

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 24, 2012**

At 6:49pm, 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. Brown, Mr. Dewees, Mr. O’Neill, Mr. Perri, Mr. Polistina,  
Mr. Vain, Mr. Carew

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

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda; he announced that the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to the Massari girls, slated for this evening’s agenda, would be postponed until the August meeting.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Perri, second by Councilwoman Brown to dispense with the reading of the minutes of May8, 2012, May 22, 2012 and June 6, 2012. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office.

Councilman Perri stated he has concerns that he did not have time to raise and will be voting no.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – no; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain –yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Perri thanked those in the community, volunteers and paid, who left their families to help others during the unprecedented storm. Pump stations were

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operated manually to keep the system flowing; the staff of the Sewer Department did a fine job. The Senior Advisory group met and has postponed their July event.

Councilman O'Neill said a small piece of I.T. equipment had to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$1000.00. He asked if an insurance claim had been filed with the JIF for storm damage. Council President Carew confirmed.

Councilman Vain said Veteran's Park donations have been sufficient to start Phase I of that project. He thanked Mr. Webb and Bill Vain for coming to every meeting. The next meeting will be August 9<sup>th</sup>. He thanked all City employees for their efforts during the storm.

Councilman Polistina read the Fire Department report for January through June. He noted that 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter tax bills are being mailed but are late due to the state budget being late.

Councilman Dewees announced that Public Works has cleared all roadways post-storm and is working on clearing remaining residential debris. Extra equipment has been rented for this purpose; ACUA is responsible for the debris but may have difficulty with larger sections of trees and the City will be helping out. Dewees also provided an update regarding the condition of the columns at the entrance to City Hall and their pending repair.

Councilwoman Brown said NCS is now offering breakfast; the kindergarten 'green top' will become the 'blue top' when it is resurfaced, and the gym floors are being refinished. There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to confirm the appointment of Judge Waldman. She said the relocation of the Court Office is now complete; the Economic Development Commission will meet July 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Brown said she has heard from residents who are not happy with how the storm was handled. She is proud of the employees and volunteers and feels they did their absolute best. Brown announced that Randy Clark now has a Facebook page, and asked anyone interested to 'like' it.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Council President Carew announced that the City was awarded a Green Energy Grant to replace the AC systems at City Hall. This was a \$38,000 job with cost to City of \$10,000.00. Carew noted the severity of June 30<sup>th</sup> storm and thanked all City employees and volunteers.

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**VETERAN HONOREE FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST**

Council President Carew introduced Veteran of the Month honoree for August, Paul Newman.

Councilman Vain said Newman enlisted in the United States Army on September 2, 1986, one day after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. His Military Occupational Specialty, or M.O.S., was the Military Police. He attended Basic Training and the U.S. Army Military Police School at Ft. McClellan, in Aniston, Alabama. Upon graduation, he was assigned to West Germany and was stationed with the 7<sup>th</sup> Army Training Command, 536<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company in Grafenwoher, 30 miles from the then Czechoslovakian border. His duties included law enforcement and installation security. Military Police duties ceased around 1988 when he was selected as the driver for the Company Commander. Newman attained the rank of Specialist (E4) ending his enlistment with the Regular Army in 1989. He subsequently enlisted the United States Army Reserve and was assigned to the Storck Army Reserve Center Northfield NJ with the 78<sup>th</sup> Training Division. He attended the Primary Leadership Development Course, Drill Sergeant School and the Basic Non-Commissioned Office Course rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant. His unit was mobilized in support of Operation Desert Storm from January 1991 through March 1991. They provided basic military training to Kuwaiti volunteers, brought to Ft. Dix NJ, so they could be returned to Kuwait in order to rebuild and restore their homeland after the expulsion of the Iraqi Army. Newman was Honorably Discharged on May 3, 1994. He is a lifelong resident of the City of Northfield where he lives with his wife and two children.

Along with Mayor Mazzeo, Vain congratulated Newman and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. Newman thanked Council for the honor, and said the Army changed his life and affects everything he does.

Council President Carew announced a 5 minute recess and resumed the meeting at 7:15pm.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Mazzeo thanked the Cultural Committee for organizing the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade. He announced the details for National Night Out and the Fun Run. There was a DWI check point last weekend which yielded seven arrests; four were for DWI and three for CDS. He read the June Police Department report and a report on activities after the June 30<sup>th</sup> storm that involved Police, Fire, Public Works and the Office of Emergency Management, including clearing of roads, damage assessments,

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communication efforts and power outages. Mazzeo said debris removal efforts are ongoing and that he is proud of the response of the employees and volunteers. He read a letter from OEM Coordinator George Clark recognizing the efforts of DPW Supervisor Jim Clark, and another letter from a resident commending Police and Fire personnel for their prompt response in an alarm situation.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the Municipal Clerk's office. Updates were as follows: Doran said the Broad Street design should go to the State soon; they should have a price by September. The drainage at Leeds is 50% done. For the Hemsley Pump Station he hopes to have a bid to award at the August meeting. The pipe from 2nd Street to New Road is in the street; the pipe from New Road to Maple had to be moved to the side due to utility conflicts; they will put in new curb and sidewalk when they are done.

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion of Councilman Polistina, second of Councilman Vain, all in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 113-2012 through 121-2012.

- 113-2012** Refund of Overpayment of 2012 Taxes Block 179.02 Lot 47 C4309
- 114-2012** Authorizing Issuance of a Raffle License for the Sodality of St Gianna
- 115-2012** Authorizing Issuance of a Bingo License to St Gianna Beretta Molla Parish
- 116-2012** Authorizing Issuance of a Raffle License to St Gianna Beretta Molla Parish
- 117-2012** Authorizing Doran to Proceed
- 118-2012** Confirming the Appointment of Mitchell Waldman as Municipal Court Judge for the City of Northfield
- 119-2012** Authorization to Extend the Due Date for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Tax Payments
- 120-2012** Award of Contract for the Purchase of a Backhoe Loader

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**121-2012**      Rejection of All Bids for Walkways at Birch Grove Park Phase III

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Vain seconded to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 113-2012 through 121-2012.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes.

**ORDINANCES**

Councilwoman Brown motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt Ordinance 7-2012, to be read by title only.

**7-2012**      Amending Chapter 194 of the Municipal Code of the City of Northfield Entitled Games of Chance  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption*  
*Published in the Press July 28, 2012*

The Municipal Clerk read the ordinance by title, and announced that since introduction, full copies of the ordinance have been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the Municipal website and have been available at no cost in the Office of the Municipal Clerk to any person requesting same.

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

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for final adoption of Ordinance 7-2012.

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilwoman Brown seconded to adopt Ordinance 8-2012, to be read by title only.

**8-2012**      An Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of the City of Northfield to Establish the Position of Purchasing Agent  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption*  
*Published in the Press July 28, 2012*

The Municipal Clerk read the ordinance by title, and announced that since introduction, full copies of the ordinance have been posted in the lobby of City Hall

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and on the Municipal website and have been available at no cost in the Office of the Municipal Clerk to any person requesting same.

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

Councilman O'Neill requested confirmation that there is no cost associated with this ordinance; Carew confirmed. Councilman Perri inquired about new policies and procedures. Carew replied that the City will still obtain quotes for any purchases over \$1,000.00. Polistina offered to review the City's purchasing procedures with Perri.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O'Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for final adoption of Ordinance 8-2012.

**9-2012**            An Ordinance Amending the 1986 Land Use and Development Ordinance, as Amended, and Amending the City's Zoning Map and Schedule of District Regulations  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press July 28, 2012  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption August 28, 2012*

The Municipal Clerk read the ordinance by title, and announced the publication, public hearing and final adoption dates. Full copies of the ordinance are posted in the lobby of City Hall, on the Municipal website and shall be available at no cost in the Office of the Municipal Clerk to any person requesting same through the date of the public hearing.

Councilman Perri stated that he feels the Shore Road changes will not benefit the community, and inquired if property owners on the 200' list would be noticed; the Municipal Clerk confirmed.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O'Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – no; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 9-2012.

**RESOLUTION**

Councilman Polistina motioned, Dewees seconded, to adopt Resolution 122-2012.

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**122-2012**      Appointing a Qualified Purchasing Agent for the City of Northfield

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 1,300,574.39.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – 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.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, said the storm was an Act of God and that it brought people together. He asked who authorized dispatch switch. Councilwoman Brown responded that she was in charge of that committee; their actions were delayed due to the storm but will resume in August. Webb also expressed concern about Atlanticare fees.

Tom Wolfe, Davis Avenue, commended the City, saying they did great job with the storm. He inquired if the City has an emergency shelter with a generator, and asked why the school is not a shelter and does not have a generator. Council President Carew replied that City Hall has generator and can be used as a shelter. Wolfe expressed concern about tree ordinance, and about dead and diseased trees that need to be cut down.

Meredith Punthrankel, 2021 Sutton Avenue, read a letter expressing dissatisfaction with how tax appeals were handled by the Tax Assessor, and his conduct, at the County hearings. Solicitor Bonchi explained that because the Assessor was not issued a Rice Notice, the matter could not be discussed publicly.

Ray Adams, 238 Mt Vernon Avenue, asked about a shared clean-up effort with Linwood. Mayor Mazzeo stated that he did not discuss this with Linwood but that Northfield is discussing outsourcing; he added that the City was waiting for the Public Assistance declaration from FEMA.

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Jerry McGee, 1620 Zion Road, asked if contractors doing work in Northfield are supposed to take their refuse with them, and asked if licenses are required.

Seeing no one else from the public wishing to speak, Council President Carew closed the public session.

Councilwoman Brown read the meeting notices.

At 8:01pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk