

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 28, 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. Polistina, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vain,  
Mr. Carew

Absent: Mr. Perri

*(Mr. Perri entered the meeting at 7:05pm)*

Mayor Vincent Mazzeo and City Engineer Matt Doran were in attendance. Frank Ballak appeared in place of City Solicitor Keith Bonchi.

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES**

Council President Carew introduced Carol Patrick from the Cultural Committee.

**NORTHFIELD'S FIRST BABY, ADDISON LEIGH MOORE**

Patrick thanked Council for the opportunity to present the awards this evening, and said she hopes all residents will come out for the parade. She introduced Northfield's first baby born in 2011, Addison Leigh Moore, and her parents Chadd and Rebecca Moore. Addison was born January 7, 2011. Patrick presented the Moores with a savings bond for Addison, along with a statuette. Mayor Mazzeo presented a certificate to the family, and thanked them for making Northfield their home.

**MISSES 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY, GABBY CARRACCIO AND LINDA CHAMPION**

Patrick introduced Gabby Carraccio and Linda Champion and said they are sharing the title of Miss 4<sup>th</sup> of July for 2011. Both girls are actively involved in assisting handicapped children at the Egg Harbor Township Riding Center and they have been best friends for years. Gabby and Linda will be seniors at Mainland this fall, and spend time exercising the horses after school. They are both on the equestrian team and each plans to go to school for special education. Representatives of the Cultural Committee pinned the sashes, and placed the crowns on the girls' heads. Mayor Mazzeo presented certificates to each girl, and thanked them for their volunteerism. He said it means a lot when youth get involved, and he is proud of the work they are doing.

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**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, ROBERT WEBB**

Patrick introduced Robert Webb, 2011 Citizen of the Year. She said the recipient of this honor is chosen based on service to the community and volunteerism. Mr. Webb worked to support his family from the age of 12 due to the death of his father, and entered the US Navy at age 17. He saw the world, and unfortunately saw war as well. He remained in the Navy until 1990. Webb joined the Northfield Fire Department in 1960 and the Northfield Police Department 1965. He is a member of the American Legion, the VFW, and Knights of Columbus, but he considers his most important work to be teaching the NCS children about our country and speaking to them on behalf of Veterans. Webb also has a military model shed at Birch Grove Park; all of the models were made by Webb himself and donated to the park. He has served Northfield in a great many ways. He married the former Eleanor Swift in 1956, and they have 3 children and 9 grandchildren. Mr. Webb thanked everyone for the honor. Mayor Mazzeo presented him with a plaque and a certificate, and thanked him for his service to our town and to our Veterans. Mazzeo said Mr. Webb makes Northfield a better place to live.

**VETERAN HONOREES FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE**

Councilwoman Kern said each month the City flies the City Hall flag in honor of a Veteran, and she introduced Jim Moyer as one of the two Veteran honorees for the month of June. Mr. Moyer was an ROTC member as an officer while still in college in 1960. He served for 3 years and was stationed at Ft Dix. She thanked Moyer for his service to the community and to our country. Moyer thanked Council for their efforts to recognize the men and women who have served in the military.

Kern also introduced Curtis Bopp. In 1951 Mr. Bopp joined the US Navy and was assigned to the DF44 squadron in Florida, and was in Korea during the Korean conflict. The squadron had 16 fighter planes and was on the USS Boxer and the USS Coral Sea. From 1954-55 he served in squadron VX3 at the Atlantic City Naval Air Base, and he was honorably discharged in 1955. He has been a Northfield resident for 48 years. Kern thanked him for his service to our country. Bopp thanked council for the honor and urged citizens to write to legislators to get Veteran's health care in this area.

Council President Carew announced a 5 minute recess.

**PRESENTATION BY LIBRARY BOARD PRESIDENT**

Council President Carew introduced Shannah Smith, Library Board President, and Stacy Egan, Library Board Member.

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Smith thanked Council for the opportunity, and explained that this year's return of funds was denied by State Librarian due to the present size of the library being inadequate based on the state's population-based requirement. There is a solution in the form of a proposed expansion that will satisfy State Librarian and return \$300,000 to the municipality. The expansion includes a 100 square foot community room, ADA-compliant rest rooms, a kitchenette, a separate entrance/exit for after hours use, and a multipurpose room to accommodate all local groups. She explained planned interior and technological upgrades, and new relationships being fostered with NCS and MRHS and their students. The State Librarian is requesting written approval of the library expansion from the City in order to facilitate the transfer of funds. The expansion plans were displayed on an easel, and were reviewed by Steven Bach, from Bach Associates. Smith and Bach responded to questions from Mayor and Council.

Mayor Mazzeo thanked the group for their presentation, noting that the expansion has been discussed for a number of years. He said as a member of the Board of Trustees, he feels this is a good plan, and is one that also allows the library to return the excess funds. It is a city-owned building, and the improvements would be made without bonding.

Council President Carew explained the 1/3 of the mill, a funding formula mandated by the state. He said there was a time when the library was asking for the City to pay for an expansion by bonding the money. This will allow the library to fund the expansion using the 1/3 of the mill funds.

Shannah Smith explained the new Bill that permits the return of library funds, adding that it requires the library to be in compliance with the size requirements. She explained the square footage formula and said the expansion strikes a balance.

Council President Carew suggested a resolution for the next meeting to approve the plan.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Councilman Vain, second by Councilman Perri, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the May 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Perri attended the 8th grade graduation at NCS. It was a nice event, and the parents and the school did a fine job. He congratulated all graduates. Perri also attended the Flag Day celebration at the school, and said it was another fine event coordinated by Mrs. Devine and does a great job of encouraging patriotism amongst our youth. The award of contract for the sanitary sewer system is on agenda this evening and we are now up to date in the event of an emergency.

Councilman Polistina attended the library board meeting last month. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the City had a tax sale and collected over \$100,000 in delinquencies. We will be sending out an RFP for computer service and support, with proposals due in mid July.

Councilman Vain offered congratulations to the 8th grade class at NCS and wished them luck. The flashing traffic signal at Oak and Zion should be installed next week. The Veterans Park Committee will be meeting tomorrow in council chambers at 6:30pm; he urged anyone interested to attend.

Councilwoman Kern congratulated both Miss 4<sup>th</sup> of July honorees, Mr. Webb, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Baby. She thanked City Council for allowing the Cultural Committee to present their awards here. The Memorial Day Parade was wonderful and the Mayor did fine job arranging it. Kern thanked him. She said the Mayor's Wellness Committee Walk took place and was very successful. The concert series for the Cultural Committee will begin on July 12<sup>th</sup>, and the next one will be July 26<sup>th</sup>. There are several others, also on Tuesdays throughout the summer. The Municipal Alliance supported the Mainland After-Prom, and their next project will be National Night Out. Kern congratulated Mr. Bopp and Mr. Moyer, and announced that Frank Nugent, Robert Nugent, and Vince Dabundo would be the Veteran honorees for July.

Councilman Smith congratulated the NCS and Mrs. Caiafa on a fine job on the graduation, and wished the NCS and MRHS graduates well as they move forward. He read the EMS report for the month of May. Smith congratulated the participants in the primary election, and wished the winners well. He said he is looking forward to everyone putting their best foot forward. As a teacher of government, Smith said he teacher he is disappointed in the voter turnout of only 14%. He looks forward to input and ideas as we move forward.

Councilman Dewees said he met with Public Works Manager Jim Clark, who is getting ready for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities. He also met with Mr. Palmieri from Allsports, and asked if the City workers would line the football field. Council President Carew responded that the matter will be discussed.

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**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Council President Carew provided an update on senior committee, which will consist of the Mayor, two members of Council, and five members of the public. Anyone age 55 and over is invited to contact the City Clerk and submit a resume if they are interested in joining. Carew hopes to introduce committee to the public in August. He commended Council and the Mayor as we move forward with sharing the Chief of Police with Linwood. Carew said he feels very comfortable with Chief James at the helm. The City addressed many drainage issues in 2009-2010, with 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Davis Avenue remaining as an outstanding issue. We have been looking at different plans and have a preliminary figure of \$400,000 to go down Roosevelt Avenue and under Route 9, and either tie into the County system or go under Tilton Road. It's a big job, and we are awaiting a more concrete figure from the engineer as the plan becomes more fully developed. The other areas of town where we've done drainage improvements seem to be faring well, especially during the flash storm today.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Mazzeo said the Memorial Day Parade went well, and that it is important to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. He attended the 8th grade graduation; it was very well organized and another successful graduating class. He said 20-25 people attended the recent meeting of the Walking Club, and explained the Live Long Stay Strong group who will be walking at 6pm each Wednesday as of June 29th for the next 12 weeks. Mazzeo attended the Atlantic County Mayor's Association meeting, and referred to this year's open space grant being for acquisition only. The Association felt that it would be more appropriate if the funds could be used for open space amenities as well. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, Chief James will be sharing his duties with Linwood; Mazzeo explained the organizational structure in Linwood and that we will attempt to align ours with theirs. Lt Faden will be Northfield's Acting Captain at this time. Moving forward we will follow the ordinance with regard to the promotional procedure and a promotion will be forthcoming. He wished James well, and read the Police Department report for May.

**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.

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**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded for consent agenda for resolutions 90-2011 through 102-2011.

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.

- 90-2011** Refund Overpayment of Taxes
- 91-2011** Liquor License Renewal for Northfield Liquors, LLC
- 92-2011** Certification of the Annual Audit
- 93-2011** Authorizing Doran to Proceed
- 94-2011** Liquor License Renewal for Ventura’s Offshore Café
- 95-2011** Final Change Order No. 1 Installation of Sanitary Sewer By-Pass at Davis and Rosedale Avenues’ Pump Stations
- 96-2011** To Authorize the Issuance of a Raffle License for the Church of St Gianna
- 97-2011** To Authorize the Sharing of a Police Chief/Police Chief Services as of July 1, 2011
- 98-2011** A Resolution Establishing Salaries for Non-Union Employees of the City of Northfield for 2011
- 99-2011** Award of Contract for General Construction and Repairs of Sanitary Sewer Facilities
- 100-2011** A Resolution Authorizing the Northfield Police Department to Apply for and Obtain the Grant Known as “Over the Limit Under Arrest 2011”
- 101-2011** 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 Regarding Pending Litigation
- 102-2011** 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 Perri requested that Resolution 98-2011 be removed from the consent agenda. Councilman Polistina motioned, Vain seconded. All voted in favor.

Councilman Perri noted he would be abstaining from the vote on resolution 97-2011.

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Vain seconded to adopt resolutions 90-2011 through 97-2011, and resolutions 99-2011 through 102-2011.

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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.

Councilman Polistina motioned, Kern seconded to adopt resolution 98-2011. Councilman Perri stated he would like further explanation of the resolution.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – abstain; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – no; 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  
*Final Adoption/No Public Comments Received*  
*Published in the Press 07/02/2011*

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 final adoption of Ordinance 4-2011.

On a motion of Councilman Dewees, second of Councilman Perri, all in favor of reading Ordinance 5-2011 by title only.

**5-2011**            Ordinance Providing For And Establishing Salary Ranges Of Officers And Employees Of The City Of Northfield And Repealing All Ordinances Heretofore Adopted, The Provisions Of Which Are Inconsistent Herewith  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published 07/02/2011*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 07/26/2011*

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 for introduction of Ordinance 5-2011.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Vain seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 1,302,422.55.

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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.

Dennis Mahon, 7 Twelve Oaks Court; distributed a document to Council and explained that it is a resolution in support of the Fair School Funding Act. He said the Abbott Act was just approved again, resulting in Northfield losing \$4.3million. He urged Council to read and adopt the resolution.

Erland Chau, 1001 Shore Road, recalled his visit to Council last month regarding a concern about a business owner that is violating the sign ordinance. Councilman Vain replied that a summons had been issued but that the court date was postponed. Chau continued, saying that the allowance of continued violation can be misconstrued as unwillingness by the City to abide by the law. This particular business has continued to put more signs out, as well as vehicles with signage. It sets wrong tone. Chau said he did a recent survey of businesses on Tilton Road and counted at least four who are using vehicles with attached signage. He feels this is a violation of the City ordinance. Other businesses comply and see the violators and ask why they should comply. Problems are caused when violations are not dealt with immediately.

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

Councilwoman Kern asked about Jackson Avenue and the comments made by a resident last week; has there been any progress? Chief James replied that the speed sentry data is being compiled, as is the accident data.

Councilwoman Kern read the meeting notices.

**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 101-2011 by title. The resolution was adopted earlier in the evening under 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.



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**101-2011** 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 Regarding Pending Litigation

Solicitor Ballak explained that this closed session was being convened to discuss a verified complaint filed with the NJ Division of Civil Rights by B.L.R. against the City of Northfield and against Northfield All Sports. Ballak will provide a status update to Council and discuss strategy; since strategy will be discussed it is not anticipated the minutes of the closed session will be released to the public.

At 8:46 pm Council entered closed session and remained in Council Chambers; CFO Marilyn Dolcy was also in attendance. At 9:18pm, the closed session was adjourned and Ballak announced a summary for the record as follows: the status of the pending litigation, and claims presented were discussed.

**RESOLUTION**

Ballak announced that resolution 103-2011 would provide for authorization for the City Solicitor to settle the complaint that was filed by B.L.R. against Northfield All Sports for sum of \$1000, with denial of any liability or wrongdoing on behalf of the municipality, as well as the authority to prepare all releases.

Councilman Vain motioned, Perri seconded to adopt resolution 103-2011.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – no; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for adoption of resolution 103-2011.

**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 102-2011 by title. The resolution was adopted earlier in the evening under 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.

**102-2011** 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

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Solicitor Ballak announced that the closed session was being convened to discuss the current status of negotiations with Mainland PBA Local No. 77; as strategy will be discussed it is not anticipated that the minutes of the closed session will become available to the public.

At 9:25pm Council left the dais and entered the caucus room; Solicitor Ballak, Labor Counsel Larry Pepper, and CFO Marilyn Dolcy were also in attendance. At 10:32pm, 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 10:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk