

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 25, 2010**

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. Martinez, Mr. O'Grady, Mr. Perri, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vain, Mr. Carew

Mayor Vincent Mazzeo, City Solicitor Keith Bonchi, and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Martinez, second by Councilman Perri, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of May 11, 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 said the June Planning Board meeting has been canceled due to lack of applications. He attended an Allsports meeting during which vending machines were discussed; Board President Palmieri is in favor. Martinez explained the proposal and the benefits to Allsports of participating. All questions should be directed to John Palmieri.

Councilman Perri said another meeting of the Linwood Northfield Sewer Interlocal Committee has been scheduled at Northfield City Hall. If any seniors have budget questions, please see Perri.

Councilman Vain asked the City Engineer when the flashing light at Oak and Zion can go out to bid; Doran said it will take about a month. Vain asked for volunteers for the August 21st Safe Routes to Schools event at NCS, and for the MRHS Afterprom. He thanked the County for their recent assistance with local projects, especially County Executive Levinson.

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Councilwoman Kern said there is a Municipal Alliance meeting scheduled for June 14th at 4pm in Council Chambers. There will be a Seniors Luncheon June 23rd at the Atlantic City Country Club; flyers and information are available on the City website. Lieutenant Faden will be holding a Coaches Clinic, tentatively scheduled for June 16th. Kern said the Citizen of the Year, 1st Baby and Miss 4th of July presentations will be at the June 15th meeting of Council. She attended the recent meeting of the Neighborhood Watch and said it was very informative. This evening's bill list includes a donation by the Municipal Alliance to the MRHS Afterprom.

Councilman Smith placed a few calls to cell tower companies and is waiting on replies. NCS will be having a Memorial Day observance on Friday, May 28th at 9:15am. Smith will have a mutual aid agreement with the County for the Fire Department at the next meeting. Referring to the new Firestone building, Smith said the new owners have requested a fire hydrant; Smith asked about the proper protocol for handling such a request. Bonchi replied that the Fire Department would make a recommendation to the planning board. Council President Carew pointed out the ongoing associated costs; Doran will investigate.

Councilman O'Grady said the Library Board met on May 13th and welcomed two new members; their next meeting will be June 11th. The City website continues to expand, including a new City News page; we are still looking at options for adding ecommerce. O'Grady issued a reminder about cell phone recycling and made note of locations. The 1st round yielded 40 cell phones. He is also looking at options for an electronics recycling program. He attended a Sustainable Jersey meeting on May 19th at the ACUA and referred to resolution 92-2010 as an action that will earn us points towards certification. Grants are available, and he will be submitting an application on behalf of the City this year. The kickoff meeting for the Local Government Energy Audit was held this week, and a 2nd phase of meetings will begin on June 1st.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew said Birch Grove Park is open, and Vicky and staff are doing well in managing the park operations. The concession stand re-bids will be opened on June 4th; Carew said we are looking to award at the June 15th meeting. The City has packaged two CDBG grants together to do additional work at the park.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo provided details on the Memorial Day parade being held Monday, May 31st. There will be Mayor's Wellness Committee event for employees on May 27th at City Hall; Mazzeo hopes to expand the program to residents in the near future. He received a letter from the attorney representing Omnicare advising the City that

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Palumbo's will be closing on July 16th, resulting in the loss of 73 jobs. The City has seen increases in operating costs for sanitary sewer; Northfield may wish to explore advising residents that sump pumps cannot be connected to the sanitary sewer. They may be unaware and it does increase our costs. This year's budget is a 6.4 cent increase; next year's 2.5 % hard cap will warrant permanent changes. He reviewed losses in State Aid and increases in benefit costs, noting that City Hall has been downsizing for several years and exploring shared service opportunities to reduce the taxpayer burden. Mazzeo asked Chief James to explain a recent County road safety audit.

James said the County conducted a road safety audit of Mill Road from Gifford's Marina to Ocean Heights Avenue. Recommendations included traffic calming devices between Route 9 and Maple Run, and in the area of Wabash. There is major work also planned for Tilton Road. James will provide the report to Traffic Safety Chair Councilman Vain upon receipt.

Mazzeo said James recommended that all bike path and Wabash intersections that involve City streets be 4-way stops. Carew requested the plan be put to paper for the stop signs, with the intention of going from Linwood to Pleasantville

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 a consent agenda for resolutions 83-2010 through 92-2010. Council President Carew noted that 90-2010 is an Executive Session that will be held after the regular meeting.

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

83-2010 A Resolution of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Reading of the Budget by Title Only

84-2010 Authorizing Doran to Proceed – Drainage Improvements at Davis

85-2010 Final Change Order No. 1 – Drainage Improvements at Madison

86-2010 To Authorize Hiring of Seasonal Snack Bar Attendant

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- 87-2010** A Resolution Authorizing Entering into an Agreement with Atlantic County for the Installation of a Flashing Traffic Light System at the Intersection of Zion Road and Oak Avenue in the City of Northfield
- 88-2010** A Resolution Authorizing The Execution Of A Grant Agreement With The New Jersey Department Of Transportation For The Safe Routes To Schools Project
- 89-2010** A Resolution Authorizing Participation In The New Jersey Safe And Secure Communities Program
- 90-2010** 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 Pending Litigation In The Matter Of Inadequate Drainage And Other Unacceptable Improvements In The Burton Estates Subdivision
- 91-2010** Hiring of Seasonal Maintenance Employee for Birch Grove Park
- 92-2010** A Resolution in Support of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman O'Grady seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 1,811,529.16. Vain and Kern announced abstentions from certain line items on the bill list. Perri and Martinez requested the record reflect their abstention from the line item for capital improvement for the lights at Babe Ruth Field.

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

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RESOLUTION/2010 BUDGET

75B-2010 7:00 PM/ PUBLIC HEARING
Final Adoption of the 2010 Budget
Open to the Public

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

Councilman Perri said recommendations were made that were not considered and he would like to be considered for finance committee for next year's budgeting process. At the request of Councilwoman Kern, CFO Dolcy reviewed the budget for the public and said the City is in compliance with all new budget laws. Council President Carew said Northfield, Linwood and Somers Point will be meeting in the very near future to discuss new shared service and consolidation opportunities.

Councilman Vain, motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded for final adoption of Resolution 75B-2010.

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – no; Mr. O'Grady – no; Mr. Perri – no; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. . Motion carries for final adoption of the 2010 Budget.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court, recommended including business people on city budget committees and mentioned raising the rate for fire inspections. He has a petition urging Council to do something with the fence at the public works yard. Carew said a plan is in place and in progress. Tanzola suggested a section of Mill Road be restriped; Vain replied that he will contact the County.

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

Councilman Perri read the meeting notices.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

The Municipal Clerk read the Paff injunction under which the City of Northfield has been bound with regard to closed sessions of Council, and read Resolution 90-2010 by title.

90-2010 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 Pending Litigation In The Matter Of Inadequate Drainage And Other Unacceptable Improvements In The Burton Estates Subdivision

Councilman Perri recused himself from the non-public session due to a conflict.

Solicitor Bonchi announced that the session will focus on the potential revisions, repairs, and renovations to the Burton Estates project and may involve what the damage claim will be in this case. Portions of the minutes may be released in the future after litigation is over but we will not release anything dealing with trial strategy or litigation strategy which much of this session will involve. The actual improvements or design will be released at a future date.

At 8:20pm, Council entered closed session; they remained in Council chambers. At 8:52pm, on motions properly made and seconded, the closed session was adjourned and Bonchi announced a summary for the record as follows: no vote will be required. Council met with the conflict engineer, Kevin Dixon, and reviewed designs for required repairs for the Burton Estates roads. Dixon will proceed on the same track. At some future date this could be released, excluding trial strategy discussion. At 8:53 pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk