

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2010**

This meeting was called to order by Council President Tim Carew. Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk announced it had been 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. Perri, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vain, Mr. Carew
Absent: Mr. O'Grady

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilwoman Kern, second by Councilman Vain, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 26, 2010. 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 Martinez announced that planning board meetings will now be held once monthly instead of twice; the schedule will be changed as needed. The next Allsports meeting will be Wednesday, February 10th.

Councilman Perri announced that the Cedarbridge and Zion pumping station failed in the midst of storm activity; pumps have been repaired as of this afternoon and we should be able to get it back on line soon. The sewer department incurred approximately \$11,000 in costs as a result, not counting overtime. Perri met in-house with the sewer interlocal committee, the CFO, and head of the sewer department, and should be able to meet with Linwood after the weather settles down.

Councilman Vain attended a pre-storm EMS meeting last Friday in council chambers and said he was impressed with the cooperative efforts between departments. He also rode with the road department while they plowed on Saturday. Road crews worked 16 hours to get the job done. Vain said he's heard much positive feedback from residents about how the road department handled the snow storm. He will be meeting with County personnel to discuss the flashing light at Zion and Oak; a previously scheduled meeting was canceled.

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Councilwoman Kern said the Alliance-sponsored senior citizen luncheon has been rescheduled to February 24th. On March 6th from 9am to 3pm there will be a community yard sale at the NCS sponsored by the Cultural Committee. On February 22nd the Historical Society will host County Executive Dennis Levinson in council chambers as he presents "What you don't know about the Presidents from George Washington to Barack Obama". Kern said shared court continues to go well, with a few minor glitches having been resolved. She referred to the resolution on tonight's agenda authorizing credit card payment by telephone; this should make it easier for people to make payments and hopefully increase collection. Kern attended the recent JIF meeting along with other council members; the City will get a \$250 per attendee premium credit.

Councilman Smith said a City-owned AED has been passed on to Birch Grove Park. It was in storage at the fire department and has been refurbished. He read the statistics from the EMS report for the month of January. Smith echoed the positive sentiments of Councilman Vain about the performance of the road department and other personnel during the storm. Soon, the City will be entering into an agreement with Northfield schools for chemical treatments to grounds. Mayor Mazzeo asked that the Library be included in the endeavor.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew thanked all City departments and employees for their efforts during the storm. He said the County also did a great job in ensuring that roads were clear and accessible. The park supervisor is very happy to have the AED and all employees will be trained on how to use it. Carew referred to a list of recommendations from the Code Enforcement Official regarding changes that should be made to the zoning ordinance, and said he wants to prioritize changes to the trailer ordinance. Our 2009 CDGB funding from the County came through for \$27,000 for extension of the handicapped boardwalks at Birch Grove Park. Since that project is already 'shovel ready', the County will entertain awarding 2010 money now, if we want to apply. Combining the two amounts will allow us to get more done at the park, sooner than later. After asking for feedback, Carew stated he wanted to add resolution 40-2010, to authorize the City engineer to apply for the 2010 CDBG funding.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo referred to the 2009 Annual Police Department report and read several statistics; he suggested all of Council review the report at their opportunity. He also attended the pre-storm meetings with City department heads, and said public works did a great job during the storm. Mazzeo was at City Hall on Saturday with

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the EMS, fire, and police personnel and commented that it was a very organized effort. At the Mayor's request, Chief James announced that the County declared a state of emergency early in the storm, and yesterday Governor Christie declared a state of emergency making the City eligible to apply for FEMA funds to recoup costs incurred as a result of the storm. All paperwork will be processed through EMS Coordinator, Qwin Vitale. Councilwoman Kern asked about the criteria for FEMA reimbursement. Chief James responded that personnel costs and any equipment use for damage mitigation are reimbursable. Mazzeo attended the settlement today for the City's purchase of 1913 Oak Avenue, and said the space can be used for passive recreation. He mentioned a centuries-old tree that may be able to be used as the centerpiece of the property. Although the City is not pursuing purchasing it, Mazzeo said he did want to mention that the Arthur Henry property got its 'no further action' letter from the DEP. He concluded his report by announcing that he invited the Boy Scouts to the February 23rd Council meeting to lead the flag salute in honor of their recently celebrated 100th anniversary.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the Municipal Clerk's office. City Engineer Matt Doran provided updates to the report as follows: soil borings were ordered for Madison Avenue Phase I but were not able to be completed due to the weather. The 2009 paving project should be bid and awarded in March. We received tentative approval to use WaWa property for drainage but they want to see plans.

AGENDA REVIEW

President Carew reviewed the agenda.

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Kern motioned, Councilman Vain seconded for a consent agenda for resolutions 36-2010 through 40-2010.

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

36-2010 To Authorize a Raffle License for the Church of St Bernadette

37-2010 To Authorize Transfer of Funds

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- 38-2010** To Authorize Northfield Municipal Court Personnel to Accept Credit Cards Payments by Telephone
- 39-2010** Authorizing Doran to Proceed
- 40-2010** Authorizing Doran to Prepare and Submit Grant Application for 2010 Community Development Block Grant Funds

Councilwoman Kern motioned, Councilman Vain seconded to adopt Resolutions 36-2010 through 40-2010.

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

ORDINANCES

On a motion of Councilman Perri, second of Councilman Vain, all in favor of reading Ordinance 2-2010 by title only.

- 2-2010** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 73 of the Code of the City of Northfield Entitled Housing
*Final Adoption/Open to the Public/No Public Comments Received
Published in the Press 02/13/2010*

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – absent; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for final adoption of Ordinance 2-2010.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Carol Zubkov, 102 Harvey Drive, read from a prepared statement and presented Council with a petition from her neighborhood requesting a street light at the corner of Harvey and Dolphin Avenue. She and her neighbors feel inadequate lighting is creating a dangerous situation. Carew accepted the petition and advised he will investigate and respond.

Tom Wolfe, of Northfield, inquired if emergency storm shelters would be available in Northfield. Carew explained that if needed that City Hall would be an interim shelter used until the County shelters opened. Wolfe asked why the NCS would not

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be used. Carew advised that the school has no emergency generator. Wolfe made several recommendations for saving money in the municipal budget, including furloughs, wage freezes, consolidation, and reducing employees to part time status. Councilwoman Kern noted that the City now shares a public defender and prosecutor with Linwood.

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

Councilwoman Kern read the meeting notices.

Council President Carew announced he would not be in attendance at the February 23rd meeting of Council.

At 7:41pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk