

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD WORK SESSION
MAY 6, 2008**

This meeting was called to order by Carol A. Raph, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised according to Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

The flag salute was led by Mayor Vincent Mazzeo. Following the flag salute, there was a moment of silence to reflect upon the services and sacrifices of the members of the Armed Forces, both home and abroad.

ROLL CALL

Present: Carew, Kern, Notaro, O'Grady, Vain, Zlotnick, Martinez

City Solicitor Steve Scheffler and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Councilman Steve Vain introduced Shannon Meglathery and Kyle Carrier, both 7th grade students in Mrs. Harris' science class at Northfield Community School and participants in the 2007 Northfield Community School Science Fair. Each student submitted a project concerning automobile-related safety issues, and each was subsequently recognized by the South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance for their efforts. Shannon's project focused on seat belt usage, and Kyle's included an analysis of patterns associated with the time of day that automobile accidents occur. Mayor Mazzeo commended each student for their thorough research and hard work and presented each with a Certificate of Achievement in the area of Community Safety Awareness.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Martinez reviewed the agenda; Councilman Vain will be abstaining from the vote on Resolution 79-2008, and Councilwoman Kern will be abstaining from the vote on Resolutions 79-2008 and 84-2008. Kern addressed Council with a question regarding Resolution 69-2008, the proposed sale of a surplus city fire truck on eBay. Mentioning a letter from the Atlantic County Fire Academy asking that Northfield donate the truck, Kern noted that Council had previously reviewed this request and agreed to pursue a direct sale instead. She continued by respectfully requesting that a time limit be imposed on the sale, and that if the truck does not sell within that time, that Council reconsider donating it to the Academy for use in training exercises. Assistant Fire Chief Lauren Crooks was asked about the current condition of the truck. He commented that it is more than 30 years old, and although it cannot be brought up to National Fire Protection Association standards, it would be invaluable to certain entities as a training resource. Discussion ensued with regard to online auction-specific terminology, with Councilman O'Grady explaining the "buy it now" and "reserve not met" eBay options, and it was decided to add a

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“buy it now” option to the online sale terms. In order to streamline communications, Mayor Mazzeo suggested that Councilwoman Kern coordinate all future efforts with regard to the sale of this truck.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Zlotnick provided the following statistics from the March Rescue Squad Report: total calls – 67; mutual aid provided by Northfield: to Linwood – 2; to Egg Harbor Township – 1; mutual aid provided for Northfield: from Linwood – 1; from Pleasantville – 3. Zlotnick stated that several coaches at the All Sports Field recently inquired about having an ambulance on stand-by at the field because there are so many games occurring simultaneously. Council President Martinez directed Councilman Carew to research the need for this service with the All Sports Association.

Councilman Notaro advised Council that Public Works Supervisor Jim Clark will be placing a sign order at the end of the month. Several suggestions regarding necessary signage were made; all are asked to give it some thought and report back to Notaro at the next meeting. The budget is limited, so a needs assessment is warranted. We’ll save money by ordering all necessary signs at once, as opposed to placing several smaller orders over a period of time.

Councilman Vain thanked Ross Rando of 616 Jackson Avenue for coming forward at the last Council meeting to address the traffic safety issues in his neighborhood. Vain visited the area along with City Engineer Doran, Jim Clark, Lieutenant Faden and Chief James, and together they came up with a list of recommended improvements. Since that visit, the hedge on the restaurant property at Jackson and Burton Avenues has been removed, stop bars have been installed at both stop signs, ‘no parking’ signs have been installed near the corners, and larger stop signs have been ordered to make a more visible statement. He extended thanks to all who participated in accomplishing so much in a short period of time, and encourages all citizens to continue to make Council aware of issues of concern. Vain, City Engineer Matt Doran, and Mayor Mazzeo attended a meeting with the Atlantic County Roads and Bridges Committee for the Cedarbridge Avenue project, and the County has agreed to provide funding. Doran submitted preliminary costs to the County and we are awaiting their reply. As stated previously, this is a joint effort between Northfield and Atlantic County, with Linwood declining to participate. It is possible that the project may begin before the end of the year. In conjunction with Councilman Notaro and Deputy Clerk Mary Canesi, Vain has been working on the Welcome to Northfield sign program. He extended his thanks to them for their efforts and

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announced that there are still a few prime sign locations available; interested parties should contact Canesi in the City Clerk's Office.

Councilman Carew commented on the Birch Grove Park Walkway project, the bid for which is slated to be awarded this evening to Albert Marine Construction. The composite decking was chosen because it is a more durable material than treated wood, offering much more longevity for minimal expense. Carew thanked City Engineer Doran for pursuing grant money to assist with funding; the project will cost approximately \$120,000 with \$68,000 coming from a Community Development Block Grant, and another \$25,000 through a Federal Trails Grant. The City's Trust Fund will pay for the balance. Councilman Vain commented that the park looks great, but noted that there do not appear to be trash cans on the trails. Carew agreed that this was a good suggestion and will follow up.

Councilwoman Kern also thanked Ross Rando for bringing the Jackson and Burton Avenues traffic safety issue before Council, and extended her appreciation to Chief James for his attention and quick response. Kern noted that she lives in this neighborhood and said significant improvements have resulted from the changes. The next intersection she'd like to focus on is Mill Road and Burton Avenue, adding that there are no designated areas for pedestrian crossing on Mill Road between Route 9 and Fire Road. Kern inquired about the possibility of a designated 'pedestrian crossing', or a blinking light to serve the same purpose. Councilman Vain commented that during the Cedarbridge Avenue/Zion Road discussions, it had been determined that the County is opposed to putting any type of pedestrian crossing, blinking lights, etc. on a County road such as Mill Road. He added that the County's position is that enforcement is the key to managing traffic issues, and encouraged Kern to meet with the City Engineer to formulate possible suggestions that can be presented to the County. Kern has been working with Councilman O'Grady on the City Hall telephone system; instead of ring tones or music, callers to City Hall get 'dead air' when they enter an extension, giving them the false impression that they've been disconnected. Kern said Captain Clark is addressing the issue, but it is costly to have a technician come out for a single-purpose service call. She added that Clark has requested that City Clerk Carol Raph prepare a list of all telephone-related issues so that all concerns can be addressed in one visit. Kern commented that the grass at the intersection of Tilton Road and Route 9 is very high, asking who is responsible for maintaining the area. Doran advised that it should be the responsibility of Atlantic County and that he will contact them. Kern concluded her committee report with the Fire Department statistics for March: total fire incidents – 16; mutual aid – 2; total EMS incidents – 25; assist with ambulance transport – 0; total non-emergency responses – 4.

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Councilman O’Grady provided a report from the Inspection Department for the month of April: permits issued – 61, for a total of 151 year to date; inspections, including certificates of occupancy – 157, for a total of 532 year to date. O’Grady thanked his wife, Liz O’Grady for her donation of an uninterruptable power supply for the City’s computer systems. He provided a summary of the activities from the May 1st Planning and Zoning Board meeting, and advised that 54 meeting notices have been added to this section of the city website, with records for meeting notices now available back to 2005. He added that the Planning and Zoning Board has approved the Tree Ordinance, and hopes to have that available for the agenda for the next Council meeting. He also attended the April 23rd Traffic Safety Meeting at Jackson and Burton Avenues, and is pleased with the outcome achieved as a result of the input of a citizen. Councilman Carew and Councilman Notaro praised the employees of the Road Department for their hard work and effort in improving the safety of this intersection.

RESOLUTION/2008 BUDGET

57B-2008 2008 BUDGET – PUBLIC HEARING ONLY

7:30pm, as advertised

Budget Synopsis/the Press/April 17, 2008

Final adoption to be scheduled

City Clerk Carol Raph opened this meeting to the public for discussion of the 2008 budget. Seeing none, President Martinez motioned to close the public hearing.

Roll Call: Carew – yes, Kern-yes, Notaro-yes, O’Grady-yes, Vain-yes, Zlotnick-yes, Martinez-yes. Motion carries to close the public hearing for the 2008 Budget.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo attended the Earth Day Fair at Northfield Community School where students demonstrated many great ideas for energy savings and recycling. He also attended the 2nd Annual Happy Home Orphanage Walk, and extended his gratitude to the many volunteers and to the Police Department for making the event such a success. The April Police Report included the following statistics: 89 investigation reports generated, 49 arrests, 808 motor vehicle stops, 369 traffic summonses, 33 motor vehicle crashes and 959 property checks. Mazzeo said he has been in contact with the Atlantic County Utilities Authority, and advised that street sweeping will occur from June 10th to 20th. He thanked the Department of Public Works in advance for distributing the advisory notices to residents. He added that street sweeping is part of the Stormwater Management Program, and is funded by the Clean Communities Grant. On Thursday, Mazzeo will administer the Oath of Office to

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new Library Trustee Joan Sooy, which will give the Board its full complement of 9 members. Mazzeo joined Councilwoman Zlotnick and Councilman Notaro at the Northfield Community School budget reduction meeting on April 24th. Although the eventual budget reduction of \$27,685 does not seem like much, Board Superintendent Linda Albright advised that in conjunction with State aid, this reduction lowered a potential tax increase from 3.1 cents to 2.6 cents. Mazzeo noted that at \$9,600.00 per student, the cost per pupil at the Northfield Community School is well below the Mainland Regional High School average of approximately \$13,000.00. Mazzeo commented on the difficulty of cutting the budget when the school already operates so efficiently. Along with Councilmen Vain and Notaro, he attended the Mainland Regional budget reduction meeting on May 5th, where the budget was reduced by \$175,000.00. It was a lengthy meeting and great effort was expended in achieving the best possible result for taxpayers. Mazzeo commented that the staffs at both schools do a great job. The Public Hearing for the budget of the City of Northfield was held this evening; final adoption is pending based on possible reinstatement of state aid and the final decision of the Library Board regarding the return of funds as permitted by the Moriarty Bill. Mazzeo inquired if all Council members had received the results of the 2007 Audit; all responded affirmatively. Mazzeo noted that there were very few comments made by the Auditors, a claim very few municipalities can make, and commended City CFO Marilyn Dolcy for her hard work and effort. He noted that acceptance of the Audit by Resolution will be put on the next Council meeting agenda.

ENGINEERS REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the City Clerk's office. City Engineer Matt Doran provided updates to the report are as follows: we have received the \$140,000.00 Safe Routes to Schools grant for curb and sidewalks on Cedarbridge Road, and work has begun on the design phase. We should be looking to bid in the month of June. Doran noted that there are also a few projects on hold that may be funded in the Capital Bond Ordinance being introduced this evening.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, the work session portion of the meeting was closed. Council President Martinez requested the City Clerk to open this evening's Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC