

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 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 and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance. Fran Ballak attended in place of City Solicitor Keith Bonchi.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda.

INTRODUCTION OF MR. HENDERSON HEMPHILL

Council President Carew introduced Mr. Henderson Hemphill. Councilwoman Kern said that Northfield resident Robert Webb first suggested the idea of flying the City Hall flag in honor of a different Veteran each month. The program made its debut this month and Mr. Hemphill is the first honoree; for the entire month of February, the City Hall flag will fly in his honor.

Councilman Vain mentioned that Mr. Hemphill attends each Veteran's Day Ceremony at the NCS, and the kids really enjoy hearing him speak.

Mayor Mazzeo said Mr. Hemphill attends the Memorial Day Ceremony each year at City Hall, and thanked him for doing so.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri had no committee report but congratulated Mr. Hemphill on being the first Veteran honoree, and thanked him for his service

Councilman Polistina thanked Mr. Hemphill for his service. Polistina said the Library Board is conducting a feasibility study on how to proceed with capital, with recommendations to follow. They are pursuing giving back \$55,000 in addition to the maintenance agreement fee. The City continues to work on the budget, and Council

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had a budget workshop meeting today. An additional budget workshop meeting will be held on March 1st; the budget will be introduced on March 8th.

Councilman Vain said all members of Council attended the Elected Officials Seminar and we'll get \$800 credit as a result. He read a letter from Safety Coordinator Cindy Ruffo regarding the new 2011 Safety Incentive Program.

Councilwoman Kern said she knows the Safety Committee works very hard to ensure safety within the City. The Municipal Alliance will continue to hold programs at NCS and MRHS, as well as several senior programs. We got the \$13,000 again from the State and will continue to meet four times a year. She announced that a program called "What You Don't Know About Our Presidents" will be sponsored by the Historical Society and presented at City Hall on Monday, February 21st by County Executive Dennis Levinson. Kern is looking forward to continuing the Veteran's Flag Honoree Program. She thanked Mr. Webb and Mr. Tanzola for coming up with the idea, and Mr. Hemphill for allowing us to honor him.

Councilman Smith noted the reimbursement grant on the agenda this evening for the Fire Department, and thanked Assistant Chief Crooks for continuing to seek out grants. Smith said several Volunteer Firefighters recently graduated from the training academy; they are Firefighter I graduates Martin Pepek and Derek Tripet, and Firefighter II graduates Nick Scalise and Michael McGrath. Smith congratulated them and said their service is appreciated. Smith received a phone call from an elderly resident with concerns about EMS billing from Atlanticare. The resident's concerns were addressed by Chief Delgado. She had heard that people were not seeking ambulance care because it was cost prohibitive. This is misinformation and can endanger the welfare of our residents. To clarify, Smith said Atlanticare will transport any resident, and Medicare does cover the costs. He would like to set up a meeting with Four Seasons residents, and others, along with the EMS Chief, and a representative from Medicare dispel these rumors for the community at large.

Councilman Dewees had no committee report this evening.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew thanked Mr. Hemphill for his service and for allowing us to honor him.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo said Lara D'Anna was recently sworn as a new Library Trustee. There were three resignations last year and we are working towards a full

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complement once again. Mazzeo mentioned a grant opportunity from SJ Gas called “Game on Grants: and asked that it be passed on to Allsports. He received a letter from the DOT that we were awarded the grant for the reconstruction of Willow and Locust. He thanked everyone for their hard work on the budget; we are just under 2% cap but there is still more work to do. Last month, the Atlantic County Mayors’ Association talked about County-wide dispatch. Mazzeo said Chief James sits on the dispatch committee, and asked him to provide an update.

James said the County is looking to get the project up and running by January 2012; they are presently looking for an area in which to locate the dispatch center. A facility has to be constructed, including supporting infrastructure, etc. and will dispatch Police, Fire, EMS and OEM and will be funded by a County tax. James said EHT has expressed interest as well.

Council President Carew asked that James keep Council posted.

Mazzeo noted that Chief James is the President of the NJ State Chiefs of Police Association for 2011 and congratulated him. Mazzeo read the statistics from the Police Department report for the month of January.

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. Council President Carew asked The City Engineer to follow up with Solicitor Bonchi about the Wawa easements.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded for consent agenda for resolutions 37-2011 through 42-2011.

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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| 37-2011 | To Accept a Grant from NJ American Water |
| 38-2011 | Authorizing Doran to Proceed |
| 39-2011 | Refund of Overpayment of Taxes - Various |
| 40-2011 | Authorizing Emergency Temporary Appropriations |
| 41-2011 | To Authorize the Fire Department to Apply for and Obtain a Grant from the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program |
| 42-2011 | To Authorize Promotion in the Public Works Department |

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Councilman Dewees announced he would be abstaining from the vote on Resolution 39-2011.

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt resolutions 37-2011 through 42-2011.

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.

ORDINANCES

On a motion of Councilman Polistina, second of Councilman Perri, 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)
Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press 02/19/2011
Second Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 03/08/2011

Full copies of the ordinance are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

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 introduction of ordinance 1-2011.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Vain seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 2,013,896.46. 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.

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Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, congratulated Mr. Hemphill. Webb said Hemphill's ship was sunk by Kamikaze pilots and remains at the bottom of the ocean. Many serving now are forgotten, they should be recognized now, not when they are senior citizens. Webb asked who is in charge of buildings and grounds; Kern acknowledged that she is. Webb asked why the City employs a landscaper as opposed to having the Road Department do this work. Kern said the Road crew does perform much of the work. Webb thanked Council for honoring veterans, but encouraged them to honor younger service personnel

Helen Havlick, 203 West Revere Avenue, said at Council meetings in November and December she brought up that ordinances are not being properly enforced. She referred to the snow emergency parking ordinance, found in Chapter 111 of the City Code. She said people don't use their driveways when it snows, they park in the street. She asked who handles street lights on bike path; Carew said lights on the bike path are the responsibility of the Jim Clark's department, but that actual street lights are the electric company. Residents can the electric company or you can call us, and we'll relay the information. Havlick gave Carew a list of several lights that are out.

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

Councilwoman Kern read the meeting notices.

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk