

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 23, 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 in recognition of the approach of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and 233 years of independence. May we notice our freedoms and remember those who fought for them.

**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 welcomed the audience. In review of the agenda, she announced that Resolutions 115 and 116 would be voted on separately from this evening’s consent agenda.

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES**

Kern introduced Carol Patrick of Northfield’s Cultural Committee. Patrick thanked Council for allowing the Cultural Committee to use this meeting for presentation of their annual awards, and invited all to the 4th of July parade to cheer and applaud this evening’s honorees.

2009’s 1<sup>st</sup> Baby is Heather Lichele Milstead, born to Jackson Avenue residents Lisa and Gerry Milstead on January 16<sup>th</sup> of this year. Heather’s middle name is derived from the names of both of her grandmothers. Patrick presented the Milsteads with the 1<sup>st</sup> Baby trophy, and Mayor Mazzeo presented them with a certificate.

Miss 4th of July 2009 is Allyson Flynn, daughter of Joe and Monica Flynn. Allyson will be a senior at Mainland next year, plays field hockey and lacrosse, and is an avid runner. She is a member of Mr. Smiths’ broadcasting class and is video-taping tonight’s meeting as part of her responsibilities in that class. Patrick was joined by Joyce Pullan, and together they gave Allyson her sash and crown. Mayor Mazzeo presented her with a certificate.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 23, 2009**

Patrick introduced 2009's Citizen of the Year, Heather Mellon. Mellon has lived on Herbert Drive since 1972 with her husband Ed. She has been a Northfield crossing guard for 10 years, and has an impressive volunteer resume, including membership in Friends of the Library, Friends of Birch Grove Park, the After Prom Committee, and more. Mayor Mazzeo presented Mellon with a certificate, and Patrick gave her a plaque inscribed with the words "personification of volunteerism".

President Kern announced that volunteer Recognition certificate recipient Dick Warren was unable to be present tonight, but will be invited to the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Councilman Smith motioned, O'Grady seconded for the adoption of Resolution 115-2009.

**115-2009**      A Resolution To Authorize The Appointment Of Sergeant Stephen E. Steinecke To Detective Sergeant Of The Detective Bureau Within The Northfield Police Department

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.

Chief Robert James said that Sergeant Steinecke has been a member of the Northfield Police Department since 1998, and recounted Steinecke's history with the force. Mayor Mazzeo administered the Oath of Office to Detective Sergeant Steinecke.

Councilman Vain motioned, Martinez seconded for the adoption of Resolution 116-2009.

**116-2009**      A Resolution To Authorize The Appointment Of Patrolman William M. Ward To Detective Of The Detective Bureau Within The Northfield Police Department

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.

Chief James said Detective Ward joined the department in 1996, coming from the Department of Corrections, and gave a brief history of Ward's career. Mayor Mazzeo administered the Oath of Office to Detective Ward. President Kern announced a brief recess to allow for photographs to be taken.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 23, 2009**

At 7:30pm, she reconvened the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/May 12, 2009 and May 26, 2009**

Motion was made by Councilman Carew, second by Councilman O'Grady to dispense with the reading of the minutes of May 12, 2009 and May 26, 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 announced that the June 18<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings of the Planning/Zoning Board have been canceled due to lack of applicants. There will be a meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup>, with two applications for that date.

Councilman Turon attended the NCS 8th grade graduation, and congratulated the members of the Class of 2009. He also wished Dr. Stepura well as he moves on to his new job in Cumberland County.

Councilman Vain mentioned the awards of contract for sidewalks on Cedarbridge and the Cedarbridge/Zion/Burroughs intersection, and thanked City Engineer Matt Doran and his associate, Ed Stinson, for their assistance with design and implementation, adding that work may be able to begin in a few weeks. Vain said he wants to adopt an ordinance restricting parking on Cedarbridge in areas close to school due to safety issues. The County will be re-striping the intersection of Zion and Oak as a safety measure. If this does not have the desired effect, the issue will be revisited. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the 1<sup>st</sup> Northfield Neighborhood Watch meeting was held at City Hall. Vain stated that it was a very productive first meeting and said that interested residents should call City Hall or the Chief of Police. He also offered congratulations to the NCS Class of 2009, and to Dr Stepura.

Councilman Carew announced that the annual 'Flora Dickinson Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs' tournament will be held on July 18<sup>th</sup> at Birch Grove Park. He said the staff of the Public Works department have been very busy and are doing a nice job.

Councilman Smith congratulated Dr Stepura as he moves on, and wished Dr Fipp luck as she assumes her new role. NCS teacher Karen Caselman has been chosen Atlantic County Teacher of the Year, and Smith offered congratulations. He also extended well wishes to teachers Peri Pantazes, Marge Connolly, and Rosemary Celendine, all retiring this year, and to the NCS graduating class of 2009. Smith said the City is moving forward to share services with Linwood for Courts and

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 23, 2009**

negotiations are in progress. The EMS report for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of Atlanticare's service included 18 calls with an average response time of 2 minutes 34 seconds. There was a job fair held today by Atlanticare, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> fair to be held. There will also be a health fair for 4 Seasons residents, to include health screenings and to allow Atlanticare staff to become familiar with the complex. Smith said he also attended the neighborhood watch meeting and urged citizens to get involved.

Councilman O'Grady attended the NCS graduation, and wished Dr. Stepura well. He congratulated the 5 graduating students who achieved all A's from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The Public Works department now has internet access and will benefit from greatly improved communications. He mentioned the City website and encouraged citizens to use it. The Library Board met June 11<sup>th</sup> and there are many events on the horizon. Their Summer Newsletter is out and will be on website; their next meeting will be July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Mazzeo thanked those who participated in the Memorial Day parade, adding that he hopes those who attended were able to reflect on the importance of the day. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> a class of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders from NCS toured City Hall, and Mazzeo thanked the employees who assisted with the event. There were 15 residents in attendance at the June 17<sup>th</sup> Neighborhood Watch meeting; the information provided was useful and Mazzeo noted that if properly implemented, these types of groups to deter crime. On June 25<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-11pm there will be an emergency exercise at the NCS. He provided the statistics for the May Police Department Report and mentioned that Mr. Zagano would like to purchase a motorcycle for the Northfield Police Department. Mazzeo is coordinating a health fair with Atlanticare for employees and or residents; any Council members interested in participating should contact the Mayor.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Kern thanked Mayor Mazzeo for organizing the Memorial Day parade, and commented that it was a wonderful event. She attended the MRHS and NCS graduation and said both were great events with outstanding speeches; the administrators at both schools should be very proud. Kern has invited Dr. Stepura to the July meeting to honor him for his 8 years of service; Mr. Dick Warren will be invited as well. Kern spoke with Mayor Mazzeo earlier today about the Jewish Community Day School being up for sale; she asked Council if there is any interest in acquiring the property. Matt Doran commented that if the City uses County, Open Space, or Green Acres funding, the property must be dedicated as open space. Kern added that there is a school on the site; every now and again there is talk that we are out growing the NCS. Perhaps there could be a partnership with the Board of Education.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 23, 2009**

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief James announced that from 4pm-1pm tomorrow there will be a drill at the NCS with a large contingent of emergency vehicles and personnel (more than 100 participants). His staff went door to door to notify residents to minimize concern; some roads will be closed. James mentioned the recent donation of a \$1500 mountain bike to the NPD from a charitable foundation in north Jersey. James will be in Quantico, Virginia for 10 weeks attending the FBI Academy. In his absence Captain Clark will be in charge.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

City Engineer Matt Doran mentioned the awards of contract on tonight's agenda, stating that he hopes the projects will be complete by the fall. The work on Yorkshire is 90% complete. Kern passed along a compliment from a Yorkshire Avenue resident who said Doran's office was very cooperative. Councilman Carew added that major improvements have been made in the past year with regard to flooding issues, and thanked Doran's team for their work. Mayor Mazzeo stated that based on recent heavy rain fall, the Philmore and Pasadena pump station is working well.

**RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion of Councilman Smith second of Councilman Turon, all present in favor of a Consent Agenda for Resolutions 105-2009 through 114-2009 and 117-2009 through 118-2009 as follows:

- 105-2009**      To Authorize Refund of Overpayment of Taxes on Block 90 Lot 19 Due to an Error in Collection and Posting
  
- 106-2009**      To Authorize The Execution Of The Community Development Block Grant Home Investment Partnership Cooperation Agreement
  
- 107-2009**      Refund Overpayment of Taxes – Various
  
- 108-2009**      To Authorize Liquor License for 2009-2010
  
- 109-2009**      To Cancel Interest on Property Taxes for Block 158 Lot 68 Due to an Error in Posting

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 23, 2009**

- 110-2009** Award of Contract to Charles Marandino, LLC for Sidewalk on Cedarbridge Road
  
- 111-2009** Final Change Order No. 1 Drainage Improvements at Wabash Avenue Phase II
  
- 112-2009** Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue And Appropriation NJS 40A:4-87 – Solid Waste Administration Clean Communities Grant
  
- 113-2009** Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue And Appropriation NJS 40A:4-87 – Municipal Court Alcohol Education Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund
  
- 114-2009** Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue And Appropriation NJS 40A:4-87 – NJDOT Safe Routes to Schools Program
  
- 117-2009** Award of Contract to Arthur Henry, Inc. for Reconstruction of Intersection at Zion Road, Cedarbridge Road, and Burroughs Avenue
  
- 118-2009** 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 Possible Litigation in the Matter of Inadequate Drainage and Other Unacceptable Improvements in the Burton Estates Subdivision

President Kern announced that Resolution 118-2009 would be at the end of this evening's meeting; she will be abstaining from 117-2009.

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.

**ORDINANCES**

On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilman Martinez, all in favor of reading Ordinance 11-2009 by title only.

- 11-2009** An Ordinance Repealing City Of Northfield Ordinance 7-2005 That Limited Where Sex Offenders May Reside Or Work Within The City Of Northfield

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 23, 2009**

*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press 06/27/2009*

Councilman Vain asked that Solicitor Bonchi provide an explanation for the public. Bonchi said that these types of Ordinances are illegal at the municipal level and have been deemed unconstitutional by the Courts; this subject is regulated by the State under its criminal code. The JIF requested that we repeal our existing Ordinance based on recent Court decisions.

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 11-2009.

On a motion of Councilman O’Grady, second of Councilman Carew, all in favor of reading Ordinance 12-2009 by title only.

**12-2009**        An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 83-5 to Make it Unlawful to Use Power Lawn Equipment After 9:00 p.m.

*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press 06/27/2009*

President Kern announced that a few months ago a resident requested that the use of power lawn equipment be restricted to an earlier time.

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 12-2009.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Turon motioned, Councilman Smith seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$1,469,124.25. Turon and Vain 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.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 23, 2009**

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, said he is still upset about the EMS situation. He did not feel the fire trucks at the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were necessary and were a waste of fuel. The disabled citizens of Northfield depend on Lynn Perri and he feels the issue was politically motivated. He thanked the NRS and the Perri's, and Mayor Mazzeo and former Mayor Perri.

Paul McSorley, 614 Dolphin Avenue, asked about the project across the street from his house at the County property, and said his street has never been swept because there are sections of the street with no curbs. Will curbs ever be put in, and will the barbed wire fence in front of the County project be replaced with landscaping? Councilman Carew responded, saying he has not seen barbed wire fence, but said he will reach out to county to ensure that the property is developed in the right manner. He obtained McSorley's contact information and offered to join him in a meeting with County personnel. Carew explained that there are 2 projects: 1 is a DEP compliant truck wash, and the other is a storage facility. President Kern asked if McSorley got a 200 foot letter; he said he did but was unable to attend the public meeting. Kern asked Martinez if they've come before the Planning Board. Martinez replied they had not, and Turon added that they don't have to; it would only be as a courtesy if they did.

Helen Havlick, 203 West Revere Avenue thanked Vince Mazzeo, Tim Carew, and Mary Canesi for the installation of bike path benches; they look great.

Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court, distributed a packet of information for the Mayor and Council about Northfield's Tax Assessor. Tanzola said he does not feel the conduct of the City Tax Attorney was appropriate during the tax appeals; people were afraid. He has attended other towns' tax appeals, including Atlantic City, and has never seen anything like what occurred here. Tanzola said he knows that Council can't really do anything because the Assessor is only accountable to the Board of Taxation, adding that the State Statute says the Tax Assessor is supposed to have 'set' hours and is supposed to be responsive to residents. Solicitor Bonchi cautioned Council that Tanzola can comment about the assessor but Council cannot unless Sykes is issued a RICE notice. Tanzola continued, saying that tax records were not available or accessible, and that Sykes does not have 'set' hours, leaving the public unable to determine what time he will arrive and leave for the day. He claimed Sykes did not assess homes properly and did so only by 'driving by' and taking a photo.

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

Councilman Vain read the meeting notices.



**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 23, 2009**

**RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**118-2009**      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 Possible Litigation in the Matter of Inadequate Drainage and Other Unacceptable Improvements in the Burton Estates Subdivision

Acting City Clerk Mary Canesi read Resolution 118-2009 by title only, and Solicitor Bonchi explained that there have been ongoing settlement negotiations with regard to the improvements in the Burton Avenue Estates development. This session is to bring Council up to date and any information in this session that can be made public cannot be disclosed until a final agreement is signed and all improvements are accepted by the Municipal Engineer.

At 8:20pm Council entered closed session but remained in Council Chambers. At 9:06pm, Solicitor Bonchi announced a summary for the record as follows: there was significant discussion regarding various options for resolving the issues between the developer and the Burton Avenue Estates Homeowner's Association. By way of a straw vote, Council has advised what they are and aren't willing to do. This does not bind Council to anything at this time.

At 9:07pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, Acting Municipal Clerk