

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2013**

At 7:41pm, 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: Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Polistina, Travagline, Brown
Absent: Carew

Mayor Vince Mazzeo, City Solicitor Kris Facenda, City Engineer Dan Kwapinski, Chief Robert James, and Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi were also in attendance.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Polistina, second by Councilman O'Neill to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 22, 2013. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri reported that the Seniors Luncheon was held at the Country Club on February 7th. It was a successful and well-attended event. He noted a special thanks to Kathi Smith for her assistance. The luncheon was sponsored by the Municipal Alliance grant and some senior monies. Councilman Perri shared that there are several open issues regarding the sanitary sewers but the engineers report deals with that in more detail.

Councilman O'Neill reported that the problem anyone may have experienced over the weekend accessing email has been corrected. It was a loose cable between the server and the internet. We are also looking to upgrade the current server which is about 8 years old.

Councilman Travagline reported that they are working on finalizing the James Hoopes III memorial. He reported that he is getting donations for cleaning the fields. To date monies were received from Ace, Surety Title and Fulton Bank. Regarding

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finance he has met with Tom Polistina, Lisa Brown and Dawn Stollenwerk and they are working on the budget.

Councilman Polistina reported that he attended the dedication of the new Atlantic Care Urgent Care facility. It was well attended. He read the EMS report and stated he had a meeting with EMS to go over a few discrepancies in reporting issues and once an acceptable solution has been identified he will advise Council. He also stated that he attended a Veteran's Park meeting. The benches are on order and the bricks are being engraved. The hope is to have the paving done in the spring.

Councilman Dewees reported that Public Works will begin trimming trees along the bike path soon from Dolphin Road to Zion Road. In addition, they will be doing repairs to the broken lamp posts. The Inspections Department is looking to increase fees and he thanked Deputy Clerk Mimi Marlor for doing a survey of other local towns with regard to their UCC fees for comparison purposes. A recommendation will be forthcoming. He also directed a comment to Council President Brown that he wished that she would consider changing the Council Chair for the athletic fields. As the current Liaison to Sports, he commented that he thought it would make sense to change it.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo stated that the City has received its Clean Communities grant for 2013 in the amount of approximately \$14,000. It has provided services such as street sweeping in the past but in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, this year some restrictions are being waived. He'd like to meet with Public Works and Mike Dattalo to identify needs and possible uses for the money.

Councilman Perri stated he has had numerous complaints about street sweepers missing areas due to trash and recycling cans being out. He suggested eliminating Street Sweeping but at the very least coordinating it with Public Works. Mayor Mazzeo indicated that we have to sweep for our permit and does not want to eliminate it. Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi stated that Public Works Manager, James Clark does approve the schedule will review this with him. Mary Canesi further noted that the problems reported to her office typically relate to people not moving their cars.

Mayor Mazzeo continued his Mayor's report, and stated that he also attended the senior luncheon and wanted to thank Mary Lou Gagnon from the Division of Intergenerational Services for a job well done. He reported that he also attended the Eagle Scout ceremony for Zachary Belcher and noted that he will be attending 3 other Eagle Scout ceremonies in the next couple of months. He said he is very proud of

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these young boys. Not many reach this high honor and we have several in our community. He said he attended the Urgent Care opening, and also the Atlantic County Mayor's Association meeting at the end of January. The storm mitigation and new elevation maps were the hot topics. Mayor Mazzeo reported that the tax collection rate is down by about \$120,000 and it looks like we are looking at a ½ cent increase. He believes keeping Personnel and Services the same is the answer but he'll see how that works out at the next budget meeting. He read the police report for the month of January.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Brown had no report this evening.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the Municipal Clerk's office. Dan Kwapinski of Schaffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers, LLC, verbally reported with regard to the current projects they are managing. He started with a detailed review of each item until Council President Brown stated that due to time constraints she would prefer he field questions from Council with respect to his report.

8:02pm Council President Brown left the dais

The Engineer continued to review his report. He asked for recommendations from Council for the CDBG funds. He suggested handicapped walkways around the snack bar or bathrooms. Councilman Perri asked if it can be used for the bathrooms. Engineer Kwapinski stated that it could not be used for the bathrooms themselves but for the access doorways. Kwapinski reminded Council that these funds would not be available until September or October and cannot bid out until funds are allocated. Councilman O'Neill suggested that they consider ADA accessible walkways around the fields and from the parking lots to fields.

8:05pm Council President Brown returned to the dais

Council President Brown agreed that accessible walkways are a good idea and asked if there are any further questions for the Engineer.

