

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

This meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Acting 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, there was a moment of silence for residents who are suffering most in this economic recession; may the recession be short-lived and prosperity will return in need of help.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Martinez, Mr. O’Grady, Mr. Smith, Mr. Turon, Mr. Vain, and Mrs. Kern
Absent: Mr. Carew

City Solicitor Keith Bonchi and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance.

7:15PM: PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Certificates of achievement were presented to Morgan and Lauren Lovelace, both high school students and Northfield residents who are embarking on a journey to start their own fashion business. The certificates awarded were for demonstrating leadership and entrepreneurial qualities. Mayor and Council congratulated both girls, who were accompanied by their parents and other family members, and wished them much success.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Kern reviewed the agenda. Councilman O’Grady referred to an energy audit discussed at the last council meeting and asked Bill Steets, Project Consultant with the NJ Clean Energy Program to come forward and address Council.

Steets explained that the Municipal Energy Audit Program is a program funded by the Board of Public Utilities which evolved because of the sometimes prohibitive costs of energy audits and subsequent modifications. Steets explained the 75/25 provision of the program, whereby if the audit is performed by a state approved contractor, 75% of audit costs are refunded with the remaining 25% also refunded if audit recommendations are implemented within 6 months of the completion of the audit. Costs for our municipality would have to be determined by contacting the approved contractors for estimates. The 25% refund provision is such that the costs of modifications made as a result of the audit have to meet or exceed the 25% to get your investment back. A resolution authorizing the audit is the first step, and the

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

required paperwork does not require outside assistance. If needed, Steets can be contacted to assist with application preparation.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/ JANUARY 20, 2009

Motion was made by Councilman Turon, second by Councilman Vain to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 20, 2009. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. All present in favor, motion carries.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/ FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Motion was made by Councilman Turon, second by Councilman Vain to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 10, 2009. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. All present in favor, motion carries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Martinez stated that the Planning/Zoning Board did not meet in February as there have been no applications submitted. There will be a meeting of the COAH committee on February 26th at 7:00pm and he will report at the next Council session. At the last meeting, Martinez said he asked that the governing body review the www.sustainablejersey.com website. It contains a 4 page overview of the program and details regarding available grant monies. There is also a sample resolution in support of the program. Upon approval of the resolution Northfield would be able to gain access to incentives. Martinez would like to add this resolution to the next Council agenda. He attended the 1st annual PTO fundraiser on Friday, January 20th and thanked the event organizers and parents who attended. Kern encouraged Martinez to investigate grant opportunities and asked that he keep Council informed.

Councilman Turon advised that he received an email from a resident on East Oakcrest Avenue about parking concerns due to commercial development. He contacted the resident and spoke with them at length, and asks that Council approve having the Police Department look into the situation. Chief James will do so, and will check with the Housing/Zoning Officer to verify what parking is permitted in the area. Turon met with CFO Marilyn Dolcy, and although we do not have final numbers yet he would like Council to meet once more with their department heads to review operating expenses and capital improvements, and be prepared to justify both. On behalf of Dolcy, Turon said the Council members should visit the Finance Office on the Friday before Council meetings to ensure that all items make it to the bill list.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

Council President Kern requested that everyone check their calendars to see if they can attend the 1st budget meeting the 3rd week of March.

Councilman Vain also attended the PTO night at the Atlantic City Country Club, noting that it was a large turnout. Cindy Ruffo, Safety Coordinator for 2009, is working with the Safety Committee to establish 2 safety objectives for 2009's Safety Incentive Program. Last year, our efforts earned us a Silver Award under the direction of 2008 Coordinator Mary Canesi. Vain congratulated all departments and the Safety Committee for their efforts. He thanked Council for contacting him with housing and zoning concerns, adding that this system is working well for Mike Dattalo and promised that all complaints would be promptly addressed. Vain announced the times and dates for upcoming Allsports and Little League Meetings, and reminded everyone of the upcoming April 25th kickoff of the "Keep Kids Alive Drive 25" program. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Vain directly.

Councilman Smith had nothing to report for the Courts/Violations department. He attended the Northfield School Board meeting last night and announced that a finalist for the superintendent's position has been identified. The school will be hosting a forum on March 5th at 7pm to discuss the referendum question slated for the April 21st election. Smith would like to invite Mr. Baruffi, the new Mainland Superintendent, and the Northfield members of that school board to speak to council. He stated that, as reported at the board meeting, the school will be returning \$305,000 to the City; Council was unaware of this issue. Smith will investigate and report to Council. He reported traffic concerns to Chief James as relayed to him by parents about pick up and drop at the school. Chief James, Mayor Mazzeo, and Smith will meet to discuss. The Northfield Rescue Squad delivered documents requested today; Smith had not had the opportunity to review them but will do so. He said he had been contacted by Linwood with regard to the possibility of investigating sharing rescue squad services. Discussion ensued. Councilman Smith motioned, Vain seconded, for a resolution to authorize the necessary steps to be taken to initiate a competitive contracting process for rescue squad services. This resolution has been identified as 50-2009.

Roll Call: Mr. Carew-Absent; Mr. O'Grady-no; Mr. Martinez-no; Mr. Smith-yes; Mr. Turon-yes; Mr. Vain-yes; Mrs. Kern-yes. Motion carries.

Councilman O'Grady reported that our current phone system lease is due to expire in the next few months, and that he is continuing to work with Chief James regarding upgrading the telephone service; progress is being made and he will report as new information becomes available. Referring to a proposal he sent to Council from a firm that does online payments for tax payments, etc., O'Grady asked that everyone

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

review it for future discussion. He plans to invite the vendor to speak to Council at an upcoming meeting. There is a new function on the City website that allows department heads to upload their own minutes; the Clerk's side is working well but there are issues with the Planning/Zoning Board. The Library Board met on February 12th and 19th and Seth Brilliant, President of the Library Board of Trustees is here tonight to respond to any questions about the \$55,000 return via the Moriarty Bill. There will be a meeting of the COAH Committee on February 26th at 7pm to discuss the COAH ordinance. Anyone who wishes to attend should do so.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo also attended the recent PTO event, and thanked the organizers for doing a great job. Mazzeo announced that he will be performing his first wedding ceremony this week in Council Chambers. He thanked Seth Brilliant for his hard work on the documents required for the return of funds through the Moriarty Bill. The State Librarian has many complicated requests, and Mazzeo hopes to see the \$55,000 return. Chief James has been selected to attend the FBI's National Academy program. Only 1% of all applicants are accepted; the class runs from July 12-September 18, 2009. He thanked City Solicitor Bonchi and Tax Assessor Mark Sykes for their work on Ordinance 2-2009, to authorize the sale of municipally owned land to Patricia Hughes. Hughes has been pursuing this since 2003. Mazzeo concluded his report by providing the statistics from the January Police Department report.

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: materials are being ordered for the Drainage at Wabash Phase II project, with work slated to begin in approximately one month. Plans for the redesign of Cedarbridge and Zion are 90% complete and we should be ready to get final sign-off from the County in a week. Councilman Turon commented that there are road spoils on Wabash Avenue, approximately 100 feet from Tilton Road. Doran will investigate. Mayor Mazzeo asked Doran to elaborate on the Northfield/Atlantic County land swap. Doran stated that the County wants to exchange a small piece of County-owned land for an equivalent piece of land owned by Northfield, both on Dolphin Avenue. The swap will give the County better access to their complex. Solicitor Bonchi will investigate the legal issues, and advise.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Council President Kern thanked Chief James for applying for the two grants that are being accepted via resolution on this evening’s agenda. James explained that one is a cell phone enforcement grant, and the other is for bicycle and pedestrian safety. Grant funds may be used to re-institute the Bike Rodeo, and to improve parking issues near the school. Kern announced that the Municipal Alliance may be interested in assisting with the Rodeo, and that they will be having a Parent-Bullying program on March 27th. The Cultural Committee is having their annual garage sale at the school on March 7th at the Northfield Community School.

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion of Councilman Turon second of Councilman O’Grady, all present in favor of a Consent Agenda for Resolutions 41-2009 through 48-2009 as follows:

- 41-2009** Release of Escrow Monies by the Planning and Zoning Board for Block 48 Lots 6-10, Block 51 Lots 15-21, and Block 133 Lot 1.02
- 42-2009** Refund of Partial Sewer Payment for Block 52 Lot 6
- 43-2009** To Appoint Matt Doran to Fill the Position of Part Time Construction Official
- 44-2009** Resolution to Accept the ‘Hang Up Just Drive’ Cell Phone Usage Enforcement Overtime Reimbursement Grant
- 45-2009** Resolution to Accept the ‘Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety’ Grant
- 46-2009** Resolution to Reduce Hours of Work of Plumbing Sub-Code Official
- 47-2009** To Authorize Tax Assessor Mark Sykes to Prepare Requests for Proposal for a Property Revaluation for the City of Northfield
- 48-2009** To Enter into an Agreement with Matt Doran Inspections to Perform Building Sub-Code Inspections for the City of Northfield

Roll call: Mr. Carew – Absent; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

ORDINANCES

On a motion of Councilman Turon, second of Councilman Martinez all in favor of reading Ordinance 2-2009 by title only.

2-2009 An Ordinance Authorizing The Private Sale Of Municipally Owned Land Located In Block 170 Lot 11 Located On West Yorkshire Avenue, City Of Northfield, County Of Atlantic, State Of New Jersey
Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press 02/28/2009

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 2-2009.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Turon motioned, Councilman Martinez seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$3,327,360.06. Smith, Turon, Vain, and Kern announced their abstention from certain line items on the bill list. Copies are on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries for payment of bills.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Seth Brilliant, 2329 Merritt Drive, President of the Library Board of Trustees, stated that he is disappointed that the news is not better with regard to future annual returns via the Moriarty Bill, and discussed the 4 year plan for the Library. Brilliant said the size of the City Library is no longer in compliance based on size for population and they need more room. However any expansion would have to wait as the funding of the operation of an expansion would become an issue if the millage continues to be flat. President Kern thanked Brilliant for his report, adding that Council is always supportive of the Library.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

Jim O'Neill, 7 Cara Court, provided information on a telephone service vendor that has saved his company a great deal of money, and urged Council to consider them as an option.

Julie Zlotnick, 8 Ridgewood Court, congratulated members of Council that voted to go out for an RFP, and expressed disappointment that she felt the vote was divided along political party lines.

Margot Lischin, 217 Mt Vernon Avenue, thanked Councilman Smith for raising the concerns of citizens about traffic in the area of the school, and suggested 4 way stop signs at Mt Vernon and the bike path. Chief James advised that the State regulates where we can install stop signs, and this area was looked at in the past. He added that the rules have relaxed somewhat, and the area can be reviewed again.

Frank Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, President of the Northfield Rescue Squad, stated that he's provided all documents requested by Council to them in a timely fashion. Perri urged Council to look at other options besides the Rescue Squad for sharing services and said he feels Northfield would be best served if the service remained unchanged.

Seeing no others from the public wishing to speak, President Kern closed the public session.

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

49-2009 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 Robert M. Nawrocki v. City of Atlantic City

At 8:27p.m., Councilman Turon motioned, O'Grady seconded to adopt resolution 49-2009 and enter into Executive Session.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O'Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries. Council remained in Council Chambers.

Solicitor Bonchi announced the following for the record: it is necessary for the City Council of the City of Northfield to discuss in a session not open to the public certain matters relating to a an employee misconduct suit in the matter of Robert M. Nawrocki v. City of Atlantic City and Jeffrey L Bruckler and Jeffrey L Bruckler v. City of Northfield, Docket No. ATL—L 00858-08, as authorized by NJSA 10:4-12,

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

regarding pending litigation. Deliberations conducted in closed session may be released when a decision with respect to the matter has been made and all rights to litigate or appeal are exhausted; provided, that material entitled to Court protection or subject to attorney-client privilege shall not be disclosed. Bonchi will be providing an update to Council with regard to the lawsuit and no vote will be taken.

Allowing time for the videographer to pack up and depart, this session commenced at 8:35pm.

At 8:58p.m. this Executive Session was adjourned and Solicitor Bonchi announced a summary for the public as follows: he gave an update to the Mayor and City Council as to the status of the case of Nawrocki v. Bruckler v. City of Northfield. The minutes cannot be released until the case is closed.

Councilman Smith read the meeting notices. City Council will meet for budget discussion on Tuesday March 10th at 7:00 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi
Acting Municipal Clerk