

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 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 Perri, second by Councilman Martinez, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 12, 2010. 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 said there will be a special meeting of the Planning Board on October 28th to hear the Ventura's expansion proposal.

Councilman Perri said he wants to set up a meeting with the Linwood sewer interlocal; he said it will have to be advertised as public meeting.

Councilman Vain read the 2010 JIF Safety Report, as prepared by Safety Coordinator Cindy Ruffo for the **2010 SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.**

The report was as follows:

The 2010 Safety Incentive Program has 4 primary goals and they are as follows:

1. Commitment and accountability
2. Communicating safety
3. Identification of hazards

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4. Safety training

Our safety committee is made up of Cindy Ruffo, JIF Coordinator, Mary Canesi, Claims Coordinator, Jim Dickinson, Fund Commissioner and Rich Gerber Insurance Consultant, Donna Clark Court Administrator, Jim Clark Public Works and Sewer Department manager, Vicki Rutter Birch Grove Park Supervisor, Lauren Crooks Assistant Fire Chief, Chief of Police Robert James, and CFO Marilyn Dolcy. This committee meets 4 times a year for the purpose of discussing safety issues, ways to improve, safety classes, and accident review. The importance of the committee is to recognize a hazard and correct it before it becomes an accident. Any dangerous act will cause an accident if it is repeated often enough, and a dangerous condition will cause an accident if it remains uncorrected long enough.

Each year the Safety Committee must choose a safety objective that can be completed in that calendar year. This year's objective was to purchase and install video cameras in each of our Police vehicles. To date we have purchased and received the cameras and are just waiting for installation, which should be within a few weeks. Last year's objectives were to install hand dryers in the public bathrooms and to have the old snack bar at Birch Grove Park demolished.

Each year that the City participates in the safety program we are eligible for award money. This award money is used to purchase safety equipment with no charge to the City. The following is a list of what was purchased this year:

Kevlar Chaps	Public Works Dept
Flu Shots	All Employees
Chair mats	Court
Gloves	Fire Dept.
DOT Cones	Public Works Dept
LCD Computer Screen and Cart	Administration
Rain Coats and gloves	Crossing Guards
Drivers License Check	Administration
Hand Dryers	Administration

Due to the budget constraints this money has been very beneficial to the city and its employees.

This year as a recommendation from the JIF we were asked to do a city wide Drivers License check. This check included all City employees, all of council, all volunteers and was completed last month. A full report was given to each department head. No further action was required.

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The safety committee will meet one more time, to finalize all of their safety paperwork and our yearly objective. A complete report will be compiled and mailed to JIF in the beginning of December. Completion of all of the JIF requirements for the year will allow us to win award money in 2011. *(End of report)*.

Vain announced the upcoming elected official seminars that will be presented on 4 dates in the remainder of 2010 and 2011. For each attendee we get \$250 premium credit. He urged all to attend to get the full premium credit available.

Councilwoman Kern noted that the Liability seminar is very informative. She said the Cultural Committee garage sale date has been changed to November 20th. The Municipal Alliance will hold a quarterly meeting here at City Hall tomorrow, and she mentioned several alliance funded programs. Kern said she recently attended MRHS and Allsports athletic events, and noted that Atlanticare has been at every game. This was a concern and she feels it is worthy of mention. Vain added that they are also at the NCS soccer events

Councilman Smith mentioned the bond sale, and the banking RFP which is on the agenda for award tonight, as is the SJ Power Cooperative award acknowledgement. Smith said shared services meetings continue. He mentioned Erika Ferguson's recent receipt of the Youth Philanthropist of the Year award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Southern New Jersey. Smith said he had Ferguson as student and suggests honoring her at an upcoming Council meeting.

Councilman O'Grady said the last Library meeting was October 14th and they will meet again on November 11th. He noted several upcoming Library events. He said the fall email blast went out today, and encouraged all to sign up. He is pursuing additional grant opportunities for the Green Team.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew mentioned that there will be a Safe Trick or Treat event on Saturday, October 30th at Birch Grove Park, and hayrides as ongoing events to enjoy in town. All volunteers are doing a great job and he thanked them.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo attended the ACUA's Compressed Natural Gas Filling Station Grand Opening; it was a well-attended event and Mazzeo suggested we look at natural gas fueled vehicles where possible for future capital purchase. He advised that there were six bidders in the recent sale of bond anticipation notes, and made a note of the favorable rate. The apparent high bidder for the liquor license bid was \$604,000 and

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background checks have been initiated. Mazzeo said there was a recent crossing guard resignation and that an employee who was laid off is being brought back. The Chief of Police has made recommendations for revisions in the rules and regulations for the police department; Mazzeo asked Bonchi to review them. Mazzeo read the statistics for the Police Report for the month of September. He attended the recent Atlantic County Mayor's Association meeting and there was discussion of County dispatch; this may be a good fit for us. Mazzeo will keep Council apprised.

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.

Council President Carew said he spoke with Doran regarding 2nd and Davis; he had asked Doran to confer with the County for an easement to tie into the County's system at Tilton Road.

Doran summarized the available options; Carew advised that a resolution would be required authorizing Doran to ask the County if we can tie into their system. An additional resolution would be required for the CFO for Doran to proceed.

Mayor Mazzeo got a letter from the resident of 518 Ridgewood; he asked Doran to contact the woman regarding flooding.

Councilman Smith mentioned a letter and pictures from a Franklin Avenue resident that had been forwarded to Council by the City Clerk. Smith visited the area and agrees it is in need of serious repair. Carew replied that he discussed this area with Doran and it is on the list.

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman O'Grady seconded for a consent agenda for resolutions 181-2010 through 184-2010. Councilman Martinez noted for the record that he would be abstaining from Resolution 183-2010. Councilman Perri asked for clarification of the easement referred to in Resolution 184-2010; Doran explained. All present in favor.

181-2010 A Resolution Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation as per N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87

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- 182-2010** Acknowledging the Terms and Conditions of the Contract Awarded by the South Jersey Power Cooperative for the Electric Energy Supply Services
- 183-2010** Award of Contract for Banking Services to Cape Bank
- 184-2010** To Authorize an Agreement Granting a Utility Easement to the County of Atlantic in the State of New Jersey

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman O’Grady seconded to adopt by consent agenda resolutions 181-2010 through 184-2010.

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 Vain, second of Councilwoman Kern, all present in favor of reading Ordinance 16-2010 by title only.

- 16-2010** An Ordinance Providing for Two-Hour Parking on a Portion of Cedar Bridge Road from Juniper Drive to Wabash Avenue
Final Adoption/No Public Comments Received
Published in the Press on 10/30/2010

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 16-2010.

On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilman Smith, all present in favor of reading Ordinance 17-2010 by title only.

- 17-2010** Bond Ordinance Appropriating One Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$142,000) And Authorizing The Issuance Of One Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$134,900) In Bonds Or Notes Of The City Of Northfield For Roadway Improvements To Jack Sloan Court And Joseph Court In The City Of Northfield, In The County Of Atlantic, New Jersey
Final Adoption/Open to the Public/Published in the Press 10/30/2010

Councilman Martinez requested discussion and noted the expense to the taxpayers; he asked the Municipal Clerk if 5 affirmative votes were needed. The Municipal

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Clerk confirmed that this was correct. Martinez stated no compromise has been offered, he sees that based on last meeting's vote that the ordinance will fail. He mentioned Mazzeo's suggestion to rebid and used the example of the snack bar that was rebid three times. He said he has heard rumors that he and O'Grady are against the project and cites reasons why that is not true; he wants to move forward just thinks there is a better price.

O'Grady stated that he supports the project, but wants to see a rebid.

Mazzeo suggested a compromise; all of Council wants to finish the project. If we vote to rebid, we can still award in late November. In the summer the engineer said pricing would be better in the fall.

Council President Carew opened the public hearing.

Eric Shenkus, 11 Jack Sloan Court, said the neighborhood wants progress and residents are here in support of the project. If there is a bona fide belief that the bid will come down substantially, then they agree, but not if it's just politics.

Glen Martins, 12 Jack Sloan Court, said residents have been patient and thanked Council for standing up to a bully. We are on the cusp of doing the right thing; please move forward.

Kim Hagenbart, 710 Hollywood Drive, said her street has been flooding for 10 years and it's just now being fixed. She feels rebidding is necessary if there is a slight chance of saving money.

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

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – no; Mr. O'Grady – no; Mr. Perri – abstain; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion for final adoption of Ordinance 17-2010 is defeated.

Council President Carew announced that Resolution 185-2010, to amend the capital budget as part of the bond ordinance, will be deleted from this evening's agenda as it is no longer necessary.

O'Grady motioned, Martinez seconded to adopt Resolution 186-2010, an addition to this evening's agenda.

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186-2010 To Authorize Re-Advertisement Of Request For Bids For The Project Known As The Reconstruction Of Jack Sloan Court And Joseph Court In The City Of Northfield

The Municipal Clerk Clarified that this is for the same set of bid specs as the original bid.

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – abstain; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; 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.

Paul Wagner, Marita Ann Drive said work on Ridgewood has caused increased flooding at Marita Ann and Leeds. He wants a timetable for his street to be fixed. Bonchi replied that the title work has come in; he said the signatures of the homeowners are required in addition to any lenders, and explained the process. Wagner offered his personal assistance in getting any of the easements signed.

Rudy Castillo, 19 Franklin Avenue, mentioned a petition and photographs of his street that he dropped off for Council. He handed additional copies of the photos to Mayor Mazzeo, who passed them down the dais. Castillo explained the dire condition of the street and asked that Council look at it.

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

Councilman Perri read the meeting notices.

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk