

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 10, 2010**

At 7:00pm, this meeting was called to order by Robin Atlas, Deputy 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 for our Armed Forces.

**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.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Martinez reported on All Sports. There has been an issue with the use of the ball fields and insurance documents that are required. There was a letter which states that the Clerk will alert Council President at the time of a request. Specifically, there was an issue with a soccer club and Mr. Martinez questioned whether or not the insurance has been approved and asked for clarification that use of the fields by the soccer club can move forward. President Carew addressed this and said there needs to be a chain of command in process and that is why the letter was generated. All Sports knows their business best and if a recommendation comes directly from All Sports, we should move forward on it. Mr. Martinez thanked all the volunteers who work out at the ball fields. He understands that time is tight and that working people are very busy. He thanked them for all they do. Mr. Martinez received an email from a resident from 302 Clark Place regarding boats and trailers parked on city streets. This issue needs to be revisited and amended. The time frame allowing boats and trailers to be parked on the street needs to be addressed. Mrs. Kern agreed and said she has also heard comments and is in favoring of pursuing this. Mr. Vain said he will bring this up with Mike Dattalo, the Zoning Officer. Mr. Martinez said he understands these items being in the street during the summertime when they are being used, but not in the winter when they can affect snow plowing. President Carew asked for input from Mr. Doran. He noted that the Ordinance committee, a subcommittee of the Planning Board, is meeting again tomorrow night and will be addressing this issue as part of the re-writing of the Land Use Law. The committee plans to recommend limiting the time these items are allowed to be parked on city streets and this will be

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coming to Council in the near future with a lot of other recommendations from the Land Use committee.

Councilman Perri congratulated the 10 to 11 year old Cardinals baseball team and coaches and for winning the sectionals and division. He has been following their success in The Press and thanked them for putting Northfield on the map with their wins. Mr. Perri commented on sewer flows and has reached out to the Water Co. They will compile numbers and get back to him. He said he is looking into upgrading the sewer pumping station on Hemsley Place and dealing with the intrusion into the system. He will follow up at the next Council meeting after reviewing quotes received tonight from Mayor Mazzeo. Mr. Perri would also like to meet with managers in the sewer department and the ACUA to determine how calibrations are done with the pumping station and also speak with in house people who are familiar with our system and flows. President Carew asked for more information about the intrusion and the Hemsley pump station. Mr. Perri said City Engineers have said there is a problem. Mayor Mazzeo commented that the Engineers said there may be an intrusion in the infrastructure and the cost could be between \$120,000 and \$150,000. Usage fees have gone up due to this possible intrusion and it needs to be looked into, but it is costly. The City needs to look into ways to fund this improvement. Mr. Carew said this needs to be discussed with the in-house department who can provide a full report.

Councilman Vain congratulated Northfield baseball and softball teams for their success. They have served Northfield proudly and the kids have all conducted themselves in a great manner. Mr. Vain commented on Northfield's National Night Out and the huge turnout. A bike and a safety helmet were given away and he thanked the Northfield Police Department who did a great job. It was the biggest turnout ever and not too hot weather-wise. Mr. Vain mentioned a bike rodeo which will take place at the Community School on August 21<sup>st</sup>. He said volunteers are needed. People can bring bikes and helmets to the event and they will be inspected for safety. There will be an obstacle course and two bikes per grade level will be given to 9 to 12 year olds. Mr. Vain acknowledged Maryann Devine and said she has been recognized for her outstanding efforts by a National Veteran's Chapter. She is an official Veteran's Day sponsor and is doing a good job.

Councilwoman Kern said the Alliance has been quiet at this time. There were a few luncheons and programs in late spring. The Alliance funded the Northfield national Night Out with great success and was a nice night enjoyed by all. Mrs. Kern said The Cultural Committee has sponsored Concerts in the park and there is an Ice Cream Social tonight at Birch Grove Park. Mrs. Kern brought up the problem of overhanging trees from a neighbor's property and who would be responsible and how it should be dealt with. Mr. Bonchi commented that you can cut what is overhanging

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onto your property, but you should ask the neighbor first as it is the polite thing to do. This is not covered by the City's Property maintenance or a code violation and the City should not get in the middle of it. Mrs. Kern had a suggestion to place a sign out at the ball fields stating that no softball should be played on the baseball fields and should be limited to play on the softball field only. Softball creates ruts in the infield and ruins the fields for baseball playing. Mr. Martinez said he will bring this up with All Sports. Mrs. Kern also congratulated both the baseball and softball teams for their success.

Councilman Smith spoke about the ball fields also. He said there have been a few instances where the fields were unplayable. He asked for better care and maintenance of the fields. Mr. Martinez said he is aware of the sprinkler issues, but feels that the fields are in pretty good shape. Mr. Smith asked that this issue be brought up with All Sports.

Concerning the Fire Department, Mr. Smith said there were 30 total incidents. He referred to a letter from Assistant Chief Crooks about a shortfall in fire safety at City Hall. Carbon Monoxide detectors do not exist and a fire alarm system is needed. He would like to see a department head committee formed to address these issues. Mr. Smith gave an EMS report with statistics. Mr. Smith reported that tax bills have been mailed and reminded that the time to appeal assessments for 2010 has passed. Appeals for 2011 can be done next year and the deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Any tax questions can be addressed to Cindy Ruffo, Tax Collector and any assessment questions can be directed to Mark Sykes, Tax Assessor. Mr. Smith has been in contact with John Tallman concerning cell tower economics and the next meeting is Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. He invited committee members, but reminded no more than three council representatives can be in attendance. The meeting is to provide insight and discuss possibilities. Mr. Smith has been comparing electricity companies and has estimates. He said Council should move forward and seek bids from these companies to reduce bills. He said Mr. O'Grady submitted an energy audit of different providers and would like to move forward to reduce costs. President Carew said he has been in communications with one company and they could not go forward due to legal reasons and indemnity issues. There is a second company that will hopefully not have the same issues and he looks forward to moving ahead in September. Mr. Bonchi will be contacted for any legal issues. Mr. Smith also congratulated the Little League boys, girls' softball, and the coaches for a job well done. He quoted from The Press that the Little League both "won and lost with class".

Councilman O'Grady commented that Northfield's National Night Out was a fantastic event and the attendance was incredible. He thanked Mayor Mazzeo, Chief James and the Police Department for doing a great job. Mr. O'Grady congratulated

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Northfield's Little League. Mr. O'Grady reported on the Library. The next meeting is August 12<sup>th</sup>. An energy audit is being conducted. For the technology committee, Mr. O'Grady is in the process of preparing an RFP for e-commerce services so that the City can accept credit card payments and e-checks. For the Green Team, he wants to attend a Rutgers Sustainable Jersey event on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. O'Grady asked that Council review the energy audit and provide feedback.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Carew commented on the success of Northfield's National Night Out and said he heard positive comments for days following the event and thanked all involved. President Carew said the ice cream social was happening tonight at Birch Grove Park. He hoped they had a good turnout with the heat and humidity. He heard music when traveling by the area earlier in the evening and said they always do a nice job. President Carew commented on the electricity bills which will be addressed in September concerning third party distributors. President Carew said he would like to recognize the Little League District 16 Champs who are the 12-year-olds that made it to the States. He said they will grow from the respect they received from the experience. They visited the Governor's mansion and handled themselves in a manner that makes the City proud. He would like to invite both the girl's softball and boy's baseball teams to attend the September 10<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. He said the room will be a sea of red.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Mazzeo commented on the Harley motorcycle dedication at Sigano's. The event was well attended by the community and police officers. Mayor Mazzeo said Northfield's National Night Out was a success again and he thanked the Alliance, Chief James and the Police. He was proud of the turnout. The Atlanticare Wellness van will be back for follow up employee health evaluations initiated last year. The Mayor congratulated Little League and said there were great turnouts at the games and he is proud of the support from the community. The Mayor reported he is waiting for a State Insurance proposal. Currently the City is under JIF. There may need to be a special meeting if the State is not heard from in order to go with JIF again. Mayor Mazzeo commented that by Ordinance the City does not collect construction debris. Residents have been complaining about this. He has sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency about having a clean community day a few times a year using grant money at no cost to the taxpayers. Mayor Mazzeo reported that Chief James has conducted a survey at two areas no longer manned by Crossing Guards. He gave statistics. He said it was suggested that parents be provided with maps so they know where the crossing guards are. He said Jackson Avenue and Shore Road will no longer have a guard as well as Jackson and Fuae. The Mayor has

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asked that a police car be stationed at Jackson and Fuae when available. Mayor Mazzeo read the statistics pertaining to the Police Report. Mr. Martinez asked the Mayor if there would be a limit on the amount of construction debris that would be picked up under the program he is looking into. The Mayor said he would need to discuss this with Jim Clark, but he would think one trash can may be appropriate. Mr. Perri asked the Mayor ask if a Police Officer could man Jackson & Shore Road if they are not busy. He said he would look into this.

**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. Mr. Perri said the intersection at Franklin Avenue and Broad Street needs addressing. There are pot holes and grass growing in the street. Mr. Doran said this intersection is part of the Engineer's recommendations and will be improved hopefully next year. Mr. Perri said the barricade between Putting Green and the bike path needs repairing. Mr. Doran said a car may have gone through it and there may be insurance money to repair it. Mayor Mazzeo said another trash can is needed on the bike path near Dolphin Avenue. Mr. Perri said a trash can is needed near Haddon Avenue specifically. Mrs. Kern said more recycle cans along the bike path are needed. She said she will reach out to the ACUA.

**RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilwoman Kern motioned, Councilman Vain seconded for a consent agenda for resolutions 127-2010 through 137-2010. All present in favor. Council President Carew noted that 137-2010 is an Executive Session that will be held after the regular meeting.

- 127-2010** Authorizing Release of Maintenance Guarantee Block 37 Lots 8 & 9
- 128-2010** Authorizing Release of Inspection Escrow Block 160 Lots 15 and 17
- 129-2010** Release of Escrow Monies from the Planning Board
- 130-2010** Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for 2011 Municipal Aid for the Reconstruction of Locust Drive and Willow Drive
- 131-2010** Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the

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2011 Bikeway Program for the Traffic Markings and Stripes at Bike path Project

- 132-2010** Authorizing the Sale of (1) Plenary Retail Distribution License
- 133-2010** Authorizing Doran to Proceed
- 134-2010** Authorize Award of Contract for Walkways at Birch Grove Park, Phase II
- 135-2010** Authorize Raffle License for the Church of St Gianna
- 136-2010** Authorize Award of Contract Drainage at Hollywood Drive
- 137-2010** A Resolution Providing for an Executive Session Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Meetings Public Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 Regarding Potential Litigation in the Matter of a Formal Protest Filed Against Certain Bidders on the Project Known as Concession Stand at Birch Grove Park

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – no; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

**ORDINANCES**

On a motion of Councilman Smith, second of Councilman O’Grady, all in favor of reading Ordinance 10-2010 by title only.

- 10-2010** An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 48-1 To Set An Annual Fee For A Plenary Retail Distribution License  
*Final Adoption/No Public Comments Received*  
*Published in the Press 08/14/2010*

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – abstained; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for final adoption of Ordinance 10-2010.

On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilwoman Kern, all in favor of reading Ordinance 11-2010 by title only.

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**11-2010** An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 111-35 To Remove Certain Streets Or Parts Thereof From Being Designated As Through Streets And Amending Ordinance 111-36 To Add Stop Intersections  
*Final Adoption/No Public Comments Received*  
*Published in the Press 08/14/2010*

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 for final adoption of Ordinance 11-2010.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Vain seconded, for payment of bills in the amount \$ 5,393,918.72. Kern, Vain and Smith announced abstentions from certain line items on the bill list.

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.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, addressed Council. He commented that the intersection of New Road and Revere Avenue is terrible as is West Revere Avenue. Concerning construction waste, he suggested a dumpster be placed at the city garage to allow residents to dump construction debris there. He said that taxes are terrible and the City needs to stop wasting money. People are hurting and tomorrow’s children will be hurting by what is happening today.

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

Councilman Martinez read the meeting notices. The next Council meeting is September 14th.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL**

Solicitor Bonchi read the Paff injunction under which the City of Northfield has been bound with regard to closed sessions of Council, and read Resolution 137-2010 by title.

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Solicitor Bonchi announced the Executive Session topic deals with bids for the concession stand project. There is a bid protest filed by one of the unsuccessful bidders. The Executive session is for discussing the legal ramifications of this. It is expected that after the Executive session, legal action will be taken to vote and award the contract. The minutes of this Executive Session involving strategies will probably not ever be released to the public. The vote and decision will be publically made.

At 8:01pm, Council entered closed session; they remained in Council chambers. At 8:12pm, on motions properly made and seconded, the closed session was adjourned and Mr. Bonchi announced a summary for the record as follows: Council is now out of Executive session and the bid protest filed in this matter was discussed. The legal strategies discussed will probably never be made public. There will be a vote in the public session to award the contract.

**RESOLUTION**

Motion by Councilwoman Kern, seconded by Councilman Vain, to adopt resolution 138-2010.

**138-2010** Award of Contract for the Concession Stand at Birch Grove Park

For the record, Councilman Carew announced that resolution 138-2010, would be amended to reflect that the City is not accepting the alternate bid for this contract, and that the award amount would be \$298,500.00.

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – no; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Atlas, Deputy Municipal Clerk