Mayor Mazzeo asked for clarification about the ensuing deadline for submitting the City's objections to the proposed Water Quality Management Plan. Dan Kwapinski noted that it was February 22, 2013. Council President Brown asked the Engineer to

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prepare a letter outlining the City's objections to the new maps and to file it prior to the February deadline.

Councilman Perri made a motion to authorize Schaffer, Nassar, Scheidegg to prepare the letter of objection to the proposed Amendment to the Atlantic County Water Quality Management Plan. Councilman O'Neill seconded the motion.

A voice vote was called: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Mrs. Brown – yes. Motion carries

Mayor Mazzeo asked clarifying questions regarding the contracts for general repairs and emergency sanitary sewer facilities and inter-local agreements.

Councilman Perri stated that the City should look at these contracts to attempt to have some flexibility to deal with the emergency, the mild emergency and no emergency. Council President Brown asked Mayor Mazzeo to meet with Dan Kwapinski and work out the details of upcoming storm water and sanitary sewer maintenance and repair contracts.

Councilman Perri stated that we don't have the equipment to diagnose the sanitary sewer issue at Maple and Roosevelt and asked what options we have to identify the problem. Council President Brown asked Councilman Perri to meet with the Engineer.

Councilman O'Neill asked the Engineer for the Tilton Road paving timetable. Kwapinski replied that from Tilton Road to Fire Road is being bid now and construction should begin within the next few months.

Councilman Dewees asked for an update on plans for the 2013 Bikeway Grant with regard to rejuvenating the cinders on the bike path. The engineer stated the application included the cinders and he will provide the cost estimates to Councilman Dewees.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Perri motioned. Councilman Travagline seconded to vote by consent agenda on Resolutions 42-2013 through 59-2013. Council President Brown noted for the record that the Executive Sessions would be held at the end of the regular meeting, and that Councilman Polistina is abstaining on resolution 55-2013.

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

- 42-2013** A Resolution Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved State Contract Vendors for Contracting Units Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a

- 43-2013** Final Change Order #1 – Re-bid Walkway at BGP Phase III

- 44-2013** Final Change Order #1 – Replace Valves at Oak Avenue – Sanitary Sewer Pump Station

- 45-2013** Acceptance of the LOSAP Point System and Qualifiers for Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Co. #1

- 46-2013** A Resolution in Support of a State of New Jersey Traffic Regulation Order Establishing No Passing Zones on U.S. Route 9 in the City of Northfield

- 47-2013** Amending Resolution 175-2012, and Appointing Timothy Joo to the Position of Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator

- 48-2013** To Hire a Laborer in the Public Works Department

- 49-2013** Establishing the Easter Egg Hunt at Birch Grove Park as a City Event Sponsored by the Northfield Mothers’ League

- 50-2013** Recognizing Northfield Babe Ruth Baseball as the Entity Responsible for the Administration of the Babe Ruth Baseball Program within the City of Northfield

- 51-2013** A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of Frank Lentz, Esquire as the Public Defender for the City of Northfield

- 52-2013** Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Certain Projects

- 53-2013** Authorizing Release of Maintenance Guarantee Block 42, Lot 18.01

- 54-2013** To Authorize a Temporary Increase, on an as Needed Basis, in the Maximum Number of Hours Worked Per Week for the Part Time Violations Clerk

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- 55-2013** Authorizing Award of Contract for Professional Services Without Public Advertising For Bids As Per N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 And In Compliance With N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, Also Known As New Jersey Pay To Play Law
- 56-2013** 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. 10:4-12b(7) Regarding Possible Future Litigation in the Matter of a Previously Denied Application for a Towing Mercantile License
- 57-2013** 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. 10:4-12b(7) Regarding Contract Negotiations in the Matter of the Maple Run Sewer Force Main
- 58-2013** 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 Personnel Matters and Contract Negotiations with Regard to a Step 4 Grievance Filed by Mainland PBA Local No. 77
- 59-2013** A Resolution Establishing a Preliminary Reserve for the Purpose of Determining the Scope and Costs of Constructing Public Restrooms at the Northfield Football

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 42-2013 through 59-2013.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; 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 O’Neill motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 5,703,022.94.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – No; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Mrs. Brown – yes. Motion carries.

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PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Brown opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject.

Brian Smith, 104 Catherine Place, shared that former Councilman Mazza, who had a made a great contribution to the community, recently passed away and will be missed. Regarding the field use issue he asked Council to consider the following: He didn't agree with charging a fee but he suggested Council may want to consider a one-time fee for field use and include exceptions if teams are comprised of more than 50% Northfield residents or if the teams make contributions to other teams such as Little League. If fees are charged teams will have expectations that the fields are lined, mowed and bathrooms must be accessible. Mr. Smith also wanted to make the observation that Resolution 55-2013 was being awarded without bids and he believed there were campaign promises made not to do that from new members of Council. Mr. Smith also inquired what happened to Northfield All Sports. He felt like there wasn't adequate information available and he was concerned as a former Councilman and longtime resident that he knew nothing about it. Council President Brown noted that All Sports was showing declining numbers and the City voted to go in a new direction and she encouraged Mr. Smith to attend the next meeting of FAN which will be on March 14th at 7pm.

At 8:37 pm seeing no one else from the public wishing to speak, Council President Brown closed the public session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

The resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

56-2013 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. 10:4-12b(7) Regarding Possible Future Litigation in the Matter of a Previously Denied Application for a Towing Mercantile License

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.

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Solicitor Facenda stated that an application was received from Blakeslee Towing and a denial for a mercantile towing license was issued to Blakeslee Towing. There has been correspondence between Council and Blakeslee Towing with respect to that denial and in closed session City Council will discuss a possible resolution that may avoid litigation. If there is a decision it will be disclosed and voted on in public. If a decision is reached the minutes of the executive session may become available by the next meeting.

At 8:39pm, Council left the dais and entered the City Clerk's Office; Solicitor Facenda, Mayor Mazzeo and Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi were also in attendance. Councilman Perri recused himself from discussion and remained in Council Chambers.

At 8:53pm, the executive session was adjourned and the regular meeting of Council resumed. Facenda announced a summary for the record as follows: during the executive session Council discussed the denial of the Blakeslee Towing application and it was determined that City Council would vote to direct Chief Robert James to write a letter to Blakeslee Towing and accept them into the rotation and notify them of that fact. Minutes of that executive session will be available when approved by City Council.

Councilman Polistina motioned to authorize Chief James to write a letter and approve Blakeslee Towing as the 5th towing service in the rotation for the City of Northfield. Dewees seconded.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

The resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

57-2013 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. 10:4-12b(7) Regarding Contract Negotiations in the Matter of the Maple Run Sewer Force Main

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.

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Solicitor Facenda stated that the City Council will enter into an executive session to discuss a widening project on Mill Road which requires the need for relocation of sewer infrastructure that extends into Northfield and services 11 homes in Egg Harbor Township. The primary issue is the cost of relocation. Council will discuss costs and possible negotiations to avoid potential future litigation. Since this matter is in its infancy it's difficult to say when meeting minutes will become available; however, when the matter is complete and the minutes are approved they will be available to the public.

At 8:58pm, Council left the dais and entered the City Clerk's Office; Solicitor Facenda, Mayor Mazzeo and Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi were also in attendance.

At 9:21pm, the executive session was adjourned and the regular meeting of Council resumed. Facenda announced a summary for the record as follows: we discussed the City's legal obligations to contribute toward the expenses related to the County's widening project and the costs of relocating the force main. The minutes will not be available in the foreseeable future because the negotiations determining the costs toward the project may continue for some time. It was determined that City Council will direct the Municipal Solicitor to send the letter discussed in closed session which indicated that the City is not willing to contribute any costs toward the project at this time.

Councilman Perri motioned to authorize Facenda to send to the County the letter read by Facenda during the executive session indicating they are not willing to contribute any monies toward the sewer project at this time. Travagline seconded.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes, Polistina – no; Mr. Travagline – yes; Mrs. Brown – yes. Motion carries.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

The resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

58-2013 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 Personnel Matters and Contract Negotiations with Regard to a Step 4 Grievance Filed by Mainland PBA Local No. 77

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

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time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

Solicitor Facenda stated that the City Council will enter into an executive session to discuss a Step 4 Grievance filed by Mainland PBA Local No. 77. The subject matter to be discussed is a possible resolution to the grievance which may involve certain terms of the collective bargaining agreement. For that reason it will be discussed in closed session pursuant to the personnel and collective bargaining exceptions under the Open Public Meeting Act. It is unknown at this time when minutes for the closed session may become available but when the matter is resolved the minutes will become available after they have been approved.

At 9:26pm, Council left the dais and entered the City Clerk's Office; Solicitor Facenda, Mayor Mazzeo and Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi were also in attendance.

At 9:48pm, the executive session was adjourned and the regular meeting of Council resumed. Facenda announced a summary for the record as follows: The executive session concluded regarding the discussion of a step 4 grievance with Local No 77 and City Council concluded that they will continue negotiations with the Local and since negotiations are ongoing the minutes will not be available at this time. They may become available in the future when the matter is resolved and approved by City Council.

Councilman Polistina read the meeting notices.

At 9:49pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi M. Marlor, Deputy Municipal Clerk