

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 11, 2012**

At 6:56pm, 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. Brown, Mr. Dewees, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Perri, Mr. Polistina,
Mr. Vain, Mr. Carew

Mayor Vince Mazzeo, City Solicitor Keith Bonchi, and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance.

VETERAN OF THE MONTH HONOREE

Councilman Vain announced that for the month of December, the City will be honoring all City employees who are or who have served in the US Military. Vain said many could not come out tonight, and introduced Jim Dickinson from the Building Department, and Hank Martinelli from the Fire Department.

Vain read the biographies of all employees being honored, and began with Finance Department employee Raymond Adams, who served in the US Army from March of 1952 to March of 1954. He served in the 24th Division Field Artillery after completing 16 weeks of basic training at Ft Dix. He served overseas, for 9 months at Camp Fuji in Japan, and another 7 months in Korea.

Jim Dickinson of the Building Department joined the US Army in May of 1966. He was sent to Vietnam in November 1966 on a troop ship, the USS Polk. He served two tours in Vietnam at HQ Company, and was honorably discharged in May 1969.

Fire Chief Hank Martinelli was assigned to the USS Enterprise, the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier as an aviation ordinance maintenance officer, responsible for bombs, rockets and missiles aboard ship. Hank served in the US Navy from 1961-1963. He said the highlight of his military career was when his ship was part of the blockade during the Cuban missile and aided in keeping Russian missiles from getting into Cuba.

Deputy Fire Chief Robert Leeds served in the US Coast Guard from 1963-1970. During that time he patrolled the Eastern seaboard. Volunteer Fireman Jake Eggie United States Air Force during the Korean War.

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Police Lieutenant Daniel Mitchell served in the US Air Force, spending 4 years in the Pacific as well as the Middle East during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He currently serves in the NJ Air National Guard's 177th Security Forces Unit, holding the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, E-8. Mitchell was deployed to the Europe and the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom and in 2007 was selected as the National Guard Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the year from all National Guard Units nationwide.

Police Detective Sergeant Steven Steinecke served in the US Army, and held the rank of Specialist 4 in the Military Police. Steinecke's assignments included Fort Dix, NJ and Meunster, Germany.

Police Officer Joseph Vola served in the US Marine Corp Reserves as a vehicle operator for a transportation battalion. Vola saw combat in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and attained the rank of Lance Corporal.

Police Officer Michael Bach served in the US Army as a Corporal (E-4) and was as a Paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. Bach also saw combat in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Vain congratulated all who were being honored, and thanked them for their services. He said there are a great many people who have served our City in many ways.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman O'Neill, second by Councilman Vain to dispense with the reading of the minutes of November, 2012. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain –yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri said he and the Mayor and Councilman Polistina met on Monday with representatives from the ACUA. Right now we are under budget projections,

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with a little bit of December remaining. We've had very little intrusion, which, with all of the storms we've had, is a good sign. He wishes all happy holidays and healthy New Year.

Council President Carew noted for the benefit of those who may not be familiar with it, we've had increases of 10-20% in some years, over the years, and this is the effect of improvements that we've made. Councilman Polistina mentioned credits will be going to some towns due to storms, etc., and said Northfield will not see one because we had no infiltrations.

Councilman O'Neill said the City has been experiencing miscellaneous IT issues, and noted a problem with server this morning. He will be contacting the vendor, and other vendors, about possibly replacing the server. He also said our server room is very hot and has no ventilation. We may wish to relocate it.

Councilman Vain thanked everyone for allowing him to serve; it was a pleasure. He thanked all City employees, the Mayor and his fellow members of Council. He thanked his family, his wife, children and his brother, Bill. He said it's been a great six years, and wished all a great holiday season.

Councilman Polistina thanked Councilman Vain for his years of service, and said Vain has accomplished many good things for the City for public safety and with Veterans' Park. He thanked Vain for his assistance when Polistina was new to Council. Polistina noted the progress of the Library addition, and referred to a question on an ambulance call that arose at the last meeting. He said research indicates that Shore Medical responded to the patient's inquiry about the bill back in September. He said he won't go into details for privacy issues, but that the process is that at the time of service, they don't know what insurance the patient has. Self-pay patients are automatically discounted down. Polistina said hopefully this resolves the matter. Councilman O'Neill asked what happens if a senior citizen overpays, does the hospital automatically process a refund? Polistina replied that he assumes that is the process; if it is not we would intervene. Councilman Perri commented that his confusion that is any BLS transport is always a \$1,200 bill, and the patient has to prove that they should owe \$300. Polistina then introduced Fran Morrison from Shore Medical, who proceeded to explain the billing process. She said a standard bill goes out, if at time of transport insurance is known, then it is billed appropriately. If insurance is not provided, several attempts are made to find out if any exists. If there is no insurance, they must prove this and then they would pay accordingly. She added that overpayments are processed as refunds as a matter of course.

Councilman Dewees stated that the post and rail fence at Tilton Road and Wabash Avenue is deteriorating and becoming a hazard. He suggested it may have been put there to prevent people from driving on the bike path, but it is continuing to be a

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problem. He thinks it should be removed and curbing should be installed. Council President Carew then asked Dewees to come back with a couple of recommendations for Council's consideration. Dewees addressed Mr. Webb, in the audience, and said he will address the issue of the public works crew throwing trash cans.

Councilwoman Brown thanked Councilman Vain for his years of service and wishes him well. She said the Economic Development Commission will meet this month with a date to be determined. She said current Commission President Travagline will resign and a new President would be elected.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew said it was a pleasure working with Councilman Vain. He said Vain has truly made a difference in his six years and Northfield is a better place for him having served. He reviewed a list of Vain's accomplishments, including improvement of traffic flow on Cedar Bridge, the flashing lights at the Zion and Oak Avenue intersection, and at Cedar Bridge and Oak; the Cedar Bridge, Zion and Burroughs intersection, the monthly Veteran Honoree program, and Veterans' Park. He noted Vain's passion and that of his brother, Bill Vain, and told Vain not to forget that he made a big difference.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo announced that the tree lighting very successful; he thanked the Ladies' Auxiliary, the Volunteer Fire Company, the career Fire Fighters, the NCS choir, and Santa Claus. The event brings holiday spirit to town. Mazzeo said the Atlantic County Mayors' Association met Friday evening; they discussed the energy receipts legislation, which should be voted on in 2013. If it is passed it will require that payments be made directly to the municipality. Mazzeo explained that in recent years, state aid was substantially reduced as a result of loss of energy receipts; this has had a direct and negative affect on taxpayers. Regarding the ACUA, Mazzeo said tipping fees will go up 2.16% next year. He thanked Vain for his kind words, and thanked him for his traffic safety initiatives and for his work on Veterans' Park. He said Vain worked in the spirit of compromise to get things done, and that he agrees with the proposal to keep Vain on the Veterans' Park Committee. He wishes Vain well. Mazzeo read the November Police Department report. He mentioned an incident that occurred on Dolphin Avenue and the bike path involving a woman who was perhaps robbed at gunpoint. He said our Police Department is working with the Pleasantville Police, and the FBI is involved as well.

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Councilman Perri said he has had requests for increased patrols and for uniformed presence in the area. Councilman O'Neill said he spoke with Chief James about the subject; the County's side of that street is dark. O'Neill suggested contacting the County with regard to enhancing the lighting in the area. Mayor Mazzeo deferred to the Council President, who replied that we will reach out to the County. Perri added that he knows the County has private security at their facility with roving patrols; perhaps the County could ask their contractor to be extra aware.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the Municipal Clerk's office. Updates were as follows: Doran noted the award of the Roosevelt Drainage Project on this evening's agenda, and said the bids were very competitive. He also noted the final change order on Leeds and Revere, with a reduction of about \$8,000. The paving projects should be done in the spring.

Council President Carew noted the progress that has been made in the pursuit of fixing drainage problems. This should be a tremendous improvement in the quality of life of the residents in the area of the Roosevelt project.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to vote by consent agenda on Resolutions 168-2012 through 175-2012 and 177-2012 through 183-2012.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain –yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

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| 168-2012 | Authorizing Release of Maintenance Guarantee, Block 50 Lots 10 and 11 |
| 169-2012 | Authorize an Agreement Granting Utility Easement to Atlantic City Electric Company |
| 170-2012 | Refund of Bandstand Rental Fee |
| 171-2012 | Release of Escrow Monies from the Planning Board |
| 172-2012 | Transfer of Funds |
| 173-2012 | To Authorize the Cancellation of 2012 Taxes Balances Under \$10.00 |

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- 174-2012** Final Change Order No. 1 Drainage Improvements at Leeds and Revere
- 175-2012** Appointment of Timothy Joo to the Position of Acting Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
- 177-2012** Authorizing Doran to Proceed – Sanitary Sewer Relocation on Tilton Road
- 178-2012** Award of Contract for Drainage Improvements on Roosevelt Avenue
- 179-2012** Refund of Rental Inspection Fee
- 180-2012** To Authorize a Refund of Overpayment of Taxes Due to Disabled Veteran Status, Block 175, Lot 15
- 181-2012** To Authorize Execution of an Agreement for a Structured Learning Experience Program between the City of Northfield and Mainland Regional High School
- 182-2012** 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 an Employment Agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief
- 183-2012** To Authorize An Agreement Between The City Of Northfield And The Trustees Of The Free Public Library Of Northfield, T/A The Otto Bruyns Public Library

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 168-2012 through 175-2012 and 177-2012 through 183-2012.

Councilman Perri asked for additional information on 175-2012; he does not know the person. Mayor Mazzeo responded that the individual lives on Jackson Avenue and has 20 years of experience in EMS and emergency response. The individual assisted Randy Clark during the recent storms. He is a highly qualified individual who is looking forward to working with the City and already has the necessary certifications.

Council President Carew offered that the individual was here during the hurricane and that we are fortunate to have someone so competent step forward.

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Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain –yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt Resolution 176-2012.

176-2012 To Hire a Laborer in the Public Works Department

Councilwoman Brown clarified that this is a replacement for an employee who resigned, not an addition to staff. Carew confirmed this to be true. Councilman Perri asked if the individual is a Northfield resident; Carew replied that the individual grew up in Northfield but currently resides in Linwood. Perri stated that he feels preference should be given to Northfield residents and to Veterans.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain –yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 861,704.05

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain –yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, said he has no faith in Atlanticare, and no faith in government at any level.

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

Councilman Vain read the meeting notices.

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Council President Carew introduced Corey from MRHS and thanked him for his services this evening. Carew announced that Council would be going into closed session and that there may or may not be a vote when the public session resumes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

The resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

182-2012 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 an Employment Agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and explained that as a personnel matter, it could be discussed in closed session. The employee involved was issued a Rice notice and has opted to have the discussions held in closed session, and has declined to attend. She 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.

Solicitor Bonchi stated will discuss an employment agreement, between the City of Northfield and Assistant Fire Chief Lauren Crooks. Because this will involve negotiations, strategy will not be released. Any contract that is voted on now or in the future will be voted on in public and the contract will be released to the public. Council will decide if the proposed agreement is acceptable or whether it needs modification. Council will return to public session and Bonchi said he will make an additional statement at that time.

Council President Polistina invited Councilman-elect Travagline to join the closed session of Council. At 7:41pm, Council left the dais and entered the City Clerk's Office; Solicitor Bonchi was also in attendance, as were Mayor Mazzeo and Councilman-elect Jim Travagline.

At 8:39pm, the closed session was adjourned and the regular meeting of Council resumed. Bonchi announced a summary for the record as follows: There will be no vote this evening. Council discussed the pros and cons of the contract and attempted to provide guidance to Councilman Polistina going forward.

At 8:40pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk