5pm. Chief James stated that a burglary suspect was apprehended today, and is being processed as we speak. Mazzeo then read the Police Department report for the month of December.

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: it is hoped that the Hollywood and Franklin paving job can be put out to bid so work can start in the spring.

Council President Carew said he is waiting on input from the County on the tie-in for Davis Avenue. He will keep Council and residents abreast of progress

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Kern motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded for consent agenda for resolutions 28-2011 through 36-2011.

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

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| 28-2011 | Award of Contract Reconstruction of Jack Sloan Court and Joseph Court |
| 29-2011 | Refund of Overpayment of Taxes Block 75 Lot 29 |
| 30-2011 | Issuance of Raffle License to the Dominic Diccio Memorial Trust |
| 31-2011 | Issuance of a Plenary Retail Distribution License to Northfield Liquors, LLC |
| 32-2011 | Release of Maintenance Guarantee Block 91 Lots 1-3 |
| 33-2011 | Authorizing Doran to Proceed |
| 34-2011 | In Support of Continued PILOT Funding for Open Space |
| 35-2011 | Issuance of a Raffle License to St Gianna Molla Parish |
| 36-2011 | Transfer of Funds |

Councilwoman Kern motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt resolutions 28-2011 through 36-2011. Councilman Perri noted he would be abstaining from Resolution 28-2011.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Vain seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 3,790,515.89. Vain and Kern announced they would be abstaining from the vote on certain line items; said abstentions are on file in the City Clerk's office.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – 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.

Carolyn Peterson, 2312 Shepherd Drive, said the Northfield Police Department did a fabulous job earlier this evening; she witnessed the arrest and the officers involved deserve congratulations. She asked if the Birch Grove Park Center will be open to groups; the Volunteer Fire Company will no longer permit the Mother's League to use their facility. The Mother's League needs a place to meet.

Council President Carew replied that we don't have parameters yet, but yes, Park Center can be used for Northfield groups, but not for birthday parties, etc.

Peterson asked if the Fire Company leased the building; Carew replied that they do not, they are their own entity.

Councilwoman Kern explained that it was an insurance issued that caused the Mother's League to have their use discontinued. Peterson contended it was not. Carew asked Peterson to contact him tomorrow; he will come up with something to assist them.

Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, said the old Rec Lodge used to be a meeting place before it was torn down. He urged the use of the Oak Avenue property as a veteran's park. He congratulated the school crossing guards for doing a fine job.

Mark Doherty, 405 Chestnut Avenue, referred to a change in policy with regard to crossing guards being required to stand on post even when children are not present. He asked for a policy review to allow them to sit in their cars. He said crossing

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guards are not permitted to address Council under threat of charges of insubordination.

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

Councilman Perri read the meeting notices.

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk