

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 24, 2013**

At 6:57pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 7, 2013, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Mazzeo. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

Present: Dewees, Mahon, O'Neill, Perri, Polistina, Travagline
Absent: Carew

Mayor Vince Mazzeo, Chief Robert James, Solicitor Kris Facenda, Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski, and Deputy Clerk Mimi Marlor were also in attendance.

VETERAN HONOREE FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Councilman Polistina introduced October's Veteran Honoree, Michael Ruth. Ruth was accompanied by his wife Accompanied by his wife Kathy, daughter Chris and her children Tara and Ryan, daughter Kelly and her children Allison, Adam, Matthew and Michael. Polistina said Mike Ruth was born and raised in Newark, NJ. He served in the US Army from December 1967 to November 1969, and was stationed in Germany for 19 months as a radio repairman in a tank unit. Mike and Kathy married in 1971 and have three daughters, Christine, Erin, and Kelly. He relocated to South Jersey in 1975 with Prudential, and when that company moved to Jacksonville, Florida he went to work for a casino for several years, and then for the Atlantic County Superintendent of Elections for 11 years. He retired in 2012. Mike had been a long time resident of Somers Point, but moved to Northfield 3 years ago to be closer to two of his daughters and six grandchildren. Mike hopes to keep busy in retirement with the Library Board, Veterans affairs, and grandchildren.

Mayor Mazzeo presented Mike Ruth with the Certificate of Recognition and thanked him for his service to the Country and to the Northfield Library Board.

Council President Travagline announced that the Flag in front of City Hall will fly in his honor for the month of October.

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PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT

- 9/10 Baseball All-Stars
- 9/10 Softball All-Stars
- 11/12 Softball All-Stars

President Travagline introduced Mayor Mazzeo and Councilman Dewees to make the presentations.

Councilman Dewees stated that the nine and ten year all-star boys won the District tournament and remain undefeated in the District. He called forward Coach Travagline to present the certificates.

Coach Travagline said that it was a true and utter treat to work with these great kids alongside Coach Beretta and Coach Allen. The kids worked hard and always gave their best effort. He noted he didn't have high expectations as they entered the tournament but the team played their hearts out and proved him wrong. He passed out the certificates to each of the following recipients: Tyler Allen, Dominick Barbella, Justin Barretta, Ben Bradt, Cole Campbell, Joey Hoopes, Noah Howell, Matt Kwapinski, Anthony Medina, Corey Spare, and Tommy Travagline.

Councilman Dewees introduced Coaches Jim Robertson and Mike Tierney to present the certificates to the 9 and 10 years old girls softball team. Coach Tierney thanked Council for making this a special night for the kids and he presented certificates to the following recipients: Brook Albuquerque, Annika Asuncion, Haley DaPrato, Jarah Higbee, Jessica Ingram, Logan Kaufman, Alexa Lovell-Thompson, Julia Martinez, Victoria Robertson, Megan Tierney, Alyssa Turner, Chloe Vogel, and Ava Zanaras.

At 7:14pm Councilman Mahon left the dais.

Coach Robertson shared a team story with Council and residents.

At 7:15pm Councilman Mahon returned to the dais.

Councilman Dewees said the 11 and 12 years old girls softball team won the District and Section 4 championships and finished 3rd in the state. The girls won 5 straight games outscoring their opponent 81-9 and this was the first time in 8 years they have defeated Hammonton. He noted the team to be well rounded in offense and defense. He introduced Coach Toner to present the certificates.

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Coach Toner called forward coaches Pat McCarthy, Barry Goff, Mike Monzo, and Herman Bennett, and Annette Bonczek. He stated that this team has represented the towns and families well. Coach Toner thanked Council and commended the Department of Public Works for all they've done on the fields. He said these fields are as good as or better than any in the state. He thanked the Police Department for the mini parade and also thanked the parents. Coach Toner presented the certificates and state tournament pins to the following recipients: Bailey Arena, Brianna Barretta, Shannon Bennett, Mackenzie Brennan, Julianna Cappasso, Olivia Goff, Jess Higbee, Amanda Kinkler, Gillian McCarthy, Mary Mclaughlin, Gabby Monzo, Lauren Toner, and Lauren Vandenberg.

Mayor Mazzeo thanked all the coaches for their volunteerism and the parents for their support and he congratulated all the kids, noting they did a great job. He stated that it's important to recognize their accomplishments.

7:30pm Council President Travagline announced a five minute recess, and resumed the meeting at 7:37pm.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Dewees, seconded by Councilman Mahon to dispense with the reading of the minutes of August 27, 2013 and September 10, 2013. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri said there will be a Senior Committee meeting on Thursday September 26, 2013 in Council Chambers; it is a committee meeting but all are welcome. He also announced there is an upcoming Planning Board meeting on October 3, 2013 which will hear three applications. Regarding the vacant homes, Perri said he did an initial inspection and conferred with the tax collector. 95% of the homes have no outstanding tax or sewer due, the other 5% if they are not habitable, then possibly the city can move forward. Perri will confer with the solicitor and make a recommendation. The list was originally compiled to identify the properties to look at maintenance and code enforcement Perri thanked Cindy Ruffo, Mark Sykes and Kris Facenda for the information on this complicated issue, and said he hopes the City can stay on top of it. The health insurance RFP is out; Perri said he would like to get together with Councilman O'Neill and the Shared Service committee, and reach

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out to Linwood on a few issues. He will report back to Council on possible inter locals.

Councilman O'Neill thanked John Capasso from Mainland High School for taking the time to come out and be available for Council's questions regarding the Memorandum of Understanding. Councilman O'Neill thanked the City employees who worked with the students. He reported that the program will be tailored differently this year and anticipates an improved program overall.

Councilman Mahon reported that he met with the County Engineer to discuss the Tilton Road Sewer project as part of an investigation. He also stated he attended the open house at the Museum.

Councilman Polistina reported that there was a special meeting to discuss Capital and any questions should be directed to e him or to CFO Dawn Stollenwerk. He also said the water hook up is underway at Veterans Park and the benches with plaques have been installed. He thanked Engineer Kwapinski and the Public Works Department for their assistance in addressing the drainage issues at the Park. Polistina announced that the Veterans Park Committee will have a table at Funfest this weekend and reminded everyone that bricks and benches are still available.

Councilman Dewees stated that the Household Renovation Debris pick up will be the week of September 23rd through the 27th.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo stated that he attended the Museum open house. He reported it was very educational and said there is a section on the school where he saw pictures of himself when he was younger. He appreciates the work done by the Historical Society. He reported that he attended the recent Veterans Park Committee meeting and again thanked M&M Landscaping for their donation and thanked the Committee for their efforts. He reported that there is about \$8,000 remaining from donations. He attended the POW ceremony at the Northfield Community School. He acknowledged that Mr. Webb was also in attendance and he noted that Mrs. Devine did a great job. He said it is a national observation but when one thinks about it the POW's never came home so their families never got closure and this should be remembered every year. He reported that the Northfield Library has hired a new Director, Aubrey Gephart. He noted Aubrey Gephart is good with technology and is expected to be very good in this new position. Mayor Mazzeo reported that the Funfest is taking place this weekend September, 28th, from 10am-3pm at Birch Grove Park and shared that the Funfest committee is not planning to serve again next year so we will have to look for a new organizing committee. Mazzeo noted the dedication of Police

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Sergeant Eric Dettinger at getting the City hooked up to Comcast internet when the City's T1 line went down. Dettinger is very technologically savvy, and was able to reestablish the City's email and internet service. Mazzeo said Dettinger's efforts are sincerely appreciated. Mazzeo announced that he has sent out a letter to all City employees regarding the appointment of Mary Canesi as the new Personnel Coordinator so everyone would understand what they have to do. Council was also copied on that letter of introduction. Mazzeo concluded by reading the monthly police report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's written report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the Municipal Clerk's office. Dan Kwapinski of Schaffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers, LLC, was in attendance and available for questions. Engineer Kwapinski stated that the football field restroom equipment has come in and construction should start Monday September 30, 2013 and last a couple of weeks. He reported that Tilton Road work is being done and if anyone has questions please contact him, as he has the cell number for the County Inspector. He shared that New Jersey American Water is presently working on replacing water mains and commended the Police Department on the excellent job they are doing with traffic control. The work should be completed on Juniper and Forest shortly and then they will move on to Oakcrest next week. He noted that there have been a few resident questions and they are being addressed by the contractor. Engineer Kwapinski offered to answer questions.

Council President Travagline asked about the drainage issue on Second Street.

Engineer Kwapinski noted he is looking at options. He explained that right now the connection is at Route 9 and the state system. He has asked for documents from the state to see how the connection is made and to see if there are any alternatives to improve the drainage.

Councilman Dewees asked if he had looked at the pipe that runs along Second Street, specifically by the guide rail. Engineer Kwapinski replied that he had not done so yet. Councilman Dewees asked for an update regarding the storm water facilities general maintenance and repair contract bid. Engineer Kwapinski responded that it is in the final stages and he hopes to get it done and ready by the next meeting. Councilman Dewees asked if the current contract has expired. Engineer Kwapinski confirmed that it was, and stated that if work needs to be done they would have to get quotes.

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Municipal Clerk Canesi stated that Council can authorize the engineer to go out for bid at the next meeting and that Council should approve the bid specifications..

Mayor Mazzeo asked if the City should adopt the flood maps. Engineer Kwapinski replied that Northfield should adopt the maps so that a Northfield resident would be compliant with the current standards. Mayor Mazzeo asked if Northfield was in any of the flood zones. Engineer Kwapinski responded that Northfield did not have a V-zone area but there were some flood zones in the fringe areas of the City. He stated that during his review of the maps and the corresponding areas there did not appear to be any homes.

Council President Travagline asked about Herbert Drive. Engineer Kwapinski answered that he is looking for information from the old Engineer.

Councilman Perri asked if the New Jersey American Water Company is going curb to curb. Engineer Kwapinski answered that he is looking into this and will discuss it with the contractor to ensure that proper restoration is executed.

Councilman Perri asked if Linwood has awarded the sanitary sewer contract. Engineer Kwapinski answered he did not know. Municipal Clerk Canesi referred to a recently distributed email that indicated Linwood is holding off for now.

Councilman Mahon asked for an update on Tilton Road. Engineer Kwapinski replied that they are working way down the road on curbing and upon completion of that, they will begin reconstruction.

8:00pm Deputy Clerk Marlor left the meeting and did not return.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Travagline stated that all matters listed under the consent agenda are considered to be routine in nature, and having been reviewed by Council, will be enacted by one motion. Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of any Council Member and if so removed, will be treated as a separate matter. Any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds. The executive sessions of Council will be held at the end of the meeting, and Council will return to public session to make a comment for the record after each executive session. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Perri seconded to adopt Resolution 170-2013.

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170-2013 Authorizing the Award of Contract for Relocation of the Maple Run Sanitary Sewer Force Main Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9 and in Accordance with the Provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, also known as Pay-to-Play Law

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O’Neill – no; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to vote by Consent Agenda on Resolutions 171-2013 through 174-2013.

171-2013 Authorizing Schaeffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers to Proceed with Certain Projects

172-2013 Resolution approving Memorandum of Understanding between Mainland Regional High School District and the City of Northfield for 2013-2014 School

173-2013 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 Enclave at Shore Mill

174-2013 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 the Matter of Carmen and Hamilton v. The City of Linwood et al

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt the consent agenda on Resolutions 171-2013 through 174-2013.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

Council President Travagline announced that the Executive Sessions will be held at the end of the regular meeting.

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ORDINANCE

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Mahon seconded, to introduce Ordinance 11-2013, to be read by title only.

11-2013 An Ordinance Amending Section 128-2 of the City of Northfield Code Entitled Fees
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press of AC 9/28/2013
2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 10/08/2013*

Councilman Perri noted that this will help handicapped residents get funding they need to make upgrades to their homes.

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, announcing that there would be no public input on introduction. She provided the hearing and publication dates and noted that the Ordinance is posted on the City website, on the bulletin board at City Hall, and on the City website. Copies are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 1,187,830.53.

Councilman Perri stated he would like to see the overtime and payroll back on the bills list. Councilman Polistina replied that he will follow up with CFO Dawn Stollenwerk.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, said Mrs. Joyce Pullan sent out a lot of invitations to the Museum open house and it was not very well attended by

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representatives from the City. He also stated that Mrs. Devine put on a terrific program at the school and it hit home for him because of his military experience; and we should be proud of her and the school for teaching this to the students. He asked whatever happened to the money from Atlanticare?

Council President Travagline commented that he did not know what Mr. Webb was referring to.

Councilman Perri offered that Mr. Webb is referring to the committee that was formed.

