

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

This meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, 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, he requested that all remain standing for a moment of silence; this weekend eight American soldiers died and twenty were injured in Afghanistan. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families, hoping that end to the war will come soon.

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.

PRESENTATION –SHARING OF MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICES

Council President Kern announced that Linwood Councilman Alex Marino would be presenting a proposal for shared court services between Linwood and Northfield. Kern said she, along with Councilman Brian Smith and Mayor Vince Mazzeo, worked with Marino and Linwood Council President Donna Taylor on the shared service committee for this project. Marino presented a power point presentation outlining the research done by the committee, the mechanics of shared court services, and potential cost savings for both towns. Mayor Mazzeo requested clarification that the shared-split of costs would be based on ongoing review of each town's percentage of the total AOC filings; Marino affirmed. Marino provided hard copy of the presentation to the City Clerk, and offered to send an electronic version upon request. President Kern explained that Linwood’s Court Administrator recently took a job at the State level, making this the perfect time for the exploration of shared court services as no one will be losing a job. She continued, explaining that Northfield Court Administrator Donna Clark has been kept in loop throughout the process, and thanked Clark and the members of the respective committees. At 7:22pm, Kern announced a five minute recess.

AGENDA REVIEW

At 7:26pm, Council President Kern reconvened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Turon, second by Councilman Martinez, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 8, 2009 and September 22, 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. President Kern thanked the City Clerk for diligence in quickly producing the minutes from a very lengthy meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Martinez advised that the last meeting of the Planning/Zoning Board had been canceled. He said he placed a phone call regarding our Sustainablejersey™ application; he hopes to see results in the form of a possible Walmart grant. Martinez said he was saddened by what happened with vandalism of the Northfield Rescue Squad vehicle; he hopes the individual is apprehended and brought to justice

Councilman Turon read the statistics from the September Fire Department report. He attended the Family Fest on its Sunday rain date, and thanked the organizers, volunteers and participants. He offered congratulations to the Police Department on debut of their new motorcycle. Turon visited Madison Avenue following heavy rain on Saturday morning, and was able to observe the effects. He hopes to discuss it this evening.

Councilman Vain said he got out of work on very late on Friday and it was pouring; Route 9 in Pleasantville was flooded, and as of 5am, Madison Avenue had just started to fill up. He visited the area again at 11am. Vain is working with Robbie Dollard on the Safe Routes to Schools Program and will report to Council soon. Regarding the proposed location for the new speed hump, Vain advised that Chief James put a car-counter on Shepherd to see how much traffic has been diverted there. Vain also attended the Fun Fest and said the organizers did a fantastic job. He attended a recent Neighborhood Watch meeting, and recognized Mrs. Brennan in the audience. Anyone wishing to join the Neighborhood Watch can contact Brennan at 374-6614 or Mary Canesi at City Hall. Vain met with Doran about the Cedarbridge and Zion intersection and there are a few minor issues that will be addressed. He contacted Assemblymen Polistina and Amodeo about Northfield's flooding issues; they advised that there is no outright funding available, only low-interest loans. Vain said he also attempted to contact Congressman LoBiondo but did not hear back; he will continue to pursue and will keep residents and Council in the loop.

Councilman Carew said he was out of town and missed the Fun Fest, but heard rave reviews from those who attended. He thanked all of the volunteers, and

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

Vicky Rutter and the Park staff, adding that it was a well-coordinated effort. The main fund raiser at the park is the annual Halloween Hayrides. Additional days were scheduled this year. This all-volunteer effort takes a full year to plan, and Carew thanked all participating volunteers, noting that more are needed. He is very happy to be on the Green Team Advisory Board with Councilmen Martinez and O'Grady.

Since he was out of town, Carew said he did not see first-hand the flooding issues of the past weekend, but was in contact with the Road Department early Saturday morning. We have had an incredible amount of rainfall so far this year, and Doran and the Road Department continue to look at the problem. Carew stated that one solution will not fix the issues, but we will be able to knock it down in segments. One option is to run a gutter down Madison, and down Mill Road; the other involves a 36" line that will require easements, so the Solicitor will have to be involved. The City is continuing to look for places to put the water. There is drainage money left from last year and there is drainage money in the capital plan for 2009. Carew requested a motion to have Doran complete these two projects. Councilman Martinez asked where the money was coming from; Carew replied that there is old drainage money from 2008, plus what is in 2009 for capital. Mazzeo asked if Doran had exact numbers yet; he replied that he did not. Referring to 2nd and Davis, Carew said the problem is once again the volume of water. He stopped by the affected households last Monday to discuss it. The State of New Jersey flat out said no. The area of Zion and the Bike path may allow us to tie into the County system. We will be looking for other options. The infrastructure is working as capably as it can, and Carew thanked Jim Clark for his hard work on the drainage issues.

Councilman Smith echoed the sentiments of others about the Family Fun Fest; he attended with his wife and daughter and commended the organizers, volunteers and vendors. He also had the opportunity to tour the Northfield Museum, and encouraged all to visit. Smith thanked Mr. Patrick for the tour and presentation. The NCS referendum passed for new solar panels at the school. The school year is proceeding smoothly, and Smith thanked the Police Department for their efforts at traffic improvements. The most recent EMS report showed 100% of response times at less than five minutes.

Councilman O'Grady mentioned the event calendar and the monthly e-mail blast newsletter that is sent out via the City website. Anyone can sign up on the site and the blast is also used for urgent notifications. The Library Board met September 10th and had a Dixie Land Jazz concert on October 5th. They will meet again on October 8th. O'Grady is excited about the Green Team Advisory Board and with the prospect of working with the other team members; it will be good for the environment and hopefully save money for the City at the same time. The Energy Audit RFP is being drafted and will be submitted in about a week.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo said 39 employees have participated so far in the Atlanticare Wellness Van event; the assessment provides information for employees to help enable them to live a healthier lifestyle. There was a terrific turnout for the Family Fun Fest, which was held on the rain date of October 4th. Mazzeo thanked Committee Chairman Bill Coulter, as well as Eileen Pantalena, Barbara Jeffries, Vicky Rutter and her Park staff, Joyce Pullan, Clem Scharff, and Liz O'Grady. The motorcycle recently donated to the Police Department debuted at the Fun Fest; Mazzeo said he would like to have ceremony thanking the donor at the end of the month. He feels the motorcycle patrol will help with enforcement. Since it was donated, it's very low cost to the City. The program also provides for a new motorcycle every 2 years. On November 16th, Northfield will have Operation Medicine Cabinet to give residents the opportunity to dispose of old unwanted prescription medication. More than 70% of those who abuse prescription pain killers say they get them from family or friends. The event will be held at City Hall from 10am to 2pm. Mazzeo said he wanted to provide an update on the Oak Avenue property the City has been trying to purchase since 2007. It should be decided by November if the sale will go through, and he explained the Green Acres process and the associated appraisal requirements. The County will only fund up to \$750,000, but the sale price was \$1M. Mazzeo asked Solicitor Bonchi to help with drafting a letter to see if we can use the space for drainage issues.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the City Clerk's office. Updates to the report were provided as follows: the letter has been sent to the State regarding the intersection of Route 9 and Mill Road but no reply has been received. Doran sent a letter to the developer about signage at Atrium Court; the sign has since been dismantled and hopefully will be fixed soon.

President Kern asked Doran to elaborate on the proposed solutions for Madison Avenue mentioned earlier by Councilman Carew. Doran said the plan is to put gutters in and raise the mouth to Mill Road so the water can't come in - that's phase I. The 2nd phase requires easements from homeowners to put in perforated pipe to help water percolate into the ground. This is only preliminary. The final report will include more options. Kern asked for confirmation from CFO Dolcy that drainage money from last year is available; Dolcy affirmed.

Carew stated that this type of action has historically been formalized in a resolution. Martinez asked how many options Doran will present for each problem. Doran replied that there will be 2 or 3, with escalating costs. The best

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

place to put water is in the bay or Birch Grove Park, but that is a long distance away. Martinez asked if the capital budget would be amended if any of the options are less than \$500,000. Kern said that would be up to Council but recommended waiting until the report is in. Carew suggested a resolution to authorize Doran to perform the necessary engineering work on the intersection of Mill and Madison; not to exceed \$2500.

Mayor Mazzeo asked if the City had any access to the drainage basin behind Tilton road; Doran said that 2nd and Davis ties into the County system at Tilton Road. Jim Clark clarified that this area ties into the State system. Mazzeo asked if 2nd and Davis could go to the County system; Doran said we'd have to ask the County. Martinez suggested asking County Executive Levinson for help with drainage issues.

President Kern announced that Public Works Manager Jim Clark was in the audience and asked him to explain Saturday's events at Madison Avenue. Clark said he got a call at about 8:30am; he responded to Madison Avenue and it was flooded. All available basins that we could have diverted water to were already full. He notified Councilman Carew, dispatch, and the EMS Coordinator. At 11am and 2pm the area was still flooded. At 6pm water had receded to the street. Kern thanked Clark, saying he was trying to do something but there was nowhere for the water to go. Doran said one of the options will be an interlocal with the County. Carew said that on 2nd and Davis, pumping is not an option; there is nowhere to pump to; the State system has to clear for the water to clear. Clark confirmed, saying that water from Littlefield and Jackson also flows down to 2nd and Davis. Once the State system clears, our water dissipates quickly. We have extended this system with two additions and that has helped. Doran is looking into alternatives to expand that system.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Kern said the Antique Appraisal will be held Thursday evening at City Hall. For any residents who may have street lights out, she said there is a place on atlanticcityelectric.com where you can report that. Council passed an ordinance in May restricting parking by non residents during school hours near the school on Cedarbridge and Juniper. We are waiting for signs to come in; which should be within a few weeks. Kern will be notifying school personnel that this will go into effect the last week of October. This week is fire prevention week at NCS, and Kern thanked the Firemen for visiting with the students.

Chief James added that grant funding being used to change the culture near and around the school with regard to traffic flow and parking

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

RESOLUTIONS

Councilman O’Grady motioned, Carew seconded for the adoption of Resolution 174-2009.

174-2009 Establishing a Green Team Advisory Board

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.

President Kern said Resolution 175-2009, authorizing Doran to proceed with the engineering services required for the gutter installation on Madison and Mill, not to exceed \$2500.

Councilman Carew motioned, Vain seconded for the adoption of Resolution 175-2009.

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.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Kern opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak; she announced a 5 minute limit per speaker.

Larry Carlson, 922 1st Street, said he does not believe that the court presentation will save the money it claims to be able to save. Shared service efforts provide increased efficiency, employment reduction; facility reduction; or equipment reduction. He cited the existing shared service agreement for sewer services. He said he is a retired Linwood employee and his wife is the Court Administrator. Earlier this year the Division Manager evaluated the courts and both courts received very high ratings. If you are not increasing efficiency, not changing salaries, not sharing equipment, he does not understand the push to do this. The salaries for the judge, prosecutor, and public defender should be negotiated; shared court is not the solution.

Glenn Martins, 12 Jack Sloan Court, said he is a 21 year resident. He got an emergency phone call from a neighbor about suspicious dumping near his home. He thanked the Mayor, Council, Police Chief and staff, Mr. Carew and Mr. Vain, saying that the residents in the area appreciated the quick response. He said he feels Northfield has been dumped on by a bully with resources; and encouraged Council to take whatever action they can to curb the bully and to resolve whatever problems they've had.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

Tom Evans, corner of Davis and 2nd, said the flooding has only gotten worse. The homes on the bike path side may be better, but near his home is not. There is water all the way to Dunkin Donuts. He asked for clarification about why County water gets drained first. Jim Clark explained. Evans said his property is underwater every rain storm; his home is an island. Cars in the neighborhood are routinely moved as a preventive measure; his yard is caving in, his sidewalk is cracking and his property value declining.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue said he agrees with Larry Carlson about shared service. He mentioned the vandalism of Northfield Rescue Squad vehicles. He said the City should not replace lights at fields before addressing flooding issues.

Peri Pantazes, 1 Madison Avenue, asked that Mayor Mazzeo add a request for drains on Mill Road to his letter to County Executive Levinson. She asked for clarification on what is being proposed for her street. Doran said that the water will be put under ground. Pantazes said the back yards are under water already and the ground is saturated; it can't take any more water. She is concerned about water entering the crawl spaces. Doran said the plan will put the water below the crawl spaces. Pantazes said she read that engineers at Rowan University helped to alleviate flooding in Camden, and suggested we ask them what they did there.

Elsie Cinkowski, 414 Davis Avenue, said her house has been there since 1924 and only when the intersection at Tilton Road and New Road was done did her house start taking water. She is concerned for her foundation. She asked if anyone looked at the intersection before it was done; Doran said we had no say in the design, it was a State project.

Greg Hull, 3 Madison Avenue, said he does not see how the purchase of lights and a dump truck can still be entertained. Money for lights at Birch Grove Park will go to better use for homeowners. There could be mold growing and no one would know it. He said he doesn't know if Atlanticare can get down the street in an emergency. If you can move your car you have to walk through 2 feet of water to get to it. 6 of the 8 homes are fed electricity underground; he does not feel a wet environment is safe for this type of wiring. He got a ticket for parking too close to a stop sign when moving his car to avoid flooding, and asked if he can be towed if he parks on private property. The street elevation is changing due to ongoing paving on Mill Road. There is standing water in his street. All other projects need to be shelved.

Council President Kern said no money of the bond ordinance has been spent; nothing has been bid. We are waiting for the City Engineer's report.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

Hull asked why other basins can't be used. Jim Clark responded that those that were close enough were already full.

