

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 10, 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 Northfield Boy Scout Troop # 72, who is celebrating the 99th year of Scouting in America. Following the flag salute, there was a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

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

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

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Kern reviewed the agenda. Councilman Carew requested that the salary increases for Mayor and Council contained in Resolution 53-2009 be removed from the agenda, pending further discussion at the March 16th budget meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Martinez stated that there have been no meetings of the Planning/Zoning Board due to lack of applications. The COAH meeting scheduled for February 26th was canceled and rescheduled for March 26th at 7:00pm.

Councilman Turon reminded all in attendance that there will be a budget presentation meeting on Monday, March 16th at 7:00pm. All council members were asked to be familiar with their budgets and to bring cost-savings recommendations to the meeting.

Earlier today, Councilman Vain met with Chief James, Robbie Dollard of Doran Engineering, and County personnel about the City’s safety concerns at the Oak Avenue and Zion Road intersection. The County is amenable to the installation of a flashing light to call attention to drivers on Zion Road of their approach to the intersection. Specifics have yet to be worked out, but Vain is happy with the progress that has been made. He announced that the City’s 2008 Safety Award has been upgraded to Gold due to a scoring error, and that the monetary award received is \$2,650.00. Safety objectives for 2009 include the demolition of the old snack bar at Birch Grove Park, installation of a handicapped-accessible ramp at the Park walkway and new hand dryers in the rest rooms at City Hall. Vain attended the Allsports and

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Little League meetings; everyone is geared up for baseball and a fields “wish list” provided to Vain has been emailed to Council for discussion at the budget meeting. Regarding the East Oakcrest Avenue parking concerns, Vain said he spoke with Zoning Officer Dattalo, and the issue will need to be addressed with an ordinance changing the permissible parking in the area. Suggestions include 2 hour parking or resident parking by permit only.

Councilman Carew commended the Road Department for their excellent performance during the recent snow storm. The Road Department is also gearing up for the warmer weather season at the bike path, the fields, and other open areas. The annual fishing tournament will commence at 7am on opening day for Birch Grove Park, which is April 11th. Carew thanked everyone involved for the hard work and support. The Friends of Birch Grove Park will be holding a park clean-up on April 21st with the help of volunteers. The State will be stocking the ponds with trout some time during the 3rd week in March. Work continues on the new snack bar and the plans are with the engineer and architect for the project. On April 4th there will be a fundraiser and 5k run in honor of the late Dave Lewis. Councilman Vain added that donations are being solicited for fishing tournament prizes.

Councilman Smith announced that the Northfield Community School will be hosting a Dave Lewis Day on Saturday, March 21st. On March 16th, the same day as the Council budget meeting, the School Board will be holding a budget meeting as well. Smith provided statistics from the monthly Rescue Squad Report, and thanked the Squad for covering the basketball tournaments recently held at the school. Smith announced that members of Northfield’s Council met with their Linwood counterparts to discuss the shared services RFP for Rescue Squad services. The RFP is very close to completion and solicitor review is pending. Smith said he feels Council has served the community well by seeing if there is any money to be saved.

Councilman O’Grady said he is in the process of installing the ‘email your councilperson’ function on the City’s website and it should be up and running by the end of the week. Issues with the Planning/Zoning Board link on the site should be resolved shortly. He announced that he distributed a proposal to Council from a company called Muni-trax that facilitates online payments for taxes and other services for municipalities. The only fees are to the end-user. O’Grady will consult with departments involved to solicit their feedback, and Solicitor Bonchi will advise if the bidding regulations apply to this type of a contracted service. O’Grady has also been working with Assistant Fire Chief Crooks on using technology for training purposes, and he continues to work with Chief James on a more efficient and less costly communications system. He attended the most recent Library meeting and proposals are being discussed with regard to a possible future expansion. O’Grady

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advised that he'd like to keep the energy audit moving forward and on everyone's mind. The City has been advised that we must create and fill the position of Municipal Housing Liaison to comply with the ongoing COAH regulations; O'Grady will further investigate and advise.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo commended Leon Delcher for filling in as Emergency Management Coordinator during the recent snowstorm; Qwin Vitale was on vacation. Mazzeo said Delcher helped to ensure smooth communications between affected departments. Mazzeo also thanked the Road Department for doing a great job during the storm, noting that he received many positive comments from residents and from the staff of Atlantic Electric. The State has advised that the contract for the 'Welcome to Northfield' sign to be constructed at Rt 9 and Tilton Roads is ready for award, and that we will be responsible for cutting the grass around the sign. Mazzeo attended a meeting at the Community School held to discuss the referendum question being placed on ballot at the April 21st election; the Mainland School board feels the project is necessary and that monies spent to maintain the aging facility would be better spent on expansion. The Police Department is half-way through the duration of the Cell Phone crackdown grant and 200 tickets have been issued thus far. He asked Chief James to explain a recent telephone call from Somers Point about possible consolidation of dispatch services. James said Somers Point is looking into consolidating with Linwood, and Northfield has been asked if we'd be interested in partnering with them. Mazzeo commented on issues concerning compatibility with different radio frequencies, as our system is more up to date than others currently in use. James added that all involved departments would be included to ensure technical requirements are met. Councilman Vain, as a member of the shared Services Committee, was asked to reach out to appropriate members of the Somers Point governing body for discussion. Mazzeo noted that planning for the Memorial Day Parade has begun and there will be a few added features to the parade this year. A new bill was just introduced in the Assembly that would remove Library expenses from the 4% Cap; if passed it may provide the City with a small amount of flexibility with future budgets. He received a letter from County Executive Denny Levinson announcing that a breakfast will be hosted at the Great Bay Country Club on April 2nd by the Atlantic County Economic Development Advisory Commission in partnership with the Greater Atlantic City Chamber on upcoming major construction projects that will go to bid in 2009.

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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 provided updates to the report as follows: the tax maps are complete and have been approved by the State. Doran will deliver a paper copy and a digital copy to Tax Assessor Sykes. It is a format suitable to be placed on the website. Drainage at Wabash Phase II has begun. The two walkover bridges at Philmar Circle have been completed, and Burton Avenue may have to be closed on Friday for continuation of work. Doran will coordinate with the Police Department. The Cedarbridge/Zion project should be ready to bid soon; it is possible that work could begin by the summer of 2009. Councilman Turon asked for an update on the installation of one-way signage on Cedarbridge Road; Doran advised that the signs are on order and they will be installed upon delivery. Vain commented that the anticipated parking issues on Juniper remain outstanding. Chief James said 14 out of 24 surveys distributed to affected residents were returned, with the overwhelming sentiment leaning towards 2 hour parking, residents excepted. James added that the issue of forcing teachers to utilize the Mill Road lot may need to be addressed.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Kern echoed the sentiments of Mazzeo and Carew regarding the outstanding performance of the Road Department and Emergency Services during the recent storm. Kern also attended the referendum discussion at the Community School, and she has invited Dr. Baruffi to an upcoming Council Meeting for further explanation. Dr. Dever from Mainland is coming on the 24th of March to discuss the issue, as well as the MRHS budget. The Municipal Alliance will be hosting a parent bullying program on March 26th at the Community School; the Historical Society will be holding an antiques appraisal on March 19th in Council Chambers from 6pm-9pm.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Turon, second by Councilman Martinez, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 24, 2009. 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.

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion of Councilman Smith second of Councilman Carew, all present in favor of a Consent Agenda for Resolutions 51-2009 through 56-2009 as follows:

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- 51-2009** Authorizing Doran to Proceed with General Wetlands Permit #7 Application to the NJDEP for the project ‘Stormwater Pump Station at Philmar Circle’
- 52-2009** Authorizing the Transfer of Funds
- 53-2009** Salary Resolution for Non-Union Employees
- 54-2009** To Issue a Raffle License to the Northfield Education Foundation
- 55-2009** Resolution Supporting Participation In The Sustainable Jersey™ Municipal Certification Program
- 56-2009** To Issue a Raffle License to the Church of St Bernadette

Councilman Smith motioned, Carew seconded to adopt Resolutions 51-2009 through 56-2009 by Consent Agenda. Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries.

ORDINANCES

On a motion of Councilman Vain, 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
*Final Adoption / Open to the Public / No Public Comments Were Received
Published in the Press 03/14/2009*

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

On a motion of Councilman Carew, second of Councilman Martinez all in favor of reading Ordinance 3-2009 by title only.

- 3-2009** Ordinance Providing for and Establishing Salary Ranges of Officers and Employees of the City of Northfield and Repealing All

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Ordinances Heretofore Adopted, the Provisions of Which are
Inconsistent Herewith

Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press 03/14/2009

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; 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 3-2009.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, commended the Road Department for their performance during the recent snowstorm. Webb added that shared service dispatching was done in Northfield years ago, and when he was a member of the Northfield Police Department, Police, Fire and Rescue services were all performed by the same personnel. He does not advocate using a private company. Webb also feels that City department heads should live in Northfield.

Frank Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, President of the Northfield Rescue Squad Inc., presented Councilman Smith with a proposal to allow the Squad to purchase a City ambulance in order for them to compete in the pending RFP process. He also asked that the RFP be written in such a way as to allow them to compete if they do not own their own equipment. Councilman Smith said the requested language has been included. Perri said comments made in last week’s issue of the Current erroneously indicated that if the Memorandum of Understanding was not renewed upon expiration on May 27th that rescue services would no longer be provided. Perri stated that regardless of the status of the Memorandum, City Ordinance 37-1977 would provide for service to continue. He said the auditor has requested a legal opinion with regard to outstanding obligations or litigation. Perri is asking for a waiver of that request, and would like to have the auditor accept the less expensive alternative of having the Executive Board of the Squad certify the information. President Kern said this will be discussed with the auditor. She noted that Perri was quoted as intimating that City Council was involved with the JIF’s decision to no longer insure them. Perri asserted that this is what he was told. Solicitor Bonchi clarified that the JIF on its own determined that based on the way the Squad operates – as an independent not for profit corporation - they will not provide insurance. This is a change made County-wide by the JIF, not in Northfield alone. Bonchi also asked Perri if they are going to meet the deadline of April 1st to obtain their own insurance

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coverage. Perri replied that he has applied for coverage but does not have a contract as of yet; hopefully within a week.

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

Councilman Martinez read the meeting notices. City Council will meet for budget discussion on Monday, March 16th at 7:00 pm, and the next regular meeting of Council will be on Tuesday, March 24th at 7:00pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi
Acting Municipal Clerk