Council President Travagline stated there was a report and he offered to get it for Mr. Webb.

Councilman Perri stated the website still links to Atlanticare. Council President Travagline replied he will get that taken care of.

Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court, stated that he heard a rumor that Council is looking at the valuation of our town going to the County. Council President Travagline answered that the County did send Northfield a letter and we may look into it. Craig Tanzola stated he was opposed to the idea and he thinks it should be someone who knows our town, like Mark Sykes does. He further stated that he didn't believe County personnel would be familiar with Northfield and that will be to our detriment. He referred to Council members who give up some or all of their salaries and noted that the average salary in Northfield is \$58,000. If Council gave up their salary it might mean the loss of the voice of the people who make \$58,000.

Erland Chau, 1001 Shore Road, stated he agreed with Mr. Webb about the issue of honoring Veterans, and on behalf of the School Board he said that he enjoys honoring the service men and women. He also stated that he spoke with Jerry DelRosso, County Administrator, and they are processing the purchase order to make the necessary repairs to the bus shelter on Shore Road. He commented on the digital billboard on the Margate Causeway and noted that Egg Harbor Township is scheduled this week to introduce a modification to their sign Ordinance. He stated that he was opposed to the proposed changes as he feels any signage on the causeway will affect the Northfield community and urged Council to look at the proposed Egg Harbor Township changes.

Anthony Christopher, 102 Northwood Court, commented that the current hours to Birch Grove Park are 9am to 5pm. He stated that the hours used to be a half hour before sunrise and half hour after sunset. He noted that the campers have full access to the park but he, as a taxpayer, does not.

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Council President Travagline noted that he has heard these concerns from Mr. Anthony before and he will address them with Councilman Carew as the Committee chair and Councilman Perri, as 2nd, for discussion at the next meeting.

Mayor Mazzeo suggested that the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board may weigh in and noted that it may be a liability issue since there is no staff on duty. He reminded Council that there used to be a full time resident ranger at the park. He stated he did not know what the answer may be but Council can certainly look into it.

Councilman Mahon commented that there are campers in the park without supervision.

Councilman Perri indicated that he would defer to the recommendation of the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board.

Anthony Christopher requested some sort of permit. Councilman Perri responded that a resident permit may be a good idea.

Council President Travagline asked Councilman Perri to look into the situation. Councilman Perri responded, noting that the Mayor Mazzeo is the chair of the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board.

Mayor Mazzeo suggested to Mr. Christopher that he attend an Advisory Board meeting.

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

Councilman O'Neill read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS OF COUNCIL

Council President Travagline announced that Council will be entering an Executive Session and the resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

173-2013 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 Enclave at Shore Mill

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of

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time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

Solicitor Facenda stated Council will enter into an Executive Session and the subject to be discussed will be the Enclave at Shore Mill subdivision, the specific content of the discussion will be a Letter of Credit that the City is attempting to draw upon to complete the subdivision. Since the matter may involve litigation it is not known when the minutes can be released.

8:28pm Council leaves the dais and enters into Mayor Mazzeo's office.

8:44pm Council returned and Solicitor Facenda stated that during the Executive Session Council discussed completion on the draw against the Letter of Credit and an agreement to release and absolve Roma Bank from any future liability. He further asked for a Resolution to proceed with the draw and to provide assurance to Roma Bank that the City will not pursue any monetary contribution to the Enclave at Shore Mill.

Councilman Perri motioned Resolution 175-2013, Council President Travagline seconded to adopt.

175-2013 A Resolution Authorizing the City Solicitor to Complete the Call upon the Letter of Credit Posted in Connection with the Enclave at Shore Mill and to Provide Roma Bank with Confirmation of no Further Liability.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

Council President Travagline announced that Council will be entering an Executive Session and the resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

174-2013 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 the Matter of Carmen and Hamilton v. The City of Linwood et al

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

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Solicitor Facenda stated Council will discuss the lawsuit of Carmen and Hamilton v. The City of Linwood and City of Northfield's involvement as a potential fact witness in this litigation, and as litigation is involved, the timeframe for release of the minutes is unknown at this time.

8:47pm Council leaves the dais and enters into Mayor Mazzeo's office.

8:52pm Council returned and Solicitor Facenda stated that Council has decided to take no action with respect to the waiver of its attorney client privilege and it is not known when the minutes may be released due to the status of the litigation.

At 8:53pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk