

CITY OF NORTHFIELD BUDGET WORK SESSION #2
MARCH 30, 2009

At 7:19 pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Acting Municipal Clerk. It was properly advertised according to Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Mazzeo. Following the flag salute there was a moment of silence in honor of all volunteers in the City of Northfield; may they continue to serve.

ROLL CALL

Present: Carew, Martinez, O'Grady, Smith, Turon, Vain, Kern

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/ MARCH 16, 2009

Motion was made by Councilman Vain, second by Councilman Carew to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 16, 2009. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. All present in favor, motion carries.

Council President Kern deferred to CFO Marilyn Dolcy for a status update on the proposed 2009 municipal budget.

Dolcy stated that after the last budget work session the proposed tax increase was at 8.2 cents; there were a few miscalculations in the police salaries that raised the increase a bit. Mayor Mazzeo noted that the purchase of a new police car was deleted, reducing appropriations by \$29,000; in addition, we have approval for the return of the \$55,000 from 2008 via the Moriarty Bill and will need to do a resolution to accept the funds. Councilman Martinez asked if the salary increases for Mayor and Council are being accepted this year; as of now they are still in the budget. Councilman Vain stated that he raised the issue at the last meeting and suggested that they be deleted. Mayor Mazzeo inquired about 2009 capital projects. City Engineer Matt Doran reviewed various projects for which money has been allotted; in addition there is money for many minor repairs that have been around for years. Discussion ensued and a recommendation was made to reduce the capital budget by one-half, to \$500,000.00. Councilman Carew stated that the Road Department will not be filling one of the two vacant positions, a savings of \$33,000.00, and suggested reducing gasoline costs by \$20,000.00. With these amendments, the proposed tax increase is at 5.9 cents.

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President Kern opened the meeting for public input:

Frank Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, inquired about the cost of the revaluation. Dolcy advised that we don't have the bids yet, but we have appropriated \$350,000 that will be paid back at \$70,000 per year over 5 years. He asked for clarification of \$95,000 in legal fees on the proposed budget; Dolcy advised that as in 2008, there are issues outstanding that could cost the City money in legal fees. Perri also urged further consideration of privatizing City services to reduce pension and benefits expenses.

Jim O'Neill, 7 Cara Court, inquired if any progress had been made with a new telephone system. O'Grady advised that the process is still being investigated.

Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court, asked if there was a hiring freeze for 2009, citing pending school and county tax increases.

Lou Milone, 106 Haddon Avenue, stated that Northfield's was one of only two libraries in the state that sought relief for the municipality via the Moriarty Bill.

Jim Clark, 1924 Cedarbridge Road, and Manager of Northfield's Public Works Department, stated that the Public Works laborers duties are not limited to waste collection, they plow snow, clean storm drains, and more. They are always utilized in other areas of Public Works when the trash runs have been completed for the day.

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

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, Acting Municipal Clerk