

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 26, 2009**

At 7:00pm. 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 to honor those we remember each year on Memorial Day.

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, announcing that Committee Reports and the votes on Resolution 103 and Ordinances 9 and 10 would be placed at the end of the evening’s agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/APRIL 28, 2009

Motion was made by Councilman Vain, second by Councilman Turon to dispense with the reading of the minutes of April 28, 2009. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office. All present in favor, motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion of Councilman Carew second of Councilman Vain, all present in favor of a Consent Agenda for Resolutions 95-2009 through 102-2009:

- 95-2009** Certification of the Annual Audit
- 96-2009** Refunds of Overpayment of Taxes
- 97-2009** Release of Escrow Monies from the Planning/Zoning Board
- 98-2009** Authorizing Doran to Proceed with Certain Engineering Projects
- 99-2009** Appointment of Mary Canesi as Designated Public Agency Compliance Officer

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- 100-2009** To Authorize Refund of Overpayment of 2009 Taxes – Various
- 101-2009** To Authorize Reduction of Performance Guarantee for Block 22 Lot 22
- 102-2009** To Authorize a Raffle License for the Alcove Center for Grieving Children and Families

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.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Turon motioned, Councilman O’Grady seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 1,487,069.26. Turon 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 – 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.

PRESENTATION BY ATLANTICARE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LEADERSHIP, MEDICAL DIRECTOR DR. TOM BRABSON, D.O., EMS DIRECTOR MARK RALSTON, AND EMS CHIEF JOHNNY DELGADO

Johnny Delgado, Chief of EMS for Atlanticare said he wanted to speak to the community about what Atlanticare offers and who they are as an organization. Their goal is to deliver health and healing to all people through trusting relationships, and building healthy communities. Safety is their top priority, whether it is workplace, employee or employer safety. Atlanticare’s EMS responded to over 40,000 calls for service last year; Delgado explained the transport process in terms of a patient’s preference of treatment center and the impact of medical necessity.

Dr. Tom Brabson, Medical Director for the City Center, has been involved in EMS since 1975, including additional fellowship training. He explained the assessment of EMT staff to ensure qualifications, and explained the advanced in-field assessments they use to expedite patient care. He also explained their peer review system.

Council President Kern briefly exited the room to confer with the Fire Official with regard to the capacity limits in Council Chambers. Chief James announced that the

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meeting will continue. He asked for the cooperation of the crowd, and said that unduly disruptive individuals will be asked to leave.

Mark Ralston, EMS Director, detailed the qualifications of Atlanticare's EMS employees, their access to Medivac helicopters and various other teams that provide support services, including tactical support to law enforcement. He explained their dynamic deployment system for vehicle dispatch which involves sending the closest truck to the call. Their average response time is 3.39 minutes from call to arrival at location; the average time to 'wheels rolling' is .12 minutes.

Johnny Delgado explained the contractual relationship Atlanticare has with various insurance providers; the applicability of the Medicare rate to those on Medicare as well as those who are uninsured. He said they follow the bylaws of the NJ State Charity Care guidelines, and in 2008 Atlanticare provided \$46M in charity care. He outlined efforts to educate the community, such as National Night Out, training programs, and more. They are currently setting up a paramedic program with ACCC. There are 126 Atlanticare employees who are Northfield residents, and 6 EMS families live here. He provided his office telephone number for any questions at any time, and thanked everyone for allowing them to present.

President Kern asked the Mayor and Council members if they had any questions for the Atlanticare presenters.

Councilman Vain asked for clarification of charity care; Delgado replied that Atlanticare cannot balance-bill on Medicare. Vain inquired about insurance co-pays and deductibles. Delgado replied that NJ charity care guidelines are 'set'; whatever gets worked out is what Atlanticare will accept. Those that don't fit Medicare guidelines, but cannot afford to pay, should call Atlanticare to start the process; they will work with you. The worst thing is to ignore a billing statement; most of what goes to collections are those that couldn't pay but did not initiate the dialogue.

Councilman Turon said that one of the flyers distributed to residents indicated that Atlanticare would put a lien on someone's property because they could not pay a debt. Has this ever happened? Delgado said it has not, to his knowledge, but he will be happy to research the matter. Turon said there are many Northfield residents with recurring medical problems. Does Atlanticare have the willingness and capability to sit with residents to become familiar with these residents and their medical conditions? Delgado replied that profiles can be built for 'frequent flyers'; they can reach out to segments of the population to build the profiles. They can also spend time with individuals to build a database. They will also develop area specific maps to help navigate areas such as parks, etc.

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Councilman Smith asked about dynamic deployment; how often will there be a rig in Northfield and during what times. Delgado advised that if Atlanticare is selected this will be one of their 'bases'. He reviewed dynamic deployment, explaining that when one rig is deployed, the entire grid moves to adjust coverage. They will dispatch the closest rig, even if it is not the rig currently sitting in Northfield.

Councilman Martinez asked if the 'grid' is GPS based. Delgado replied that all trucks are on a GPS based vehicle locating system. When call comes in, it automatically identifies the closest rig to the call; they use a combination of GPS and vehicle mapping. Martinez asked how many rigs there will be in Northfield at one time. Delgado said there are 12 BLS ambulances sitting in Linwood, where they don't have enough space; 2-3 of them will be moved here. If a Northfield truck gets pulled, another will be deployed to replace it.

Councilman Vain stated that the Northfield Community School is a big part of the community; will Atlanticare familiarize itself with the school? Delgado replied that they absolutely would.

President Kern said that one of the school nurses was very concerned that NRS was very familiar with the school. She said Atlanticare has offered to give a presentation to the school, and will send Northfield-based staff to the school to become familiar with common situations. Dr. Brabson added that Atlanticare also has an education program for school nurses; he will make sure that the NCS nurses are invited to the next session.

Councilman Carew referred to the 4 Seasons complex, and concerns about 'frequent flyers', and mentioned Birch Grove Park, and the NCS as additional concerns. He stated that Atlanticare would be meeting with 4 Seasons residents, will be taking medical histories for 'frequent flyers', will become familiar with the topography of BGP and of the school, and generally assured that these areas of concern will be proactively addressed.

President Kern announced the opening of the public session.

Mary Wilkes, 600 Shore Road, said she is concerned about residents who cannot afford ambulance care. Chief Delgado replied that EMTALA (the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act) protects all US citizens; you cannot be denied ambulance care based on ability or lack of ability to pay. Wilkes asked if this applied to someone with a history of not paying. Delgado said that did not matter. They will transport regardless.

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Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, asked for the annual fee for the contract? President Kern replied that it is zero dollars for 3 years.

Tom Cox, 208 West Glencove Avenue, said he sat on the Shared Service Committee with Mainland Regional. He said it looks like Linwood is the only one actually saving money. He asserted that charity care is not guaranteed.

Ray Seiler, 506 West Vernon Avenue, said he was here when the NRS was established, and gives credit to council for exploring a shared service opportunity but said this is not the right time. The record of the NRS speaks for itself. He feels using GPS is a distraction; NRS knows the residents and their needs. Will Atlanticare train with our Fire and Emergency Management departments? Delgado replied that they would. Seiler asked council to reconsider and keep NRS in town; he is concerned for citizens who don't have insurance.

Jason Rodman, 23 Fifield Avenue, presented a petition signed by 171 students at the NCS in support of the squad.

Cameron, a 3rd grader residing on Fifield Avenue, said her brother had brain surgery and she wants NRS to stay.

Dan Rodman, 23 Fifield Avenue (Jason's Dad), said the NRS received \$50,000 last year but got no more money. They are on target to ask for no more money. He feels the NRS could not compete in the RFP process because they had no way to service both communities. President Kern said there were no concerns raised during the process that the RFP was unfair. Rodman stated that the credit for the RFP was given to Julie Zlotnick; and said after the initial 3 yr contract that Atlanticare will raise the rate and it will cost more money. He sees no reason to replace the NRS and feels the move is personally motivated. President Kern explained the public bidding statutes that were triggered by the NRS going paid, and Solicitor Bonchi clarified that once the NRS became a paid squad and requested the right to bill for services it triggered the public bidding statutes.

Mayor Mazzeo asked if the RFP was a non-binding RFP. Bonchi replied that it was. Mazzeo said the City could have chosen the proposal submitted by NRS. Bonchi disagreed, saying that no vendor could be chosen outright, there were specific measurable criteria established which had to be used to select the winning bidder. Mazzeo asked if the committee could have made the recommendation to go with the NRS. Bonchi reiterated that the evaluation criteria had to be followed.

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Cathy Englert, 30 Fifield Avenue, said her 4 year old son has used the NRS 4-5 times already, and she wanted to speak for all of the parents of children with illnesses; NRS does a wonderful job.

Paul Utts, 144 East Rosedale Avenue, pointed out that Atlanticare did not mention that they are a for-profit company. He asserted that after 3 years when competition is whittled down, the price would increase. He announced that he is running for Council at Large, and says the government should not do things that cost the community jobs. 9 Northfield residents will lose their jobs as a result of this contract.

Atlanticare Chief Delgado clarified that Atlanticare is not a for-profit organization, and said that they will be holding a job fair for any displaced employees.

David Seitman, 3 Cara Court, said he is an anesthesiologist, and stated that he missed the beginning of the meeting. He cited studies that directly relate to response time, and asked for the differences in response times between the NRS and Atlanticare. Councilman Smith replied that the RFP required <5 min response time 90% of the time; the NRS response time analysis report from Chief James indicated that Atlanticare's response time is much better than NRS. Chief James stated that according to the CAD system, NRS has a cumulative response time of <6 minutes 75% of the time. Delgado said Atlanticare's BLS areas have a response time of 3 minutes and 39 seconds. Seitman said there is more than one level of EMT training and more than one kind of ambulance, and asked what kind of training the Atlanticare staff has received. Dr. Brabson, replied, saying that each of practitioner has to have their certifications validated, and that they are tested on a pre-employment basis, and thereafter annually to maintain skill competencies. Seitman asserted that Atlanticare is just providing standard of care and hopes that Council listens to the public that is here tonight

Patricia Lyons, residing at the corner of Broad and Franklin, asked what will happen with the 4 ambulance units owned by the city if the contract is awarded to Atlanticare. President Kern said they will be put up for auction. Lyons asked what they are worth and what happens to the money if they are sold. Carew replied, saying the proceeds of a sale would go in to the General Fund. He explained the composition of the fleet and estimated the market value is approximately \$100-\$120,000 total. Lyons said she spent 30 years as emergency medical dispatcher in Washington, DC and that Northfield will lose a community resource they can never get back. She also said she feels the use of the term 'frequent flyer' is derogatory.

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Louise Seitman, 3 Cara Court, said she saw the presentation earlier in the evening by Atlanticare and that she is concerned that residents use hospitals other than Atlanticare's. What guarantees are there that other hospitals will be served? What mechanism is in place to review Atlanticare's performance? President Kern asked Dr. Brabson to respond. He said they will transport a patient to the closest most available hospital, understanding that there are existing doctor patient relationships. Solicitor Bonchi advised that a contract will be executed and if they fail to perform, there are sanctions including termination of the contract. Seitman wanted to know who would decide if they were doing a good job. Bonchi said that would be the decision of the governing body.

Steve Scheffler, 2110 Sutton Avenue, announced that he was Northfield's Solicitor in 2008. He said he understands that the responsibility of the elected officials is to carry out the will of government, and as such sees no reason for the switch to Atlanticare. He says it is a political decision and recalled what happened with the Library. The public spoke and Council listened. He said that Library proposal and the EMS RFP were both Vain's idea. Linwood is saving money; Northfield has much higher volume of calls. He asked Council for the reason for going out for RFP's. Kern explained that the City had to based upon public bidding statutes, and that the committee came back with recommendation for Atlanticare. Councilman Carew read from the minutes of the September 18, 2007 Council Work Session Committee Report that Mazzeo originated discussion of shared service for EMS. Carew cited other historical examples including where mayor Perri reached out for shared service exploration in 2007.

Mayor Mazzeo said there is nothing wrong with looking for shared service; but the point is to do it to save money. Scheffler asserted that one of the main reasons people move to Northfield is the small town quality; that is what the NRS provides.

Councilman Smith reiterated that this is not a personal matter; he ran as a newcomer to politics and doesn't know the Perri's and it is wrong and defamatory to insinuate that this is personally motivated. His job as Northfield committee representative was to make an objective and unbiased opinion.

Councilman Martinez asked if the committee was partisan. President Kern reminded Martinez that he knows as a past President of Council that committees are formed at the beginning of the year. Martinez and O'Grady did not ask if they could represent the rescue squad. Councilman O'Grady said he was never asked to participate.

Seth Brilliant, 2329 Merritt Drive, said he does not understand how this is a shared service. He sees it as privatization that will replace a volunteer organization with a

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private business. The costs of ambulance service will be shifted from the City to the residents; he feels an ambulance is a community service that should be paid for by the City. He also commented that no big ticket items are being pursued for shared service, and that he feels the RFP was unfair by design in that only Atlanticare was qualified.

Michele Verno, 109 Northwood Court, said she agrees that the issue is politically motivated, and asked Councilman Martinez if he is in favor of shared services. Martinez confirmed that he was. Verno cited the long history of shared services with Linwood, adding that when Mayor Munafa started shared service dispatch with Egg Harbor Township there was a packed room forecasting doom and gloom, just like tonight, none of which ever occurred. She feels this is a case of self interested people promoting their own interest, and asked Martinez how much the NRS was subsidized. Martinez provided \$50,000 as the correct figure. Verno asked how much of that money was spent on the flyer that was sent out to Northfield residents about the RFP. How much was spent by the NRS while on duty soliciting parents at the NCS? Councilman O'Grady said money that was spent in the past should not be considered a future savings. Verno said that the RFP had specifications that no one considered to be unfair until it appeared that an unpopular group would be chosen over the NRS.

Joan Morey, 109 Fifield Avenue, past President of NRS and lifetime member of the Volunteer Rescue Squad, said she is also a former employee of Atlanticare. She has cared for the families of many in the room, and asked for the Atlanticare response times to be repeated. Atlanticare Chief Delgado replied that their response times are 3 minutes and 39 seconds. Morey reiterates that 58% of the time NRS was 5 minutes or less, adding that this is a big difference. She commended Atlanticare for 100% chart review and other efforts that are not in place with the NRS. She said when she was involved in the NRS there was a 75 member squad and they won EMS Squad of the Year, and other awards. The current squad is not the same squad as it used to be. She said residents need to look at response times and quality of care and keep an open mind. The next 3 years' contract is zero; what happens in 4 years if NRS remains in place? There is a 1st responder vehicle and ambulance that will need to be replaced. These are expenses that will come back to City Council and the taxpayers. Residents were very concerned about co-pays and expenses; her own medical bills due to cancer are upwards of \$1.5M - arrangements can be as little as \$5 per month. Expenses are important but response time is important; a friendly face is nice, but she'd rather have someone who is there quickly. There are many citizens who have been silent; there have been targeted mailings; some to all residents and some just to NRS supporters. She referred to hospital choice and said that choice is

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supported unless there is a medical need to take the patient elsewhere. She asks that all keep an open mind.

Raymond Schlundt, 228 Davis Avenue, asked what the charge for the ambulance ride is. Atlanticare Chief Delgado replied that it would depend on the complexity and level of care; what comes out of your pocket has to do with your insurance, co-pay, Medicare status, etc. He explained charity care again. Schlundt mentioned a positive experience with NRS when his daughter hit her head at a local restaurant.

Donna Perri, 1317 West mill Road, said she joined NRS at age 16 and was trained by Mrs. Morey and Councilman Turon. She asserts that NRS is the same as years ago, adding that 34 years of volunteer service on behalf of the NRS is a cost savings in itself. She inquired if the 12 ambulances referred to by Atlanticare Chief Delgado would be manned. Delgado replied that they would be during the overwhelming part of the day, but there are periods when staffing levels fluctuate. From 7am-11pm the large majority are staffed. They use statistical analysis to determine staffing. She asked if Atlanticare has crews designated to do transports as opposed to 911 calls. Delgado said regardless of how assigned, all crews are trained and if a 911 call comes in, the closest rig will be deployed. Perri asked how many crews will be designated in Northfield during busy times. Delgado stated that some of the BLS operations will be moved here within days; when those units come here they will be staffed. Perri asked for the specific response time from Patcong Avenue in Linwood to the 4 Seasons complex on Dolphin Avenue, and for the difference in training between NRS and Atlanticare's training program. Dr. Brabson responded, saying that as Medical Director for Atlanticare he is actively involved in all areas of training; they have a physician and nursing component, and they hone-in on critical thinking skills; clinical testing is required. He said he cannot speak to the type of training provided by NRS. Perri asked for the makeup of written testing, Brabson responded that there are validated test questions that are very similar to a reference book that an EMT would use.

Ray Adams, 238 Mt Vernon Avenue, asserted that the turnout this evening is evidence that council is about to make an unpopular decision, and that the shared service committee did not achieve their goal of finding a cost savings. He explained the efforts of the NRS to be financially self sufficient, absorb fuel costs, etc. and said these things happened before discussion of going out for RFP. He reminded council that the RFP was non-binding. Northfield, NJ is small town USA, and if NRS is eliminated, that it will no longer be small town USA. He urged council to defeat ordinance 10-2009.

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Linda Foy, 2425 Shepherd Circle, said the members of NRS are friends and neighbors. Her husband sustained a fall and NRS was there, getting him out safely, despite his having landed head-first when he fell. One of her neighbors was recently injured, and NRS and the police department were there long before Atlanticare showed up. In her opinion and based on personal experience, Atlanticare is not the best.

Eileen Toland, 4304 Dolphin Avenue; said many residents of her Street are what were referred to as 'frequent flyers' but could not be here because of medical or other reasons. She said she personally contacted each Council person by phone and email and only got a response from Kern. She asked why the Rescue Squad Committee is a partisan committee. She feels Councilman Smith, a newcomer, took the heat for the decision. She asked if the rest of Council kept quiet because many are up for election. How much did Atlanticare charge Linwood the 1st year they were with Linwood? If Council does not have all of the answers they should not be voting, and tonight's vote should be postponed or put on the ballot as a question for the public. She presented a petition consisting of over 100 names from 4 Seasons residents, and suggested having shared service City Council.

Mike Whaley, 15 Lesley Lane, supports NRS as one of the City's greatest assets. People don't understand the level of dedication it takes to be a volunteer. He recounted a recent personal experience where NRS had him out of his home before Atlanticare even arrived. He commended Lynn Perri for her service, and supports a ballot question to decide rescue squad services.

David Goldstein, 116 Dolphin Avenue, is a new Northfield resident having lived here only 5 years. He said he questions the judgment of Council. He works as chef, a highly stressful and sometimes dangerous job and understands need for good EMS service. If council is insulted by anything said tonight, they should not be here. Their obligation is to serve the people; the key word is 'serve'. He said citizens can bypass the City and the County and submit a petition to the State to overrule Council's action on any ordinance. He is originally from Bronx, NY, and local, personalized service is not available everywhere. Don't give up what you may not realize you have.

John Fredericks, 18 Forest Drive, was a long time volunteer in Northfield. He said citizens should not threaten Council with votes, and said all of the former squad members who quit did so because something was broken. He knows from personal experience that there were problems with the NRS, he was there. That is why it's no longer a 50-75 member squad. He recounted the history of NRS; he was its 1st President and served for many years, coming back to the squad as volunteer after

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retirement. When NRS wanted to go paid, Fredericks offered suggestions as to how they could stay volunteer but his suggestions were not received well by the squad. He referred to targeted mailings paid for with squad funds and urged the public to keep politics out of it.

Colleen Rodman, 23 Fifield Avenue, said the passion of the individuals who were volunteers before they were paid is the reason NRS should stay. The Perri's personally canceled a vacation when there was no one to cover the squad. She said she is shocked that Council is considering this when there are no savings. She said she feels this is personally motivated against the Perri's and if Council 'can't stand the heat get out of the kitchen'.

Dave Jones, 314 Booye Terrace, said Atlanticare is a business, and Dr. Brabson, as a doctor, is in it for no other reason but the money. He recounted a personal experience with the NRS when his daughter was injured a few years ago. He commended Lynn Perri for her personal attention during a very trying experience and does not understand the motivation of Council. He loves Northfield, the people in it, and the NRS.

Carolyn Peterson, 2312 Shepherd Drive, said she has written 2 letters to the Mayor and to all Council members. She thanked Mayor Mazzeo, Council President Kern, and Council members Vain, and Martinez for responding to her. She still does not feel that all of the questions have been answered, and that all RFP bidders should have had the same opportunity to speak as Atlanticare was given tonight. She read from the RFP about where the Northfield ambulance will be and said the term 'peak hours' does not mean anything to her because whenever anything has happened in her family, it's been off peak. She observed a recent incident and the Atlanticare ambulance arrived 3 minutes after the police department, and does not feel that Atlanticare can meet their posted response time if the incident is at BGP. She asserted that specialty services provided by Atlanticare, such as Medivac, are available to citizens, regardless. Atlanticare's EMS Director, Mark Ralston, agreed. Peterson asked why Kern said a 'no' vote on the ordinance is illegal. Kern replied that the existing rescue squad ordinance has to be repealed regardless. Peterson asked why it says that future EMS contracts will be awarded by resolution; this excludes the public from comment. Solicitor Bonchi explained that the current Ordinance lists the NRS as sole EMS provider in Northfield; if NRS went all volunteer the ordinance could remain. Peterson said she thought the Memorandum of Understanding would allow Northfield to work around that. Bonchi said that you can't work around an Ordinance. He can't speak personally because he wasn't the solicitor at the time, but you can't work around an Ordinance, you have to abide by it. Peterson said she feels that Atlanticare is changing their proposal midstream; it said 1

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ambulance and now they are saying 2, maybe more, but no other bidders were given the chance to make changes. She respectfully requests a 'no' vote from council.

Mayor Mazzeo said when he was elected in 2007 the control went from Democrat to Republican; in December 2007, he said he got a letter from then Solicitor Bonchi recommending that we go to a Memorandum of Understanding. Solicitor Bonchi commented that billing residents was not occurring at that time; it was not the decision to pay the employees that triggered public bidding. Discussion ensued between Mazzeo and Bonchi with regard to the timing of Bonchi's recommendation of going with a Memorandum. Bonchi asserted that the opinion he rendered in December 2007 was correct based on facts as they existed at that time; the factors changed in 2008. Mazzeo stated that at all times Council was acting in good faith and doing what it thought was best for the City.

Councilman Carew read an excerpt of the September 4, 2007 Council Minutes: "Solicitor Bonchi summarized the executive session for the public as follows: During this executive session City Council discussed various aspects of concerns relating to coverage of rescue squad calls as well as legal issues and contractual issues in dealing with short term coverage." Carew reiterated that the issues at hand at that time were short term coverage issues.

Nancy Van Riper, 6 Cara Court, said she feels that all members of Council who voted 'yes' on May 12th have a personal agenda; it's a done deal. The citizens have spoken. She said if Council's vote is 'yes' then the vote of the citizens for Council at the next election will be 'no'.

Ray Adams, 238 Mt Vernon Avenue, asked Solicitor Bonchi for clarification about why the issue of going out for RFP did not come up before. Adams said the last Council meeting was the 1st time it was ever mentioned. Bonchi reminded Adams that he was not the Solicitor in 2008; he researched the situation and rendered an opinion. No one is entitled to an exclusive on over \$17,500 in revenue from billing City residents without going out to public bid. That is the law. As a result of going out to bid, there were 4 companies interested and what has historically cost the city \$100,000 a year now costs us nothing. Adams asked if Bonchi had the public bidding statutes in writing, Bonchi confirmed that he did. Adams also referred to Councilman Vain's campaign platform of shared service, saying that there is no cost savings here.

Councilman Vain stated that he was asked to examine shared service opportunities. NRS changed the rules when they decided to bill residents and go from an all

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volunteer squad to a part paid squad. A new solicitor in 2008 shed a different light on the situation.

John Clifford, 2308 Raymond Drive; conceded that legally it had to go out to bid, but that Council does not have to pick Atlanticare. He does not see the cost savings.

Robin Dennis, 708 Debora Street, said when the NRS incorporated, they have been able to offset costs formerly incurred by the City, such as fuel, supplies, vehicle maintenance, etc; these costs are now borne by the squad. She said she was here 2 weeks ago speaking in support of the squad. The NRS offers a service that no other squad has or does, such as attending the athletic events, BGP events, community events, school events, etc. on a free of charge basis. She has lived here for 18 years and only used the squad twice. She never knew squad members and took them for granted until 3 years ago when her son Randy joined the squad as a volunteer. She commended the spirit of community demonstrated by squad members.

President Kern asked Atlanticare EMS Chief Delgado to re-address the issue of community event support. Delgado stated that if provided a list of events, they will attend at no cost.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue; said he feels Council has turned their back on Northfield.

Gail Poholsky, 521 Banning Avenue, said she hasn't heard anything about charity care, about billing, and collections. She wants to hear from the Atlanticare finance dept how much they billed, and wrote off.

Sherry Schaech, 20 Forrest Drive, said that last month her granddaughter fell out of her crib head-first. It took 11 minutes before the ambulance arrived; her granddaughter was fine, but 11 minutes was unacceptable. She told Council they were voted in by the residents, and this problem was not brought up by Council. This came up when the NRS went paid and decided to start charging. NRS was great, but the volunteer part of it is gone and everyone needs to know that.

Christian Monroe, 911 2nd Street, thanked everyone for the fact that we live in a country where this process exists. He thanked the NRS for their support with his family, and thanked Atlanticare as well. He is a lifelong Northfield resident; husband and Dad, and asked how much quicker will Atlanticare get there than the NRS? Personalized service is great, but who will get there first? And second, how much will it save us as a community?

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Councilman Smith, as head of the committee, said an objective review indicated that the response time for the NRS was slightly deficient. In 2009, 41% of calls have been over the 5 minute threshold. The actual Northfield data is unavailable, but Atlanticare's response time in Linwood is less than 5 minutes 92% of the time. Smith said he has questions and serious concerns about the NRS response times. Atlanticare's response time is better, but what happens if Atlanticare's response time is not what it should be?

Bonchi replied, saying that the RFP requires a minimum response time. Historically they are doing a minute and a half better than that required by the RFP. The NRS is not required to be here at City Hall; when a call comes in, the NRS have to respond from their homes, and wait for a 2nd person to arrive.

Councilman Turon stated that Northfield's police officers are paid a stipend to become EMT's, and this will not change. When available they are dispatched to a call any time of the day. Additionally, Monday through Friday, a paid firefighter/EMT is also dispatched and this will not change.

Darren Hickman, 2100 Grove Road, thanked the Perri's for their response to his home. He hopes that the NRS employees will join Atlanticare if the bid goes to them. He stated that he was Vice Principal of MRHS for 7 years and for years had asked Atlanticare to provide an ambulance for commencement and they always said they'd only send one if needed. Lynn Perri always said she'd provide whatever he wanted.

Mary Wilkes, 600 Shore Road, asked if an independent statistician had looked at all numbers from both sides. She says numbers can be crafted to say whatever you want them to say; if Council is basing their decision on numbers, they need to do that.

Lou Milone, 106 Haddon Avenue, asked Solicitor Bonchi for clarification of his comment that an award of contract is imminent at this point. Bonchi stated that Council has the decision not to join Linwood but they would still have to put out a bid for EMS services. Milone said he is not a big fan of shared services. Large cities are the most expensive because shared service does not save money. He said he likes knowing everyone in town, with no disrespect to Atlanticare, but he would like to see City services remain City services.

Carmen Cruz, 445 South Poplar Avenue, Galloway, NJ, member of the NRS. She asked how the times for 2 different cities can be compared. Why didn't the City go out to bid last year, and what makes Atlanticare's trucks faster than ours? She asked how many police officers get a stipend for EMT services. Chief James replied that

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none do. Councilman Turon announced that he stands corrected on his earlier statement.

Frank Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue; President NRS, and volunteer for many years, welcomed Atlanticare. He said he hopes NRS and the City can come to an agreement. Regarding the bid specifications, he asked if EMS could be awarded as a Professional Service. He said he remembers that Title 40 says it could. Solicitor Bonchi said no; competitive bidding or competitive contracting are the 2 options. Perri reiterated that the RFP in its very nature was discriminatory because of the requirement of an EMT supervisor. He said he raised this concern prior to the bid opening. The City could have put together a package that gave NRS a fair opportunity to bid. NRS provides \$200,000 per year in volunteer labor, a total of \$1,000,000 over 5 years. They did this out of the goodness of their hearts. He said the 1st responder was not figured into the response times, and that those figures were left out. NRS "timed" a run from Poplar Avenue in Linwood, and it took 5 minutes and 10 seconds. He is not saying the NRS can't improve. He feels the bid process was unfair and said he did make this known at a Council meeting. NRS is trying to become self supporting. They are trying to have someone in-house 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; this is a goal from last year they were unable to attain. The certifications required take up a lot of time, and to do all of that and still try and have a life with your family is difficult. NRS has had no written complaints. NRS is requesting that the decision to go with shared service at this time be delayed for another year to allow them to continue to operate under the Memorandum of Understanding. He thanked all past volunteers, and administration, adding that it was a shame they had to go paid; they tried and are trying to make it work.

President Kern told Perri that Council has been supportive of the squad and said that Council is very respectful of them.

Ray Adams, Sr, 238 Mt Vernon Avenue, asked Chief James for clarification of the response times. Did it include the 1st responder? Chief James confirmed that it did.

At 10:30pm, President Kern announced a recess to allow Council to review materials presented by the public. She reconvened the meeting at 10:54pm.

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ORDINANCES

On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilman Martinez, all in favor of reading Ordinance 9-2009 by title only.

9-2009 An Ordinance Establishing Cedarbridge Road as a One-Way Street from Juniper Drive to Wabash Avenue and Restricting Parking on the South Side of Cedarbridge Road
Final Adoption / Open to the Public / Published in the Press 05/30/2009

President Kern opened the public hearing.

Clem Scharff, 105 Circle Drive, says there is a 'no left turn' sign that obscures the Stop sign at this location. Mayor Mazzeo advised that this was corrected on Friday, May 22nd.

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

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 9-2009.

On a motion of Councilman Smith, second of Councilman Carew, all in favor of reading Ordinance 10-2009 by title only.

10-2009 An Ordinance Repealing City Of Northfield Ordinance 37-1977, Adopted By The Council Of The City Of Northfield As Ordinance No. 4-77, That Established The Northfield Rescue Squad, Inc. To Render Emergency Medical Services In The City Of Northfield
*Final Adoption / Open to the Public, No Public Comments Received
Published in the Press 05/30/2009*

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Martinez – no; Mr. O'Grady –no; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries for final adoption of Ordinance 10-2009.

Mayor Mazzeo announced that he will exercise is statutory right to veto this Ordinance, and that he will provide a written reason to the City Clerk tomorrow morning.

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Solicitor Bonchi advised that a Special Meeting will be scheduled to exercise right of Council to override veto. He asked Frank Perri if NRS will continue to provide EMS. Perri affirms that they will.

Councilman Martinez asked if a Special Meeting is needed. Bonchi replied that Council has to meet to vote to override or not override the veto; cannot award the contract for EMS until the issue is resolved.

City Engineer Doran asked if there were any questions on the City Engineer's report; there were none.

Councilman Turon read the meeting notices: the Primary Election will be held on June 2nd at the Northfield Community School between 6am and 8pm. The next regular meeting of City Council will be on June 23rd at 7pm in Council Chambers.

RESOLUTION

103-2009 Award of Contract for Emergency Medical Services to Atlanticare

Councilman Martinez motioned, O'Grady seconded, to table resolution 103-2009. Councilman Carew recommended that the resolution be postponed until next meeting. Councilman Turon asked for the difference between tabling and postponing. Solicitor Bonchi made the recommendation to postpone; if it is tabled, it then has to come off the table before it can be voted upon.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – no; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O'Grady –yes; Mr. Smith – no; Mr. Turon – no; Mr. Vain – no; Mrs. Kern – no. Motion to table resolution 103-2009 is defeated.

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned at 11:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi
Acting Municipal Clerk