

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 24, 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, City Engineer Matt Doran, and Solicitor Keith Bonchi were also in attendance.

VETERAN HONOREES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

Councilwoman Kern announced that our May honorees could not be in attendance this evening. They are a father, daughter, and son-in-law, Richard Newell, Dawn Schol, and Aaron Scholl. Richard Newell served for over 42 years in NJ Air National Guard. He served as mechanic for numerous types of aircraft, and was Command Chief Master Sergeant for the 177th Fighter Wing. He retired as a Chief Master Sergeant for Aircraft Quality Assurance. Newell is a Vietnam Veteran has been fortunate enough to travel to 48 of the 50 states, Italy and Panama through his military career. He has been a Northfield resident for 40 years, with his wife Pat, and they live on Oakcrest Avenue. Kern congratulated Newell.

Dawn Schol enlisted in the NJ Air National Guard 10 years ago as an F16 aircraft mechanic. She participated in Operation Noble Eagle and is an Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran. In 2007 she earned a commission as 2nd Lieutenant and is currently working as an aircraft maintenance officer. She has lived in Northfield her entire life, going through the Northfield school system and Mainland Regional, and participated in various sports through Northfield Allsports.

Aaron Schol is originally from San Antonio, Texas and enlisted in the US Coast Guard 6 years ago as an avionics electrical technician. He has over 570 hours as an air crew flight mechanic and has assisted with multiple hurricane response efforts, as well as search and rescues. Currently, Aaron is working as a company commander drill instructor, petty officer 2nd class, in Cape May, training future guardians. He has been living in Northfield for over 5 years.

Kern congratulated Dawn Schol, her husband, Aaron Schol, and Dawn's father, Richard Newell, and recognized them for the month of May, during which the flag

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 24, 2011**

will be flown in their honor. Kern added that they were sorry they could not be in attendance, but they thank Council.

PRESENTATION OF 9-11 FLAGS BY ACE HARDWARE

Council President Carew introduced Roberta Jensen and Carmen Scrofani from Smith Brothers Ace Hardware, who presented two commemorative 9-11 flags to the City. Jensen is the store manager, and thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity. She read a statement explaining that the Flag of Heroes has the names of all EMS, Fire, Police, and Rescue personnel who perished on 9-11, and the Flag of Honor bears the names of all civilian casualties. Jensen said it is hoped that the City will proudly fly these flags and that our community will never forget.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda. He welcomed Councilman Dewees back to City Council, and congratulated Councilwoman Kern on the birth of her grandchild.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Perri, second by Councilwoman Kern, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the May 10th 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 he met in committee with the Mayor and Council President Carew regarding the senior advisory council; they will start slow and put together a 6 member committee with the Mayor and a Council liaison. If the group gets larger, there are options to recognize it via ordinance or other ways. The Press did a very good article. Perri is looking forward to support from Council and the public.

Council President Carew added that in June the parameters will be established, and an announcement will be made at the June meeting. There will be a public announcement inviting seniors to participate as members of the senior advisory committee. Councilwoman Kern said she'd received telephone calls about it and people are very excited. She thinks it's a great idea.

Councilman Polistina attended the library board meeting, during which there were discussions about the feasibility of expansion. Various user trends were discussed,

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 24, 2011**

and consensus was that fiction continues to be in book form and reference materials tend to be electronic in nature. There was an executive session he did not attend. He also attended the Bootleggers grand opening, it was very nice and he thanks them for coming to our community.

Councilman Vain said the flashing light at Zion and Oak should start in about 2 weeks, and will take 2 weeks to complete. Vain, met with Councilwoman Kern, Mayor Mazzeo, and several members of the community about making a park out of the Oak Avenue property, with part of the park to honor Veterans, and part dedicated to passive recreation. Community volunteers are needed; the next meeting is June 8th at City Hall. Mr. Jarrett, a teacher at NCS, is conducting story-gathering from members of older generations in Northfield about their experiences in the former Northfield schools. Anyone who went through the older Northfield schools who is interested in sharing a story should contact Vain.

Councilwoman Kern said the Citizen of the Year has been chosen, as has the 1st baby and Miss 4th of July. They will be joining us at the June meeting and will be honored. She attended the Neighborhood Watch meeting last week; Chief James and Lieutenant Mitchell provided public safety tips and pointers. The guest speaker was from the American Red Cross was guest speaker; it was very interesting and a good meeting. The Veteran honorees for June are Curtiss Bopp and Jim Moyer.

Councilman Smith said there is no EMS report yet for this month. He expressed thanks to Atlanticare for their attendance at the Little League games on nightly basis. He will provide a full fire report next month but they have had a busy few weeks with two structure fires. He thanked the Fire Department and wished the affected families well. NCS 8th grade graduation will be Thursday, June 16th, at 7pm.

Councilman Dewees had no committee report this evening.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew said Birch Grove Park is open and busy. There is a lot of traffic on Burton Avenue; he urged motorists and pedestrians to pay attention. He congratulated Erland Chau, who was in attendance this evening, on his recent reelection to the School Board. Carew asked Councilman Perri to provide an update on the sanitary sewer contract; Perri recapped the situation. The City Engineer added that he can redo the bid specs for the Sanitary Sewer Emergency Repairs contract. Councilwoman Kern stated that every once in a while there is a small street that is not scheduled for paving, but that can possibly be rolled into another paving project. She referred to a small section of Juniper Drive and said that a resident had inquired. Doran replied that the City can do it as an alternate bid and see how it comes in.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 24, 2011**

Carew noted that DPW Manager Jim Clark had said the City had chosen well in the streets that have been scheduled to be paved. Councilman Polistina said he thought utilities were responsible for damage done to newly paved roads; Doran replied that they are now, but that many sustained damage many years ago. Carew stated that the Willow and Locust paving bid is another \$170-180,000 job that the tax payers are not paying for.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo reminded everyone that Monday is Memorial Day, and provided parade details. The Mayor's Walk was canceled due to weather, but people did show up and did walk. A committee meeting has been scheduled for next week and another Walk has been scheduled for June 12th. He has had interest from other communities also. Mazzeo attended Bootlegger's grand opening, and commented that it the project was very well done. He wished them well and thanked them for investing in Northfield. Recently, two groups of 3rd graders visited City Hall to learn a little bit about our government. Mazzeo thanked Chief James, Assistant Chief Crooks, and Atlanticare for their participation. Linwood's Chief of Police has moved his retirement date to August 1st. Mazzeo said Chief James had sent an email about a property with a broken window; Mazzeo reviewed the procedure for handling property maintenance issues, adding that it has become complicated with foreclosures. Public Works has been pressed but is going to get to some of them this weekend. Mazzeo stated that in these challenging economic times some people have just walked away from their homes, but it is our job to keep the town looking nice. He explained the situation of an abandoned pool at 715 Fuae Avenue; he asked the Municipal Clerk about mosquito control issues. Canesi replied, explaining that the County Health Officer found buckets with standing water, and the pool full of water but not being filtered. The County Board of Health would become involved. Mazzeo noted that there is nothing in our Code that addresses pools other than fencing requirements. He said it should address that pools be proper maintained, and if not, they need to be kept covered. Councilman Vain added that with regard to foreclosed properties, Dattalo has said there have been issues with the banks not being responsive. Council President Carew said the City needs to be more proactive. Solicitor Bonchi offered any legal assistance.

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.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 24, 2011**

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Vain seconded for consent agenda for resolutions 85-2011 through 89-2011.

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.

- 85-2011** Refund Overpayment of Taxes
- 86-2011** Liquor License Renewal for Atlantic City Country Club
- 87-2011** Award of Contract Reconstruction of Willow Drive and Locust Drive
- 88-2011** Release of Escrow Monies from the Planning Board
- 89-2011** A Resolution Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation as per N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87

Councilman Vain noted for the record his abstention from the final adoption vote on resolution 86-2011.

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Vain seconded to adopt resolutions 85-2011 through 89-2011.

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 Councilwoman Kern, second of Councilman Smith, all in favor of reading Ordinance 4-2011 by title only.

- 4-2011** An Ordinance Regulating Street Openings Within the City of Northfield Amending Ordinance 2-2006
Introduction/No Public Input/Published 05/24/2011
2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 06/28/2011

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – abstain; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – abstain; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 4-2011.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 24, 2011**

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 1,800,023.85. 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.

Lynn Kinsler, 617 Jackson Avenue, said she was in attendance representing her neighborhood and noted accidents that occur at Jackson Avenue, in the area of Burton Avenue and Tilton Road. There are lots of small children. Kinsler said cars come off Tilton Road at a high rate of speed; she does not think it's well patrolled. She would like to see a 4 way stop or flashing light, something to draw attention to it. Councilwoman Kern stated that this is her neighborhood. She thinks people do not see the stop sign because they are focused on the traffic light; she also suggested that cars may park a little too close to the corner as well. Councilman Vain asked about prohibiting a turn onto Jackson Avenue from Tilton Road. Chief James replied that State Statute may prohibit it; Vain asked about the 4 way stop. Carew requested that Chief James look at the area and make recommendations. Councilwoman Kern suggested that in the interim, that a trailer or police car may be a deterrent.

Erland Chau, 1001 Shore Road, said the design of the City's Proclamations was submitted by his sister, the spouse of Councilman Dewees, Jackie Chau. Mr. Chau said he is disappointed with the enforcement of our sign ordinance, in particular banners and flags. Nothing was done about a new business that violated the ordinance. Chau said he did report it to the Code Enforcement agent, his call was not returned. Chau said we share the community with commercial establishments but there is give and take. He urged Council to bring the sign ordinance up to date with new technology. It does not address LED technology. He also said he feels the ordinance is being misinterpreted with regard to illegal neon signage. He explained the intention of the neon sign size limitations, and said as one of the contributing parties he has firsthand knowledge of the intent of the language. He has no problem with flags and banners for a grand opening, but they stay up too long, they get tattered and become unsightly. He thanked Council for their time.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 24, 2011**

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 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk