

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 28, 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. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

**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.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Councilman Martinez, second by Councilwoman Kern, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 announced that three vending machines are now at the park, with three more coming. Twenty-five percent of the revenue goes to Allsports; our participation also enrolls us in a program to receive capital projects. Martinez thanked Bob Debarth, Chick Devinnery, and John Palmieri for their efforts. The next Planning Board meeting will be October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Perri said sewer interlocal negotiations are at an impasse on the 45/55 split, and asked for direction from Council as to calling another meeting or staying with the current contract. Perri's recommendation was to go to a 50/50 split, and documentation was provided to justify the new split, in terms of lineage, overtime use etc. Mayor Mazzeo said Linwood's Council President advised that per discussions with Mayor Depamphillis and Councilman Levinson they did not feel the new split was justified. Mazzeo feels that the new split is fair, and said Council President Taylor advised that she will revisit the matter with Linwood's personnel. Perri noted that the current 45/55 split has remained unchanged since the inception of the

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interlocal, to his knowledge. Mazzeo said he will reach out to Linwood's mayor. Perri said he has done research and requested information from NJ American Water to investigate the infiltration issues we're having; they want over \$800 for the reports we've requested but did not tell us in advance that there would be a fee for the data. Perri asked Bonchi if NJ American Water is subject to OPRA; Bonchi said he would check but thinks not, as they are a private company. Perri said the City paid \$3,000 to make a repair in the matter of a sewer clean out being covered up, and he would like to pursue recovery with the original contractor. Bonchi suggested the matter be discussed at executive session at a future meeting.

Councilman Vain referred to the resolution for JIF membership renewal on tonight's agenda, and read figures from the State JIF's quote, explaining why it makes better financial sense to stay with the County JIF. The City's risk management consultant also recommended the ACMJIF. Vain urged all elected officials to attend the JIF seminar next year so we can get our full premium credit of \$250 per person. The new four-way stop signs are now in place; these areas were revisited with Chief James, the city engineer, and a representative from the County's engineering department. This should slow traffic in the area of the bike path. Vain advised that bicyclists and pedestrians must stop at bike path stop signs also. The Cedar Bridge parking situation from Juniper to Wabash is causing concern amongst area residents. The police department did a study of the area and Vain feels it should be converted to two-hour parking for non residents. Chief James commented that the street is averaging five cars per day; four of them are NCS staff, on average. Vain noted that residents aren't complaining about drop off and pick up; it's the all-day cars. Council President Carew requested that an ordinance be drafted for next meeting. Mazzeo stated that he thought that was the intent all along, to have two-hour parking all along Cedar Bridge. Vain stated that when the NCS was constructed, that donors could purchase bricks, and suggested a similar effort for the Park Center. Carew said the City is working on that already, but that the information from Vain will expedite the process. Councilman Perri asked if Mill and Wabash were considered for four-way stops; Chief James said that in the past the County has opposed putting stop signs on County roads. Perri asked for Tilton, Mill and Zion to be stop streets at Wabash. James said the DOT recently walked these areas and has made recommendations. Councilwoman Kern also mentioned Burton and Mill; Vain replied that we asked the County for a flashing crosswalk. He is working on it. Carew suggested putting a plan together with the assistance of Chief James, which can be sent to the County engineer. O'Grady commented about a recent accident at Zion and Oak. Vain said the flashing light at that intersection should be in by October.

Councilwoman Kern said the Cultural Committee's annual garage sale will be held November 6<sup>th</sup> at NCS to raise money for the museum. The Antique Appraisal will be held at City Hall on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Kern has been asked by residents if additional flags

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will be put out on Shore Road, and if tattered flags will be replaced. She is looking at organizations for possible donations; if none are available, hopefully we can purchase with funds from buildings and grounds. Vain suggested working with Lee Wasman from AC Electric to ensure proper installation.

Councilman Smith said the School Board met last night; contract negotiations continue. He said concern was expressed about the lack of sidewalks for children to get to school. Smith would like Linwood, Somers Point and Northfield city administration and school administration to meet to discuss shared service opportunities. He reads the EMS report for the month of August. Atlanticare will be sending units to NCS athletic functions as well as field functions. Vain noted that sidewalks on a County road have challenges, but the County will not assist in funding them. We have applied for several grants for sidewalks that were denied.

Councilman O'Grady said the library's book and bake sale was a very successful event, and mentioned several upcoming library events. The library board president has requested the meeting with council. Carew advised O'Grady to ask Mr. Brilliant to reach out and schedule it. O'Grady is working on an RFP with the CFO for our website to take credit card payments. He urged residents to sign up for the email blast and lists information available on the site. The green team received a \$1,000 grant, and we are working towards Sustainablejersey™ certification for next year. The point threshold was recently raised. He said we will begin implementing recommendations from the energy audit, adding that grants are available for eligible upgrades.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Mazzeo said the Funfest will be held Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to 3pm; the Municipal Alliance is sponsoring a fishing tournament that will include a bicycle among the prizes. This year, we charged a nominal fee to vendors for Funfest participation; possibly in the future this could be used to purchase flags. Mazzeo was recently invited to tour the renovations at MRHS. They have a long way to go but many improvements are evident already. Mazzeo would like to meet with Councilman Vain to resurrect the Economic Development Commission; he invited Carew to participate as well. Vain replied that he thinks it's a great idea; he wants to invite businesses to suggest ways to entice more and newer businesses to Northfield. Perri also volunteered to participate. Mazzeo said on October 14<sup>th</sup>, the ACUA will have celebration for the grand opening of their natural gas fueling station. Natural gas powered vehicles are cleaner and more efficient. He referred to the Putting Green and Cedar Lane guard rail replacement, and said prices ranged from \$1,900 to \$5,000; do we plan to move forward? Carew responded, and added resolution 170-2010 to

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Award the Contract to Ninsa LLC for \$1,900 for the guard rail repair. Mazzeo read police department report for the month of August.

**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.

**RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded for a consent agenda for resolutions 162-2010 through 170-2010. All present in favor. The Municipal Clerk announced that resolution 167-2010 was an executive session that will take place after the regular meeting.

- 162-2010**      A Resolution Adopting The Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdictional Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan As Required By The Federal Disaster Mitigation And Cost Reduction Act Of 2000
  
- 163-2010**      To Authorize Cancellation of Tax Sale Certificate
  
- 164-2010**      Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Municipal Property via Online Auction
  
- 165-2010**      Authorizing the Issuance of a Bingo License to the Sodality of St Gianna
  
- 166-2010**      A Resolution for the Renewal of Membership in the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
  
- 167-2010**      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 In The Matter Of Inadequate Drainage And Other Unacceptable Improvements In The Burton Estates Subdivision
  
- 168-2010**      Authorize Purchase of In-Car Video Equipment for the Northfield Police Department from ICOP Digital
  
- 169-2010**      Absence from Meetings Policy

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**170-2010** Authorizing Installation of Timber Guard Rail at Putting Green Avenue and the Bike Path by NINSA LLC

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded to adopt by consent agenda resolutions 162-2010 through 170-2010.

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.

**ORDINANCES**

On a motion of Councilman O’Grady, second of Councilman Vain, all present in favor of reading Ordinance 12-2010 by title only.

**12-2010** Private Storm Drain Retrofitting Ordinance  
*Final Adoption/No Public Comments Received*  
*Published 10/02/2010*

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 12-2010.

On a motion of Councilman Perri, second of Councilwoman Kern, all present in favor of reading Ordinance 13-2010 by title only.

**13-2010** An Ordinance Regulating Certain Aspects of Refuse Container/Dumpster Usage  
*Final Adoption/No Public Comments Received*  
*Published 10/02/2010*

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 13-2010.

On a motion of Councilwoman Kern, second of Councilman Smith, all present in favor of reading Ordinance 14-2010 by title only.

**14-2010** An Ordinance Providing for the Purchase of Real Property within the City of Northfield from Sylvia Danzenbaker  
*Final Adoption/No Public Comments Received*  
*Published 10/02/2010*

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On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilman Smith, all present in favor of reading Ordinance 15-2010 by title only.

**15-2010**        An Ordinance Amending Chapter 68 of the Code of the City of Northfield, Entitled Fire Prevention  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press 10/02/2010*  
*Second Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 10/12/2010*

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 introduction of Ordinance 15-2010.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court said cars to not stop for children at the crosswalk of Burton Avenue and Mill Road; he feels the City needs to be more forceful with the County. Sidewalks are needed on Mill Road. He suggested Northfield offer families of veterans the opportunity to fly the casket flag from deceased loved ones who died in military service at City Hall to honor the dead. Veteran's day is approaching.

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

Councilman Perri read the meeting notices.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL**

Councilman Perri excused himself from the closed session due to a conflict. 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 167-2010 by title.

**167-2010**        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

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In The Matter Of Inadequate Drainage And Other Unacceptable  
Improvements In The Burton Estates Subdivision

Solicitor Bonchi announced that during the closed session an engineer from Dixon will discuss the design to fix the problems. No strategy discussions will be released, but other information can be when the lawsuit is finally over.

At 8:01pm, Council entered closed session; they remained in Council chambers. City Engineer Matt Doran, CFO Marilyn Dolcy, and Mike Willis, of Dixon Associates were also in attendance. At 8:42pm, on motions properly made and seconded, the closed session was adjourned and Mr. Bonchi announced a summary for the record as follows: there will be no formal action taken this evening, but may be at a future meeting. The options for remedying and rebuilding the street were discussed, as were litigation options. Ultimately there will be a vote at a future date to award to a contract or to rebuild the street.

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk