

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 2011**

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: Mr. Dewees Mrs. Kern, Mr. Perri, Mr. Polistina, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vain, Mr. Carew

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

VETERAN HONOREES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Councilwoman Kern stated that each month, the City flies the flag in front of City Hall in honor of local Veterans. She said December's honorees were John Alvarez, Thomas D'Elia, and Dante Vergulti.

Kern stated that Mr. Vergulti was not able to attend this evening. He served in the US Navy from 1953-1957 and was an Aviation Metal Smith 2nd Class stationed in Hawaii and California. He supplied different countries with cargo in Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and the Midway Islands. She thanked him for his service to his country.

Kern called Mr. John Alvarez to come forward. He served in the US Navy from 1981-1989 as a Petty Officer Engine Man 2nd Class aboard the USS Snelling LSD 30 and did two tours in Beirut. He was also involved in the Grenada invasion. He was also stationed on the USS Portland LSD 37 in the Persian Gulf. She thanked Alvarez for his service to our country, and for coming this evening. Councilman Vain presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Thomas D'Elia was called to come forth. He served in the US Army and was drafted in 1950 and was a non-commissioned officer Sergeant 1st Class and was in four camps. Kern said D'Elia told her he feels very fortunate that he was not in conflict. He was discharged in 1952 and then bought his home in Northfield, where he has lived ever since. She thanked him for his service to our country. Councilman Vain presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

Council President Carew announced that this evening will be the last meeting for Councilman Smith and Councilwoman Kern. He said Council members who serve at

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least ten years traditionally get a clock from the City; tonight a new tradition of honoring outgoing members of Council with less than ten years of service will begin, and those individuals will receive a plaque.

Carew said, in Mr. Smith's three years on Council, he does not know of another Councilman that has had such an impact. Starting with the creation of a shared EMS service with Linwood, which today is a model that other towns look at, to stepping in with Mrs. Kern in the Courts and Violations Department, and creating what we now have in a Shared Service with Linwood for this Department, which has been very successful also. With Mr. Smith's approach to his position as Councilman he did not take long to adapt to the job at hand. It's not unusual for a newly elected official to take a full cycle or year to become acclimated with the entire process, including the budget, capital, handling departments and serving on committees. In Mr. Smith's second year on Council he served as Finance Chair working with our then CFO Mrs. Dolcy, which was assignment in a year that was unprecedented in recent times with all the dynamics that were going on within that time. Carew said he would like to say to Mr. Smith, both personally and on behalf of the City of Northfield, thank very much for all you have done in your time on this Council. He presented him with a plaque thanking him for his dedicated service to the City and its residents.

Carew said he and Mrs. Kern served together on the Board of Education and on City Council, and it has been an absolute pleasure. He said her time on Council was a very well accomplished period. Mrs. Kern has served on every committee and liaison position at one time or another that Northfield City Council has. Starting out in 2003 she served on the Finance Committee, and was liaison for Technology/Mainland High School Channel 2, which led to televising our Council meetings. She served as liaison to the Cultural Committee, the Northfield Schools, and the Northfield Municipal Alliance. Her tenure serving as liaison for the Northfield Municipal Alliance for seven years was in itself a job very well done. Working with the Cultural Committee for eight years was something that he personally knows that Mrs. Kern holds very near to her heart. The Violations Department that Mrs. Kern served on is a direct reflection of her seven years on that committee. By that, if you look at that department now with it being a Shared Service with Linwood it has become another accomplishment of this Council that Mrs. Kern served on. With Mrs. Kern serving as Council President for two years, she believed strongly in recognition of community volunteers. He said he believes that her passion for this is what will drive Council to carry on that tradition. In 2011, in a partnership with Councilman Vain, together they did an outstanding job of developing the Veterans Recognition Program, resulting in twenty Veterans from Northfield including our three guests this evening being recognized this year. Carew said he would simply like to say to Mrs. Kern, both personally and on behalf of the City of Northfield, thank you very much for all you have done, and it has been a pleasure serving alongside you on this

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Council. He presented Kern with a plaque thanking her for dedicated service to the City and its residents.

Council President Carew announced that the Cultural Committee and representatives of the Sodality of St Bernadette were also in attendance this evening to honor Mrs. Kern.

Carol Patrick of 905 Ridgewood Drive and from the Northfield Cultural Committee said Kern has been the liaison to the Committee for the last several years. She contributed by attending each meeting and providing valuable ideas. She assisted with the use of NCS for the annual garage sale and the use of Council Chambers when they lost the Garden Club house. She has always assisted them greatly, and they will miss her as liaison and friend.

Councilwoman Kern said it has been her pleasure to serve as liaison, and she will miss them. She hopes whomever gets the Cultural Committee assignment from Council is worthy of them.

Rosemary O'Dowd of 605 1st Street and the Sodality said that Kern always brought a rose to every meeting to honor someone special. This evening they are giving her a rose, and they presented Kern with a bouquet.

Carew spoke, saying that when Kern first got involved, her sons were all single, and tonight her family is in attendance along with her beautiful grandson. He thanked the Kern family for allowing Mrs. Kern to serve.

A group of children entered Council, accompanied by members of the Northfield Mother's League, and sang Christmas carols for the public. Council President Carew announced that this was unplanned, and was a testament to how wonderful a place Northfield is to raise a family.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda. He thanked Jess from Mainland Regional, the videographer for the evening.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Polistina, second by Councilman Dewees, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the October 25th, November 15th, and November 22nd meetings. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the

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Municipal Clerk's Office. All present in favor. Motion carried for approval of minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri said he met with the ACUA, along with the Mayor, and Councilman Polistina. He said on the wastewater end we are looking at a little bit of a carryover credit into 2012, with a 1.5% increase overall in wastewater. The percentages are about the same for 2012. They also have a new program which uses a smart phone app to allow citizens to report concerns and complaints. Perri said he has a commitment date for the Senior Committee meeting, to be held on Thursday at 10am at the Birch Grove Park Center. All are welcome. Perri asked about the Welcome to Northfield sign program; Councilman Vain replied that he will get the information to Perri. Perri also asked for an update on the municipal map and brochure project.

The Municipal Clerk replied that it is in the final stages but she would welcome any assistance in completing the project.

Councilman Polistina thanked Kern and Smith for their service. He congratulated the Veteran honorees, and thanked them for their service. He said the RFP for architecture services for the expansion project is out and responses are due back in mid-January. The Library is hiring personnel to bring more new programs on board. Polistina said he, too, attended the recent meeting with the ACUA; they will add us into their new app without any expense to us, and it could be very helpful.

Councilman Vain said the application for the Safe Routes to Schools grant is in the final stages. A letter about Veteran's Park will go out to all property owners in the January sewer bills. The City is seeking additional Veterans to honor for our Veterans Recognition Program; anyone interested should contact Mrs. Canesi. Vain thanked Kern, saying that her contribution to the City has made it a better place to live. He added that it was she who helped him get his start in politics and that she served as a mentor and guide to him. Vain said it was a pleasure to serve alongside Mr. Smith. Smith always made decisions after considering all the options, and Vain thanked him for his service to the City.

Councilwoman Kern thanked Council and the City for allowing her to serve. She is proud of what she has accomplished with her fellow Council members, and thanked her family for always being there to support her. She wished the new Council members well, and thanked City Engineer Doran and Mayor Mazzeo. She also thanked the Mrs. Canesi for doing such a wonderful job for the town, and praised her

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for the quality of the Council minutes she produces. Kern thanked the Cultural Committee, and said it was a pleasure working with them.

Councilman Smith thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition. He said like Councilman Vain, it was Councilwoman Kern who got him involved in Council, adding that it has been a rewarding experience. He thanked the residents for the confidence they placed in him, and thanked the City professionals and employees, and wife and two daughters for their support. He said he looks forward to the future. He is proud of Northfield and proud to live here.

Councilman Dewees said two dates remain for yard waste collection by the ACUA, January 9th and 16th. He thanked Councilwoman Kern and Councilman Smith for their service, and for their guidance and support. He wished all a happy and safe holiday.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season. He hopes to continue to see Kern and Smith.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo said the annual tree lighting was very successful. Santa was delayed but the choir provided more music, and he thanked them, as well as the MRHS band for playing. He thanked the Northfield Fire Department and the Ladies Auxiliary for their support and for the hot chocolate and goodies. It is a nice tradition in Northfield. Mazzeo said he also attended the ACUA meeting. Northfield does fine job with recycling, and the ACUA does a nice job for us as well. He received a letter from County Executive Levinson about the next round of Open Space projects; we need to send our letter by January 31st. This year's funds can be used for projects that municipalities have been unable to fulfill. Mazzeo said he met with City Engineer Doran and Councilman Vain about Veteran's Park, and suggested we could send such a letter for funding for the Park. The City's 911 service contract with Egg Harbor Township will see a 2% increase in 2012. There has been no recent news about County dispatch. Mazzeo said he would like Council to think about having attendance records maintained in the City Clerk's Office personnel files. Prior to having an Administrator, the City Clerk's Office would maintain attendance records in those files. When we hired an administrator, he signed off on the records. Now we need to go back to having the records in the Clerk's office, as a matter of good practice. Our new police car will be in service in the next few weeks. Regarding the in-car video, Watch Guard will install eight systems in our cars. He read the monthly Police Department report for November. He thanked Councilman Smith for his

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service, adding that he enjoyed working with him. He also thanked Councilwoman Kern; he said she started on Council a year before he did and he has enjoyed working with her. Mazzeo noted her role in getting the Northfield sign at Route 9 and Tilton Roads. He thanked her for her service and wished her well, urging her to participate as a resident at City Council meetings.

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.

Councilman Perri asked if the water work on Wabash was the final product; Doran said he would have to check but jobs usually have to settle for six months, and it has not been that long, so he does not think so.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Kern motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to vote by consent agenda on resolutions 163-2011 through 170-2011.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

- 163-2011** Refund of Overpayment of Taxes
- 164-2011** Issuance of a Bingo License to the St Gianna Beretta Molla Parish
- 165-2011** Model Civil Rights Resolution
- 166-2011** Release of Performance Guarantee and Posting of Maintenance Guarantee for Sun Bank
- 167-2011** Release of Escrow Monies by the Planning Board
- 168-2011** Final Change Order No. 2 Reconstruction of Willow Drive and Locust Drive
- 169-2011** Award of Contract for Fence at Baseball Fields
- 170-2011** Amending Resolution 156-2011, Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property

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Councilman Perri asked if Resolution 169-2011 was funded by capital. Council President Carew replied that the funds are from a few bond ordinances, three years in the making.

Councilwoman Kern motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, to adopt the consent agenda on resolutions 163-2011 through 170-2011.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Vain seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 707,219.55. No abstentions were noted.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for payment of bills.

Councilman Perri inquired about the title search fee; Solicitor Bonchi replied that the City went to settlement last Friday. Claire Moyer, who obtained the grant on behalf of the City, will be presenting a report to council.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Patty Silvestri, who identified herself as living in the 4 Seasons on Dolphin Avenue, asked if Resolution 165-2011 is adopted annually. Councilman Vain replied that it was, as a requirement of our insurance.

Seeing no others wishing to speak, he closed the public session.

Councilman Vain read the meeting notices.

At 7:43pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk