

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING

April 28, 2009

This meeting was called to order by Council President, Cindy Kern. 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 all community leaders in government, school boards and public safety. May their work be for the benefit of the community they live in and where they work.

ROLL CALL

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

City Solicitor Keith Bonchi was absent and Rosann Allen, Esquire was present in his place. City Engineer was absent and Deborah Wahl, P.E., P.P. was present in his place.

RESOLUTION

On a motion of Councilman Vain and a second of Councilman Turon, all present in favor of the following resolution:

80-2009 Resolution Of The City Of Northfield, County Of Atlantic, State Of New Jersey, Appointing Robin Atlas As Deputy Municipal Clerk For The City Of Northfield in the Absence of the Clerk

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.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman O'Grady, second by Councilman Turon, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of Special Meeting March 30, 2009, Budget Work Session March 30, 2009, and Council meeting April 7, 2009. All present in favor, motion carries for approval of minutes.

RESOLUTION

89-2009 To Authorize Award Of Contract For Revaluation Services In The City Of Northfield

Thomas Smith, Esq. and Mark Sykes, Tax Assessor were present and a discussion of the revaluation contract ensued. Councilman Carew thanked everyone involved for a job well done in seeing this project move forward from last October to date. President Kern said the committee reviewing the proposals consisted of Mark Sykes, Tom Smith, and CFO Marilyn Dolcy. Tom Smith said

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the committee reviewed the proposals of the three bids which were submitted against set criteria, and recommends that Professional Property Appraisers be awarded the contract. The committee has references and information obtained from other municipalities and Smith said the committee believes this company has the best chance to complete the project on time, will produce the best product and will stand behind their work. Once approved, work can begin fifteen days after the Director of Taxation signs off on the contract. Councilman Vain asked if the committee was confident they could have it on the books for 2010. Smith said the company has only one other project currently and came highly recommended where other companies have required extensions. Mayor Mazzeo asked where they would work. Mark Sykes explained the City has to provide, at no extra cost, an office in City Hall, with access to a desk and one computer connected to Vital Services. Sykes has to sign off on any numbers and he oversees the project. He requested a separate desk from his own and believes there are other areas in City Hall that can be utilized. There will be two to three Reval employees working at a time and more when informal hearings are necessary. Evening access to the building may also be required. Carew assured Sykes that he will get together with Buildings and Grounds and the employees and is sure they can come up with a solution.

Councilman Carew motioned, Carew seconded. 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.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Kern reviewed the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Martinez reported that he attended the Planning and Zoning Board meeting on April 16th and the Board heard an application from Kensington Square for an amended site plan and signage. He described the new project to add additional retail space inside and to change the old sign to ‘The Shops at Kensington’. The 70,000 sf area will be more of a shopper’s square concept and will include such stores as a smaller Kensington Furniture store, Kitchen Capers, Patsy’s Card Shop, Creative Window Designs, and they are looking into a flower shop and book store. Council Martinez thanked all involved with this viable business district and their continued efforts in these tough economic times.

Councilman Turon congratulated the winners in this year’s School Board election and is happy with the interest shown by the five people who ran for the three available seats. He reported the local school budget did not pass and asked President Kern to form a committee to meet with them to review their budget and also to review the Mainland budget. She said she will do so in her report. Councilman Turon congratulated the Arbor Day Celebration participants. There

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was a lot of contribution from the Scouts and the Friends of Birch Grove Park and it was a good event. He mentioned the walk which recognized the Becker Girls held at the Northfield Community School and congratulated the sponsors, organizers, and participants. He also attended the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fire Department earlier this evening at Friendly's Restaurant which was well attended.

Councilman Vain reported that he met with Dr. Trocki concerning Burton Estates and hopes to have a deal in place next month. Finalization is needed as this has been ongoing for two years. He will report back at the next meeting. Councilman Vain mentioned the 2010 census and said he will be representing Northfield on a committee. Obtaining an accurate count helps with aid for certain programs. He attended a Municipal Alliance meeting with President Kern, but will allow her to elaborate on this. He mentioned the Happy Home Walk which was held together with the Keep Kids Alive-Drive 25 walk and said there were over 250 participants. He mentioned that he placed 'Slow down-Drive 25' decals on the front table in City Hall and suggested placing them on trash, recycle and yard waste cans for awareness. Councilman Vain also mentioned the Teen Driving School which will be held at City Hall on May 13th. This is a free event being held for driver's safety for teens and their parents by the Northfield Police Department teamed up with the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety and the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education. He said to contact Lieutenant Faden for more information and registration at 641-2832, ext. 100.

Councilman Carew reported on the opening of Birch Grove Park for the season on April 11th. Even though it rained, he thanked the 65 kids and volunteers who attended. He said some fish were caught, but even they seemed to stay in that day due to the weather. Councilman Carew commented on Resolution No. 86-2009 and appreciated the efforts by the Road Department in hiring a new laborer. He also mentioned the Slowdown-Drive 25 campaign and felt there is more awareness and that the speed bumps and oversized stop signs are having an impact. He mentioned that the Police are also helping and that awareness will make the big difference. This is important since Northfield is a cut-through town.

Councilman Smith also attended The Walk and reported that it was an excellent event sponsored by the Northfield Board of Education which raised awareness and also raised money for the Happy Home Orphanage. He thanked the Rescue Squad for their assistance. He mentioned the school budgets and said a committee needs to meet to resolve the budgets by May 19th. He thanked the School Board members, Tracy Campbell, Karyn White, and Debbie Levitt on being elected and sworn in. Dr. Janice Fipp's appointment was approved as the new Superintendent of Northfield Schools, effective July 1st. Councilman Smith thanked Dr. Stepura for his service to the City of Northfield and the students. He mentioned that the Northfield Middle School was honored as the School of Character in the State of New Jersey over eight finalists and could achieve national recognition. He reported that a motion to approve two handicapped ramps for access to elections passed and he expects them to be completed by the

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next primary. Councilman Smith concluded that four Rescue Squad proposals have been submitted. A committee meeting will need to be set up to evaluate the proposals.

Councilman O'Grady reported on the new addition to the City web site which allows residents to provide their email addresses and receive notices. He encouraged residents to visit the site and to sign up. This is a spam-free list. He mentioned that the first test was the notice that CedarBridge Road would be changed in part to a one way street. Residents can also get in touch with Council members by e-mail through the site as well as obtain minutes and other notices. The Public Works Department will be online shortly which will cut down on faxes and will allow for better communication with a faster turn-around time. Councilman O'Grady also noted that National Public Library week was successful with many events and he thanked the Library Board and the Friends of the Library and all who participated. The next Library Board meeting will be May 14th.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo reported that he also attended the walk at the Community school and was pleased it was well attended. The Mayor said there is a program through the State called the Mayor's Wellness Campaign which helps employees with diet, nutrition, and exercise programs. He has called Atlantic Care and on June 24th, they will be available at City Hall for the employees for blood pressure, cholesterol, and sugar screenings. There will also be a guest speaker, local Chiropractor Dr. Rocco Santora, who will speak about healthy diets. The Mayor said this program will benefit employees' health and may lower health care costs. Mayor Mazzeo congratulated the School Board election winners and all who ran in the election and also the committee for the referendum for Mainland who did a great job getting information out to the community. He acknowledged the efforts of the committee and the Board of Education for the two out of three questions that were passed.

Mayor Mazzeo gave the Police report for the month of March: Investigation reports generated-65, arrests-49, motor vehicle stops-855, traffic summonses-541, crash reports-49 and property checks-807. There are three additional officers on bike patrol for a total of nine.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the City Clerk's office. There were no updates to the report, but Deborah Wahl highlighted certain items. The Phase 2 drainage improvements at Wabash Avenue were addressed and the paving is complete. The final change order will be on the next agenda in May. Ms. Wahl noted that Atlantic City Electric has connected electric supply to the storm water pump station at Philmar Circle. It is

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expected to be on line within the next two weeks. Fencing is scheduled to be installed this coming week. Regarding the intersection design at Cedarbridge and Zion Roads, plans have been submitted to the County for review and positive input has been received from them and will be incorporated into the plans. Bid openings are anticipated prior to the second Council meeting in May. Ms. Wahl addressed the 2007 Safe Route to School Program (Sidewalk on Cedarbridge Road) and said the design is complete and has been submitted to DOT. Their response was that the Resolution concerning one way traffic and restrictions on parking must be permanent. Until that time, the project cannot proceed. The Municipal Aid Fiscal Year 2009 Application for reconstruction of Mt. Vernon Avenue between Shore Road and Fuae Avenue has been sent to NJDOT for their approval. The Municipal Aid Fiscal Year 2010 Application for reconstruction of Mt. Vernon Avenue from Fuae Avenue to New Road is on tonight's agenda for endorsement of the application by way of Resolution.

President Kern addressed the issue of the permanent resolution needed for the Cedarbridge sidewalk project to move forward. Chief James commented that this would need to be in the form of an Ordinance. President Kern said two meetings and advertising would be necessary.

Mr. Carew commented that the drainage improvements on Davis Avenue and near Dunkin Donuts have substantially improved drainage problems after two inlet installations and a pipe extension. The improvements have been seen even with the April rains the area has experienced.

Chief James commented that one-way traffic on Cedarbridge Road has been in effect for one and one-half weeks and has been going well. Signage problems have been addressed with Jim Clark.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Kern commented that both school budgets were defeated and meetings between Council and the school will have to take place. President Kern said the Northfield school committee will consist of Councilman Turon, Mayor Mazzeo and Councilman Smith and the committee for Mainland will be Councilman Turon, Mayor Mazzeo and Councilman O'Grady. She will contact the committees with meeting dates. President Kern reported on the Municipal Alliance and said there is a grant from the state every year and this years' grant is \$13,000 and is used for programs throughout the community. The most recent was held Monday, April 27th and was a breakfast for senior citizens promoting better health and better living and there were two speakers from Therapy & Living. The event was successful with 75 seniors attending. The grant also funds part of the after-prom at Mainland, programs at the Northfield Community School, Northfield Night Out and other programs. She said if anyone has any programs they would like to see funded they can send inquiries to her.

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RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilman Turon, all present in favor of a Consent Agenda for Resolutions 81-2009 to 88-2009 and 90-2009 as follows:

- 81-2009** Approval To Submit A Grant Application And Execute A Grant Agreement With The New Jersey Department Of Transportation For The 2010 Municipal Aid – Reconstruction Of Mt Vernon Avenue Project
- 82-2009** Approval To Submit A Grant Application And Execute A Grant Agreement With The New Jersey Department Of Transportation For The 2010 Municipal Aid – Traffic Markings And Stripes At Bike Path Project
- 83-2009** A Resolution Of The City Of Northfield Authorizing An Agreement With The County Of Atlantic For Reimbursement Of Money To Purchase Property For Open Space/Recreation
- 84-2009** Release of Escrow Monies by the Planning/Zoning Board Block 34 Lot 25
- 85-2009** To Authorize Issuance of a Raffle License to the Charity League
- 86-2009** To Authorize the Hiring of a Laborer in the Public Works Department
- 87-2009** A Resolution Approving The Terms Of A License And Hold Harmless Agreement Between The County Of Atlantic And The City Of Northfield And Authorizing The Mayor To Execute The Agreement On Behalf Of The City
- 88-2009** To Authorize Refund of Overpayment of 2008 Taxes Block 73 Lot 21
- 90-2009** A Resolution of Support from Local Governing Body Authorizing the Sustainable Jersey™ Grant funded by Wal-Mart

Councilman Turon motioned, Councilman Vain seconded to adopt Resolutions 81-2009 through 88-2009 and 90-2009 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.

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ORDINANCES

On a motion of Councilman Smith, second of Councilman Martinez, all in favor of reading Ordinance 5-2009 by title only.

5-2009 An Ordinance Providing For And Allowing The City Of Northfield To Lease Certain Vehicles To The Northfield Rescue Squad, Inc., A Not-For-Profit Corporation
*Final Adoption Open to the Public/No Public Comments Received
Published in the Press 05/02/2009*

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 5-2009.

On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilman O’Grady, all in favor of reading Ordinance 6-2009 by title only.

6-2009 An Ordinance Providing For Two Hour Parking On Juniper Drive And A Portion Of Cedarbridge Road
*Final Adoption Open to the Public/No Public Comments Received
Published in the Press 05/02/2009*

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 6-2009.

On a motion of Councilman Martinez, second of Councilman Turon, all in favor of reading Ordinance 7-2009 by title only.

7-2009 An Ordinance Providing For A 25 Mph Speed Limit For The Entire Length Of Burton Avenue Between Tilton Road And Mill Road
*Final Adoption/Open to the Public
Published in the Press 05/02/2009*

Mr. Craig Tanzola who resides at 10 Magnolia Court commented on the proposed Ordinance. He felt the Ordinance has no restraint or check and balance and said more posted speed limits will help with compliance. He mentioned a sign that could help at the Fire House on Burton which would read “25 MPH when children are playing”. He added that when children aren’t at play or when sporting events are not going on, others shouldn’t have to drive 25 mph. He agrees with enforcement of the speed limits and believes that will help. He agrees with Mr. Vain’s concerns, but feels travelers have entitlement to go from point A to point B in a timely fashion.

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President Kern stated that Council is being proactive. There are not only sports events going on at Burton Avenue, there are also elderly people and others who use the fields. The Police are enforcing speed on every street and City Council doesn't want to see anything bad happen due to speeding. Councilman Turon, Chief James and President Kern agreed that the area is a school route and children do walk along the road. Turon commented that Council has been trying to reduce the speed on this road for ten years. Carew added that the Volunteer Fire Department feels the road is a busy one, especially during the day. The reduced speed limit will be an improvement on Burton Avenue.

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 7-2009.

On a motion of Councilman Turon, second of Councilman Carew, all in favor of reading Ordinance 8-2009 by title only.

8-2009 Calendar Year 2009 Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

*Final Adoption Open to the Public/No Public Comments Received
Published in the Press 05/02/2009*

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 8-2009.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Turon motioned, Councilman Carew seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$3,244,251.14. Councilmen Vain and Smith and President 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 – yes; 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.

Bob Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, commented that the veterans were invited to the community school last Wednesday and the children asked many bright questions. It was an enlightening experience for the veterans and the third time he

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attended the ceremony and he said the organizer, Maryann Devine, is a wonderful teacher and he thanked her for a job well done and for inviting them to the school.

Seth Brilliant, 2329 Merritt Drive, President of the Public Library Board, spoke about the Moriarity Law which allows the Library to give back certain portions of surplus funds. The Library decided it wanted to help the City by returning \$55,000 from 2008, which is a penny on the tax rate. The Library plans to put their plans for expansion on hold due to the current economic situation. He presented the check to President Kern to forward to the Chief Financial Officer. Mayor Mazzeo thanked the Library and Mr. Brilliant for their efforts. He knows it was a long process and he appreciates what they have done.

Joan Brennan, 116 Dolphin Avenue, spoke about an incident at her residence when she came home after work to find her home broken into with a lot of damage to her front and basement doors. She mentioned that there have been break-ins and property damage in the area where she lives and she is extremely frightened. She said poor lighting on Dolphin Avenue may be part of the problem. She presented a petition with 50 signatures asking for more lighting. She feels this area is becoming dangerous and feels crime has increased and asked what will be done about it. President Kern said making people aware is a good thing. She noted that the fact that many residents are here tonight is part of the awareness and Council can address the lighting issue. Councilman Carew supported the Police Department and said they do a great job dealing with crime sprees that go through town. Ms. Brennan suggested starting up a crime watch or community watch program. Chief James supported the idea of a community watch and suggested that email notifications can help. President Kern said Council will get behind a town watch program and Vain said Council will be happy to help.

Richard Cox, 38 Virginia Avenue, said more patrolling in certain areas is needed and not only for speeders. He personally has increased security at his home and feels things are getting bad at that end of town. President Kern thanked everyone for coming in and for bringing out awareness of this issue. Mr. Cox added that it is important to inform your neighbors when something like this happens. Mayor Mazzeo noted that he meets every Monday with Chief James and feels more bike presence is needed which can solve many cases. He will work on this.

Kathy Cox, 38 Virginia Avenue, said she is afraid of retaliation if she were to inform the Police and is reluctant to get involved.

Linda Klersey, 18 Haddon Avenue, asked if crime was in all areas of town. Chief James said crime is fairly equal throughout the town.

Robert Klersey, 18 Haddon Avenue, asked if the bike path was part of the problem. Chief James said the bike path area has always been an avenue which previously contained railroad tracks. He feels Northfield has done a good job

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lighting the bike path, but said the County needs to improve lighting in their areas. Mayor Mazzeo asked the Chief to show the residents a map of crimes that have occurred. He said crime is distributed fairly equal in the City, but the map shows some crime cell areas.

Anna Deder, 312 Fuae Avenue, mentioned that she noticed a streetlight out where she lives for four to five months which was finally fixed by the Electric Company, but they fixed the wrong light. She is concerned there are not enough patrols in her area of town.

Tim Holman, 2413 Shepherd Circle, feels a town watch program is a good idea. He suggested it is important to meet and know your neighbors. He also suggested that if a resident notices a street light out, to call Atlantic Electric with the metal tag number which identifies the pole, so that they will know which bulb to replace. He also gave a petition to President Kern from residents on Shepherd Circle West and Herbert Drive who are concerned about a bend in the road which is not illuminated and creates a blind spot. The pole is set back from the road and would probably require an eight foot arm. He said it is a very dark area and is an oversight from years ago.

President Kern closed the public session seeing no one else who wished to speak. She thanked everyone for all their stories and input and said the Police, Mayor and Council are listening. She said no one wants the community to change and thanked all for telling them to watch.

Mr. Carew read the meeting notice. The next regular meeting of Council will be held May 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

On a motion properly made by Councilman Carew and seconded by Councilman O'Grady, this meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Atlas, Deputy Municipal Clerk