Charles Cleary, 308 Clark Place explained a sewerage problem he recently had inside his house. The toilet wouldn't flush. He called Roto Rooter, who knew right away that it was a City problem. The Sewer Department came out, knew right away what the problem was and immediately fixed it. He's never had a problem in 37 years. He feels the City should inspect the sewer pipes.

Robert Walsh, 4 Madison Avenue, said he was speaking for fellow Madison Avenue resident Jean Scott. She lives at the end of the cul-de-sac, and is 82 years old with medical problems. He presented a letter from Mrs. Scott to President Kern. Scott has a personal alarm that she would use in an emergency. She cannot leave the area when it floods. Her children can't get to her house when it floods; she can't go to church. He mentioned the lights for the Park, saying the season will be over in 7 weeks and it shouldn't be done now.

Paul Wagner, Marita Ann Drive said he feels if he doesn't speak up his property will be ignored. Everyone feels their property is the most important. He has a 10 yard dumpster in his driveway filled with ruined items in his garage; his wife is breaking out in rash due to what he thinks is mold. The corner of his street is a lake; soil runoff has accumulated and now has grass growing on it. Mosquitoes are a real problem. He said he will be back every week until something is done. He thanked those from council who came to his home and showed concern.

Cathy Vaino, 1211 2nd Street, has lived there for 34 years. County Executive Levinson came to the house with engineers who said they'd fix the problem when they did Tilton Road. She's lost 3 heaters; and finally put a 4th heater on pilings. Her neighbors don't come to Council because they don't think anything will be done. The water is up to 12th step in her basement every time it rains. Underneath her house the water has undermined her foundation. She asked how long a foundation can take water; her house is 150 years old.

Paul Feriozzi, 13 Leslie Lane, said there is only one drain on his cul-de-sac. He has appealed to Jim Clark many times and he's been a great help, but there have been more problems since the street has been resurfaced. The newer covers on the drains are a problem. He has had water in his garage three times in three months. The issue needs to be addressed and he will be here continually until he gets some relief.

Steve Scheffler, 2110 Sutton Avenue said there is a crisis in Northfield; he can't figure out what is rising faster, taxes or flood water. He said he is amazed by the urgency now, before the election and feels it is too little too late. Mill and Oak floods, yet no one approached him. Council needs to contact County and State

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

representatives. Nobody faults Council for the issues, but they should have reacted sooner. He said Linwood will benefit much more from shared service court, just like they did with the rescue squad issue.

Joan Brennan, 116 Dolphin Avenue; said during a recent rain storm she drove around and water came up above the door of her truck on Fuae Avenue. She said she was told when she bought her house that it was in a flood zone. She grew up in Northfield and there have always been flood problems here. Meadowview has two drainage ditches in front of their building, and only one was filled, the other was empty. She feels this indicates a blockage, and wanted to let Council and the engineer know. She has had her home since December of 2003 and the Potter's field was filling with water; this is another hazard. She said she remembers regular cleaning of storm drains when she was a child but does not see that anymore. She asked if there was a cycle for cleaning the drains. Carew replied that there is such a program in place; we purchased equipment for that reason. It is ongoing maintenance. Every area is done all year long. Brennan asked if the schedule is listed for people to see. Carew said he has it. Doran added that our Stormwater Permit requires a maintenance schedule. Mazzeo said the DEP comes down once or twice a year to check to make sure that we're doing it.

Lynn Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, said she feels for the people with flooding issues, and hopes there is something we can do for them. She suggested day light hours for sports games if the lights are a safety issue. She thanked Councilman Martinez for his concern over the Northfield Rescue Squad vandalism. Perri told Madison Avenue residents that Northfield Rescue Squad would come in the rain.

Jim O'Neill, 7 Cara Court, referred to Scheffler's comment that Council failed with regard to the rescue squad issue. He said he had a recent personal experience with Atlanticare and they were there in about two minutes. He thinks Council made the right decision and is glad to see that response times are getting better.

Frank Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, candidate for Council, 1st Ward, asked how Atlanticare is allowed to create their own response times. Police and Fire are monitored and timed by dispatch, yet Atlanticare runs their own show. He hasn't seen the EMS contract yet. He feels anyone generating their own times is being dishonest. We are paying Egg Harbor Township to dispatch our ambulance service; the times are not accurate as they don't take into account the time the call comes in to dispatch or the time involved in having the call dispatched by Medcom to Atlanticare. Having the controlling their own times is improper. He said Councilman Martinez was diligent in his duties in attempting to get capital money diverted for flooding. Streets scheduled to be paved aren't flooding. He said he takes some blame for the fact that flooding issues were not resolved when he was on Council.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

Seeing no one else from the public wishing to speak, President Kern closed the public session

Mr. Smith read the meeting notices.

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk