

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2008**

This meeting was called to order by Carol A. Raph, Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised according to Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

The flag salute was led by Mayor Vincent Mazzeo. Following the flag salute, there was a moment of silence to remember all men and women who have served in the Armed Forces; as Veteran's Day approaches, may we be thankful for the service they gave us during peace and war time.

ROLL CALL

Present: Carew, Kern, Notaro, O'Grady, Vain, Zlotnick, and Martinez

City Solicitor Steve Scheffler and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Martinez reviewed the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Zlotnick offered a final reminder that the 10th anniversary celebration of the Northfield Community School will be held on Saturday, October 25th, from 10:00am to 12:00pm, and all are welcome to attend. The Rescue Squad report for September included a total of 70 calls, with mutual aid provided to and received by Northfield on 2 occasions each.

Councilman Notaro announced that he will be attending a meeting with Councilman Vain and Mayor Mazzeo on Thursday, October 23rd at 3:30pm to discuss the Burton Avenue Estates issue; he will provide a report to Council. The new stop sign installed at 1st Street and Franklin Avenue has been installed and Notaro has gotten positive feedback from residents.

Councilman Vain said that he, Chief James, and Councilman O'Grady conducted a meeting of the Traffic Safety Committee prior to this evening's Council session. They are reviewing 6 or 7 concerns raised by residents in various parts of the City; the Chief is gathering data and the Committee will meet again to discuss in the next few weeks.

Councilman Carew participated in the Northfield Golf Tournament on Sunday, October 18th and commended Kern and the Mother's League on the execution of a completely successful event. The Happy and Haunted Hayrides continue at Birch

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Grove Park and have been an overwhelming success. Volunteers are still needed, and interested parties should contact Park Supervisor Vicky Rutter. Carew noted that based on attendance thus far, this should be the most successful year in the history of the event.

Councilwoman Kern has compiled the necessary information for the 2009 Municipal Alliance Grant, and hopes that we'll be able to match the \$13,000.00 we were awarded in 2008. Once the monies are received, Council must adopt a Resolution to accept the grant. The Northfield Charities Golf Tournament was highly successful and over \$8,000.00 was raised; the beneficiary committee is waiting on letters of request from interested parties. Tomorrow morning, Kern and Chief James are meeting with representatives from telephone service provider Comtech as efforts continue to consolidate the City's communication services. The Fire Department has been teaching fire safety to students in grades K-4 at the Northfield Community School. Kern thanked the Fire Department staff for their efforts; they have been at the school daily and the children are enjoying the experience. School principal Maria Caiafa advised Kern that a speaker from "Keep Kids Alive 25" will be delivering a traffic safety program at the school. Councilman Vain said that he and O'Grady will be attending the presentation, as will Lieutenant Faden; if anyone else would like to attend, please contact Vain to make arrangements. Kern closed her committee report by announcing that the Cultural Committee's annual Antique Appraisal will be held in Council Chambers on October 30th.

Councilman O'Grady said City of Northfield Construction Official/Building Inspector Jerry Nuzzolo submitted his resignation as of November 7th, and there is a resolution on this evening's agenda to appoint City Engineer Matt Doran to fill in temporarily while the City conducts a search for a part time replacement. In September the Inspections department issued 30 permits and performed 120 inspections. He provided a summary of activities from the Thursday, October 16th Planning and Zoning Board Meeting, and announced that their next meeting is Thursday November 6th. Referring to the Traffic Safety Committee meeting he attended earlier this evening, he said progress is being made towards improving the 6 or 7 major traffic concerns the group is reviewing, and he will report further at the next meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo announced that Harry Hudson, a resident of Northfield since 1949, recently celebrated his 100th birthday, and that he will be honored at the November 18th Council meeting. Mazzeo also attended the Northfield Golf Tournament; he complimented Kern and all others involved for doing a great job with this event and

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hopes it will continue in years to come. The Library Board of Trustees is very close to being able to submit the paperwork required for the City to be refunded \$55,000 under the Moriarty Law. The process will be most difficult in this, the 1st year, and thanks were extended to Seth Brilliant and John Clifford for their work on this project. Library Trustee Peggy Holmes has resigned and will be replaced with Raymond Drive resident Charlie Wagner. Atlantic Electric contacted Mayor Mazzeo to advise that they are no longer interested in selling the property at Wabash Avenue and Shepherd Drive; we had proposed to purchase it as open space for the City of Northfield. Mazzeo asked why they had changed their decision and no reason was given. As mentioned at the last Council meeting, city resident Patricia Hughes has expressed interest in purchasing an undersized, undeveloped municipally-owned lot that adjoins her property. Hughes has indicated that she will bear all administrative costs associated with the sale. A voice vote, all in favor, was taken to have the Tax Assessor establish the value of the parcel so the City can proceed with the sale. Mazzeo concluded his report by advising that the City received a letter from Atlantic County directing us to do a City revaluation. The letter was dated October 16th and the City has 45 days to respond.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the City Clerk's office. City Engineer Matt Doran provided updates to the report as follows: the contractor for the 2nd street sewer repairs is ordering materials and work should begin within 2-3 weeks. The work on the drainage improvements at Wabash Avenue has resulted in minor inconveniences for children going to and from school; Doran stated that members of the Police department have been to the site and that his inspector is a retired police officer and that they are working hard to ensure the safety of the children. There have been no incidents and work should be complete within 10 days. Linwood and Atlantic County have both approved the preliminary design for the Cedarbridge and Zion Road intersection; final design should be completed by the 1st of the year, and based on the weather, work could begin by spring. Councilman Carew stated that approximately \$25,000 in volunteer labor has contributed to installation of the lights at the sports practice field. Those donating their time and expertise are Northfield residents and members of the IBEW, and Carew extended thanks to all who contributed.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Martinez opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Seeing none, he closed the public session.

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READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Carew, second by Councilman Vain, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 7, 2008. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. All present in favor, motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion of Councilman Notaro, second of Councilwoman Zlotnick, all present in favor of a Consent Agenda for Resolutions 153-2008 through 155-2008 as follows:

- 153-2008** Authorizing the Return of a Letter of Credit for Block 99 Lot 9
- 154-2008** Authorizing the Refund of Overpayment of Taxes Block 126 Lot 22
- 155-2008** Authorizing the Hiring of Matt Doran to Fill the Positions of Part Time Construction Official and Part Time Building Inspector on an As-Needed Basis

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman O'Grady motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$2,049,925.68; Kern and Vain announced their abstention from certain line items on the bill list. Copies are on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Roll Call: Carew – yes, Kern-yes, Notaro-yes, O'Grady-yes, Zlotnick-yes, Martinez-yes. Vain – absent. Motion carries for payment of bills.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, referred to a copy of the school calendar in his possession and objected to certain advertisements it contained. President Martinez directed Webb to pursue the matter with the school board, as they publish the calendar.

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Frank Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, described the location of 2 telephone poles at the intersection of Oak Avenue and Zion Road that he feels may be impeding visibility, and reported a damaged street sign at Roosevelt Avenue and 2nd Street. Chief James will report the Zion and Oak issue to the County Engineer as Zion is in their jurisdiction and Councilman Notaro will attend to replacement of the damaged street sign. Perri said he hopes that the governing body will support the Northfield Rescue Squad in their endeavor to become self-sufficient, and give them the opportunity to present a proposal after the 1st of the year. He also wished all candidates good luck in the election.

Mary McDevitt, 2038 Cedarbridge Road, requested an update on the Cedarbridge Road sidewalk project. City Engineer Doran responded that 2 residents of the north side of the street were willing to grant easements and 9 were not. He is in the process of attempting to identify an alternative; Councilman Vain said an update should be available for the November 18th meeting.

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

Councilman O'Grady read the meeting notices. The next meeting of City Council will be held on November 18th at 7:00 pm, and the Planning and Zoning Board will meet on Thursday, November 6th at 7:30pm. He reminded all citizens to do their civic duty and vote on November 4th at the Northfield Community School.

On motions made and properly seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC