

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 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, after which a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mrs. Kern, Mr. Martinez, Mr. O'Grady, Mr. Perri, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vain,
Absent: Mr. Carew

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

Councilman Smith motioned, Vain seconded to elect Councilwoman Cindy Kern as Council President for this evening's meeting due to the absence of President Carew. All present in favor.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

Council President Kern announced the evening's honorees, and introduced Carol Patrick from the Cultural Committee.

MISS 4TH OF JULY, EMILY LEWIS

Mazzeo introduced Lewis and Patrick described Lewis' lengthy record of volunteerism, various activities, and many accomplishments. A life-long Northfield resident, Lewis lives with her mother, Beth, and her brother David. She has two sisters, Rebecca (Matt), and Rachel (Colin), and is very involved in drama, dance and soccer. She is the daughter of the late Dave Lewis, and is very involved in charitable activities that support his memory. Patrick congratulated Lewis, and pinned on her sash, and tiara.

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR, CHARLES AND JEAN LAWLESS

Patrick introduced this year's co-honorees for citizen of the year, Charles and Jean Lawless, and read a lengthy list of their volunteer activities. They will be unable to attend the parade, but have asked that a young Marine drive in the car to represent them. Mazzeo thanked them for their volunteerism.

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FIRST BABY, MAHKAI A'SHAN CORBIN

Patrick introduced Mahkai, born on January 10th of this year, and his parents, Lester and Twane, and presented his parents with a small trophy and certificate.

Patrick invited all to the annual 4th of July parade, and thanked Council for having the Cultural Committee and their annual presentations at this meeting. President Kern announced a five minute recess.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Kern resumed the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Solicitor Bonchi announced that resolution 109-2010 will be clarified to apply only to police and fire.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Vain, second by Councilman Smith, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of May 25, 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 there was a good turnout for recent football sign-ups, and that five vending machines will be installed by the time of the next Council meeting. Sponsorships may lead to new equipment without taxpayer funding. The next Allsports meeting will be July 14th, and the June Planning Board meeting has been canceled.

Councilman Perri said negotiations are ongoing with Linwood for the sewer interlocal agreement. He requested that resolutions 107 and 110 be voted separately from the consent agenda.

Councilman Vain said the Safe Routes to Schools event being held from 9am to noon on August 21st is still in need of volunteers.

Councilman Smith read statistics from the Fire and EMS reports for month of May. NCS graduation is June 24th, and MRHS June 25th. Smith has been in contact with Tower Economics regarding cell tower placement in Northfield; he sent them tax maps so they can look at city owned property for possible locations.

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Councilman O'Grady said the Library Board met on June 10th and a committee will be established to discuss ongoing library issues; they would like Council to be involved. New items are going up on the website regularly. O'Grady is looking at ecommerce vendors to facilitate online payments for residents. He attended a Sustainable Jersey training session yesterday, and said phase II of the energy audit has been completed. He is also investigating an e-waste recycling program, possibly as a shared service with the ACUA that will not involve a fee to residents. Councilman Martinez suggested that once the library committee is formed, that an explanation be provided to the public about library funding to clarify misconceptions. O'Grady agreed.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Kern said the Municipal Alliance met on June 14th; and described several upcoming programs. She referred to the Northfield sign at Tilton and Route 9; the State agreed to pay for the sign when Route 9 was reconstructed there and they recently completed the landscaping. She thanked them, adding that the project is now complete. Kern announced that Officer Kristina Ramsi participates as a torch bearer in Special Olympics each year and congratulated her for her volunteerism.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo said the recent Memorial Day parade and ceremony were very successful, and thanked the volunteers and organizers. A group of NCS 3rd graders visited City Hall last Thursday, and another group will be visiting this week. He thanked the employees who participated. Mazzeo mentioned the 2009 audit and encouraged all members of Council to read the Management Letter. Public Works has filled the hole in at the Oak Avenue property; next week Mazzeo will be walking the property with a landscape architect to get ideas. There are no plans right now. He referred to 4 way stops recommended by Chief James and said we'll need an ordinance to adopt them. We'll be switching from T1 line to Comcast in the Police Department, for a savings of approximately \$300 monthly. Mazzeo read the statistics from the May Police Department report.

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 Smith motioned, Councilman Martinez seconded for a consent agenda for resolutions 93-2010 through 106-2010, and 108-2010 through 109-2010. All in favor; none opposed.

- 93-2010** Authorization to Create a Lien on Block 36 Lot 8
- 94-2010** Refund Overpayment of Taxes - Various
- 95-2010** Cancellation of Tax Sale Certificate
- 96-2010** A Resolution of the City of Northfield Authorizing an Interlocal Services Agreement with the Atlantic County Improvement Authority for the Administration of the Program Income from Small Cities Grants for Housing Rehabilitation
- 97-2010** To Authorize Liquor License Renewals for the Year 2010-2011
- 98-2010** Certification of the Annual Audit
- 99-2010** To Authorize the Hiring of Seasonal Snack Bar Attendant
- 100-2010** Authorizing Doran to Proceed
- 101-2010** Refund of Overpayment of Taxes Due to County Board Judgment
- 102-2010** Refund of Escrows by the Planning Board
- 103-2010** Authorization to Create a Lien on Block 67 Lot 1.16
- 104-2010** Authorization to Create a Lien on Block 78 Lot 8
- 105-2010** Authorizing Release of Performance/ Cash Guarantees and Posting of Maintenance Guarantee for Commerce Bank, Block 41 Lot 3
- 106-2010** Corrective Action Plan for 2009 Audit
- 108-2010** Resolution of the City Of Northfield, in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey Making Application to the Local Finance Board Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-26(E)
- 109-2010** Authorizing Mutual Aid Agreement with Atlantic County

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Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Martinez seconded to adopt by consent agenda resolutions 93-2010 through 106-2010, and 108-2010 through 109-2010.

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

Councilman Smith motioned, Vain seconded to adopt resolution 107-2010.

107-2010 A Resolution Establishing Salaries for Non-Union Employees for 2010

Councilman Perri said he expressed dissatisfaction on this subject when the budget was adopted. Mayor Mazzeo said he understands that individuals who voted against the budget may vote against this as well, and said it is actually a small decrease over last year. Perri noted the Garcia Act, and said he was told volunteers cannot be paid. Bonchi clarified; volunteer fire personnel are not city employees and are paid stipends excepted under Garcia Act. Councilman Martinez disagreed with Bonchi’s explanation.

Roll call: Mr. Martinez – no; Mr. O’Grady – no; Mr. Perri –no; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes. The Municipal Clerk announced that the vote resulted in a tie, and called upon Mayor Mazzeo to cast the deciding vote: Mayor Mazzeo – yes. Motion carries.

Councilman Martinez motioned, Smith seconded to adopt resolution 110-2010.

110-2010 Award of Contract for the Concession Stand at Birch Grove Park

Councilman Martinez suggested a prefabricated snack bar building that would cost much less. Mayor Mazzeo noted that funds in excess of the \$300,000 grant monies would come out of the Trust Fund; this includes soft costs that could reach 18%. He said it was his understanding that only \$25,000 would come from the Trust. Eileen Pantalena, on behalf of the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board, said a prefab building would not last nearly as long as a masonry building, and that the cost did not include any interior items. Discussion ensued. Sue Dickinson, alternate member of the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board, said the Board knew the grant amount and assumed council knew that balance of monies would come from the Trust account. Perri expressed concern over various sources of funding, and is opposed to the project. O’Grady asked for clarification on Trust Fund versus City money. Dolcy explained.

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Councilman Vain motioned, Martinez seconded, to table resolution 110-2010. All in favor; none opposed.

ORDINANCES

On a motion of Councilman O'Grady, second of Councilman Perri, all in favor of reading Ordinance 6-2010 by title only.

6-2010 An Ordinance To Amend Third Sentence Of Section 73-3.B Of The Northfield Municipal Code To Modify Information Disclosure Requirements On Registration Certificate For Rental Units, Apartments And Certain Dwelling Units
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press 06/19/2010
Second Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 07/13/2010*

Roll call: Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O'Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 6-2010.

On a motion of Councilman Perri, second of Councilman Smith, all in favor of reading Ordinance 7-2010 by title only.

7-2010 An Ordinance Repealing Section 48-2(B) So As To Allow the City Of Northfield To Issue And/Or Auction A Plenary Retail Distribution License
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press 06/19/2010
Second Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 07/13/2010*

Roll call: Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O'Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 7-2010.

On a motion of Councilman O'Grady, second of Councilman Vain, all in favor of reading Ordinance 8-2010 by title only.

8-2010 Ordinance Amending Ordinance 3-2009 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 in the Press 06/19/2010
Second Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 07/13/2010*

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Roll call: Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 8-2010.

On a motion of Councilman O’Grady, second of Councilman Perri, all in favor of reading Ordinance 9-2010 by title only.

9-2010 Amending Ordinance 3-2007 Regarding Reimbursement Of Expenses To The City Of Northfield For Hazardous Materials Spill Clean Ups
Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press 06/19/2010
Second Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 07/13/2010

Roll call: Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 9-2010.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Vain seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 1,911,076.46. 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: Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes; Motion carries.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, commented positively about the programs put on for children at NCS involving veterans, and thanked the NCS for their continued good work. He noted several potholes around town that need repair, and commented that seniors need tax relief.

Peri Pantazes, 1 Madison Avenue, suggested a prefab building for Birch Grove Park to save Trust Fund money. She asked if volunteers get health benefits; CFO Dolcy responded that they do not.

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Steve Wynn, 107 Haviv Drive, commented that the City does not have to spend all available grant funds, and that annual tax increases are too high.

David Goldstein, 116 Dolphin Avenue; listed his credentials as a business professional and chef, and said he feels business people should be involved in helping to run the town. He is opposed to the snack bar building because of the cost.

Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court, says we need a snack bar, and that a prefab building can look very nice.

Joan Brennan, 116 Dolphin Avenue; expressed concern about the number of vacant homes in Northfield and their affect on the value of all homes. She feels they increase crime and the taxes of those that are still here.

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

Councilman Vain read the meeting notices.

At 9:01pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk