

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 19, 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: Mrs. Kern, Mr. Perri, Mr. Polistina, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vain, Mr. Carew

Absent: Mr. Dewees,

Mayor Vincent Mazzeo, City Engineer Matt Doran, and Fran Ballak (attending in place of Solicitor Keith Bonchi) were also in attendance.

PROCLAMATION AND CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Mayor Mazzeo said he received a letter in September 2010 from Northfield Community School student, Sophia Guidara, suggesting that Northfield participate in the nationwide Day of Play, an initiative designed to get children out of doors, away from the television, and engaged in physical activity. He explained it was too late for us to participate last year, but that we are doing so this year. He introduced Sophia, and presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation for making the suggestion. He announced that he was issuing a proclamation making Saturday, April 15, 2011, Northfield's Official Day of Play.

CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT

The 2011 Mainland Regional Think Day Champions, a group of 14 students from the Northfield Community School, were issued Certificates of Achievement. Councilmen Steve Vain and Brian Smith introduced them as follows: team captain Mike Stellitano, Emma Seals, Nazia Tahia, Katie Carr, Kevin Meglathery, Lucas Gideon, Christian Regan, team captain Julian Mason, Evan Fisher, Michael Clark, James Gallagher, Jason Rodman, Noah Lee, and Victoria Larson. Vain said they are an exceptional group of kids, and gave special recognition to the team captains, who kept the groups focused.

INTRODUCTION OF MR. WALTER LAPUSHESKI AND MR. GEORGE ENGLEBRECHT, VETERAN HONOREES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

Councilman Carew introduced Mr. Walter Lapusheski. Councilwoman Kern announced that Mr. Lapusheski, a Northfield resident since 1963, served in the Marine Corps Reserves for six years and is a graduate of LaSalle University. She

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congratulated him for his service to our country and to our community. Mr. Lapusheski, in attendance with his family, said he accepted on behalf of all Marines and all servicemen

Councilwoman Kern introduced Mr. George Englebrecht, who served in the US Merchant Marines in World War II. Mr. Englebrecht and five other members of his family who also served in the Merchant Marines were honored by Congress. He has lived in the same house in Northfield for 53 years. Mr. Englebrecht was also in attendance with his family, and explained the extent of casualties and loss of life within the Merchant Marines in World War II.

At 7:15pm, Council President Carew announced a five minute recess.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Council President Carew introduced Mainland Regional High School Superintendent Dr. Thomas Baruffi, who in turn, introduced MRHS board members Valerie Lonkart, and Marianne Carey, and board administrator Kim Gniewyk. He thanked council for the opportunity and reviewed the 2011 budget. Dr. Baruffi also invited council to tour the facility. Councilwoman Kern inquired about enrollment; Gniewyk replied that it is stable, with possibly a slight decline

Council President Carew introduced Northfield Community School Superintendent Dr. Janice DeCicco Fipp. Dr. Fipp explained the challenge in coming up with a school budget that is responsible to the needs of the property owners, and introduced board administrator Linda Albright. Albright thanked Council for the opportunity and reviewed the budget. The school had anticipated zero state aid; when the figures came in, that money was applied to reduce the tax levy. Dr. Fipp reminded all that the teachers and support staff work diligently for the success of the students, and read a list of accomplishments of present NCS students and teachers.

Mayor Mazzeo thanked the personnel from both schools for continuing to provide quality education, noting that this continues to be the primary reason that families move to our town. Council President Carew thanked both groups, and announced a 5 minute recess.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda.

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RESOLUTIONS - 2011 BUDGET

7:30 PM/ PUBLIC HEARING

2011 Budget, *Introduced as Resolution 53A-2011 on March 8, 2011*

Council President Carew announced and opened the public hearing of 2011 budget, as introduced on March 8, 2011. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

53B-2011 Resolution to Amend the 2011 Budget

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, to adopt Resolution 53B-2011, amending the 2011 budget. The Municipal Clerk read the amendment in full. Councilman Carew invited anyone from the public wishing to speak on the amendment; seeing none, he closed the public session.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. . Motion carries for the amendment of the 2011 budget.

53C-2011 Final Adoption of the 2011 Budget

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Perri seconded Resolution 53C-2011, final adoption of the 2011 budget.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. . Motion carries for final adoption of the 2011 budget.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Smith, second by Councilwoman Kern to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the March 22nd meeting. 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 opening day at the Park was very enjoyable, and the dedication of Park Center very nice. A great job was done my all involved and this will be a nice addition to the community. Perri would like to set up a date for the Senior Committee meeting. Council President Carew said he and Mazzeo will attend; Perri requested that the Municipal Clerk set up the meeting.

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Councilman Polistina attended the Library meeting, their new Destiny system is set up; it limits access to certain books for younger students. NCS is on the same system. The NCS essay awards will be given out tomorrow at the library.

Councilman Vain was not able attend the Park Center opening but said he thinks it is a great asset and congratulated everyone involved. The resolution to award the flashing light at Zion and Oak is on agenda; if approved construction will be done by the end of May. The next Planning Board meeting is May 5th. Vain made note of the Veteran's sign out front and thanked Sign A Rama for their donation of the sign posts. He also thanked Assistant Chief Lauren Crooks and Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi. Council President Carew requested that a formal letter be sent to Sign A Rama thanking them.

Councilwoman Kern said the Historical Society held their antiques appraisal last week, and it was very successful. She thanked Assistant Chief Crooks for his assistance with event. The Mothers' League egg hunt at Birch Grove Park did well, with close to 200 children in attendance. Kern thanked them for their work in the community. She recognized members of the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board in attendance, and thanked them, along with Council President Carew for their efforts on Park Center. She attended the MRHS community partnership meeting at the Country Club, and congratulated Lisa Pilli as one of the recipients of the Mainland Leadership Award. Kern added that our local veterans seem to be pleased with the program honoring them, and she likes that they are coming to our meetings with their families.

Councilman Smith said the Fire Department received donated computers from NCS, and thanked them. He made note of the upcoming school election date and time, and read statistics from the EMS report for March. The Allsports meeting was rescheduled but he was not notified, and he expressed concern that their meeting schedules are posted. He asked the Municipal Clerk if the Allsports bylaws were on file at City Hall; she replied that she was not sure. Council President Carew requested that a link to the Allsports website be placed on the City website.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew said he is excited to see Park Center open, and it will be a nice asset for the town. He said the speed box on Burton Avenue has brought increased awareness about traffic.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo attended the dedication of Park Center, and said it will be enjoyed for years to come by many. He also attended the ribbon cutting for the new Dunkin Donuts. Mazzeo has spoken with Council President Carew regarding the library maintenance agreement; he would like a voice vote to approve the agreement for 2011-2012. Mazzeo asked if there were any questions, and saw none. He added that their audit was recently concluded and numbers are forthcoming.

Councilman Perri motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the maintenance agreement in the amount of \$20,500.00, for 201-2012; Councilman Polistina seconded. All in favor; none were opposed.

Mazzeo mentioned the City's street opening ordinance; he has had complaints about residential fees for sidewalk and curb repair and replacement. Our fees at \$400 are higher than other municipalities. He met with Doran and Dollard, and he has a proposal for a zero charge for permit or inspection for residents doing sidewalk replacement and repair, and a fee of \$250 for sidewalk and curbing.. Council President Carew recapped the issue; he asked if there are engineering fees. Doran replied that for curb and driveway, yes because it touches the asphalt. Doran noted that the fees for utility companies will remain unchanged. Mazzeo mentioned the street opening moratorium, saying the utility companies save them all up and do them all at once after 5 years. Therefore he is recommending stronger language for the moratorium on street opening. Doran stated that he would work with the Solicitor on new language. Councilman Smith recommended surveying the fees of other area towns.

Mazzeo explained the upcoming prescription drug give back program and reviewed the speed sentry data collected from Forrest Drive. A small number of motorists were found to be exceeding the speed limit. He had also gotten a complaint from a Merritt Drive resident, and the speed sentry found that 20 % of residents were exceeding speed limit in that area. The police department did a speed check on Merritt on Saturday and will keep an eye on Forrest also.

The police department has had their computer server for 11 years and they are purchasing a new one with their drug forfeiture fund; Sergeant Dettinger and Detective Ward will be performing upgrades with the installation. Mazzeo read the March report of calls for service for the police department. He mentioned 107 Northwood Court; a tree fell and the residents' claim has been denied. The resident is appealing the claim.

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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.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded for consent agenda for resolutions 61-2011 through 72-2011. Council President Carew noted that Resolution 72-2011 was to authorize a closed session to discuss police contract negotiations, and that it would take place at the end of the regular session.

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

- 61-2011** Refund Overpayment of Taxes
- 62-2011** Cancellation of Tax Sale Certificate
- 63-2011** A Resolution Authorizing the City of Northfield to Enter into a 10 Year Rights-of-Way Use Agreement with Fiber Technologies Networks, L.L.C.
- 64-2011** Request to the County to Use County Roads for Parades and Other Functions
- 65-2011** Award of Contract for General Repairs and Construction of Stormwater Facilities
- 66-2011** Award of Contract for Sanitary Sewer By-Pass at the Pump Station at Davis and Rosedale Avenues
- 67-2011** Authorizing Doran to Proceed
- 68-2011** Award of Contract for the Installation of a Flashing Traffic Signal at the Intersection of Zion Road and Oak Avenue
- 69-2011** Release of Escrow for the Planning Board
- 70-2011** Authorizing the Filing of a 2010 Recycling Tonnage Grant Application
- 71-2011** Authorizing an Interlocal Services Agreement for the Sharing of Gasoline with the City of Margate
- 72-2011** 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 (B) (4) Regarding Contract Negotiations with Mainland PBA Local No. 77

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded to adopt resolutions 61-2011 through 72-2011.

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Roll call: Mr. Dewees – absent; 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 Vain, second of Councilman Smith, all in favor of reading Ordinance 2-2011 by title only.

2-2011 Bond Ordinance Appropriating One Million Two Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,205,000) And Authorizing The Issuance Of One Million One Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,144,750) In Bonds Or Notes Of The City Of Northfield For Various Improvements Or Purposes Authorized To Be Undertaken By The City Of Northfield, In The County Of Atlantic, New Jersey
Final Adoption/Open to the Public
Published in the Press with Statement 04/23/2011

Full copies of the ordinance have been available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk, Monday through Friday, between 9am and 4pm. The City has the receipted copy of the Supplemental Debt Statement, properly filed with the Division of Local Government Services.

Council President Carew opened the public hearing; seeing no one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for final adoption of Ordinance 2-2011.

On a motion of Councilwoman Kern, second of Councilman Smith, all in favor of reading Ordinance 3-2011 by title only.

3-2011 An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Northfield to Enter into an Agreement to Share a Police Chief/Share Police Chief Services with the City Of Linwood
Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press 04/23/2011
2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 05/10/2011

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Councilwoman Kern requested discussion; she said she is pleased to see another shared service on the agenda, adding that our Chief has served us well and will serve Linwood in the same fashion. She congratulated Chief James.
Councilman Vain congratulated Chief James and wished him well.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – abstain; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 3-2011.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilwoman Perri motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 3,622,842.55. The Municipal Clerk noted abstentions on file from Councilman Vain.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – absent; 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.

Jeff Schlundt, 219 Franklin Avenue, said the 1st Street playground needs much; it looks bad as the weeds have taken over. Council President Carew said he will address the matter with public works. Schlundt stated that he has contacted public works for things in the past, and they have been great.

Ray Schlundt, 228 Davis Avenue, presented a map to council outlining need for street light in his neighborhood; it is very dark and there are lots of kids. Carew clarified the location as being from the bike path to 1st Street, and thanked Schlundt.

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

Councilman Vain read the meeting notices.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

This session of Council was previously authorized during the consent agenda. Council President Carew announced that the public session of Council would resume following the closed session, and that formal action may or may not be taken.

72-2011 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 (B) (4) Regarding Contract Negotiations with Mainland PBA Local No. 77

At 8:40 pm Council left the dais and entered the caucus room; Solicitor Ballak, Labor Counsel Larry Pepper, and CFO Marilyn Dolcy were also in attendance. At 9:35pm, the closed session was adjourned and Ballak announced a summary for the record as follows: during the meeting contract negotiations with Mainland Local PBA No. 77 were discussed. It is not anticipated that the minutes of the closed session will be made public as strategy was discussed.

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned at 9:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk