

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2010**

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 the Northfield Boy Scouts who are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mrs. Kern, Mr. Martinez, Mr. O’Grady Mr. Perri, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vain  
Absent: Mr. Carew

City Solicitor Keith Bonchi and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance.

Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi called for a motion to elect a Council President for this evening due to the scheduled absence of President Carew. Motion made by Councilman Vain and seconded by Councilman Smith to elect Councilwoman Cindy Kern as Council President for this evening’s meeting. All present in favor.

President Kern reviewed the agenda.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Martinez attended the PTO fundraiser on Friday and he was pleased to see the tremendous amount of support from parents and volunteers. He extended thanks to event organizers Julie Zlotnick and Kathy Sher, and to the Atlantic City Country Club for another great event. The PTO funds a variety of events throughout the year.

Councilman Perri said he and Mayor Mazzeo met with representatives from the American Legion to discuss their concerns; the Legion will sending out membership letters to get feedback. They’ve asked that someone from the City look at the interior structure. Perri said post-storm billing issues with the sewer department have been resolved.

Councilman Vain announced that the City was awarded a Silver Award at the recent JIF breakfast and received \$2,200.00. He recognized Fund Commissioner Jim Dickinson, Safety Coordinator Cindy Ruffo, and Claims Coordinator Mary Canesi for their efforts. He read a letter from Risk Management Consultant Rich Gerber praising the personnel involved. Vain presented a Supevisor’s Accident Report that staff can now type directly into, and thanked Ruffo for the idea. Along with Councilwoman Kern, and Councilmen Perri and Carew, Vain attended an annual JIF

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2010**

meeting for which the City gets a \$250 premium credit per attending member of the governing body. There will be a Safe Streets to Schools meeting at 3:15pm on February 25<sup>th</sup> at NCS to discuss the disposition of \$41,000 in grant funds; Vain asked for volunteers to help. The NIT basketball tourney is February 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, and then March 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>; and involves middle schools from all around the region. He encouraged all to attend.

Councilman Smith reads the EMS response times for the month of January, and said he wanted to clarify for the residents of Northfield that Atlanticare is the only recognized and authorized emergency service provider for the City of Northfield. Anyone else would be violating State regulation. Smith is working on the shared service agreement for chemical treatment of the grounds in the City and at the schools; an agreement should be in place by next month. Councilman Martinez asked for clarification of what areas will be covered under the shared service agreement. Smith replied that Birch Grove, the ball fields, and the grounds here at City Hall and at NCS would be included. Smith said there will be a budget meeting Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6pm. Councilman Perri asked if we have a temporary budget; Dolcy responded that we are still working on it. Perri would like to review it before the meeting if possible; Dolcy said she will try.

Councilman O'Grady said the Library Board met on February 18<sup>th</sup>, and there are many events planned for National Library Week. The Email blast has been working well and was used during recent snow events. The RFP has been submitted for the local government energy audit and responses are due within 30 days. The audit is 100% funded by the State.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Mazzeo said he also attended the PTO fundraiser on Friday, and it's good to see such great support for the school. He referred to a map of the Arthur Henry site that was distributed to Council, and said the Library has asked if the City would swap similarly-sized parcels of land with the Arthur Henry property. The buffer would be reduced from 50 to 25 feet for affected residents. Mazzeo said Ralph Henry said he's interested but does not want to incur any costs such as title fees. The swap would facilitate more parking for the Library, and create convenience for the American Legion members. Mazzeo asked Bonchi to investigate the matter. President Kern said she wanted to make sure Locust Avenue residents are notified if plans proceed to swap the land. Mazzeo said he met with Councilman Smith and CFO Dolcy about the budget, and noted the upcoming March 2<sup>nd</sup> budget meeting. He also met with Chief James regarding budget matters, and will meet with other department heads about getting under the cap. He mentioned City of Northfield ordinance 35, which requires that the police department schedule formal meetings twice annually; this

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2010**

costs about \$4400.00 each year to accomplish. Mazzeo said Chief James has requested the wording of the ordinance be to 'as needed'. Mazzeo stated that the new valuation for Northfield is \$995,538,917.00, and read the police department report statistics for the month of January.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the Municipal Clerk's office. City Engineer Matt Doran provided updates to the report as follows: the 2009 paving project is 60% finished; he hopes to be able to recommend an award of contract at the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council. Soil borings have been ordered for Madison Avenue and the Wawa site, but only one has been able to be completed thus far due to frozen ground. Councilman Smith asked about the status of the Wawa storm basin and the Marita Ann project; Doran said we need to do a design so Wawa can approve the plans. Bonchi added that Wawa does not own the land, but the owner is willing to cooperate as long as it doesn't cost anything.

Councilman Perri asked about the price differential in the bids for the Babe Ruth Field, and asked if we shouldn't consider re-bidding. Doran explained the error made by the low bidder. That bidder submitted a written request to be removed, which the Solicitor reviewed. Doran said the Engineer's estimate was \$200,000.00; given the amounts of the other 2 bids, the recommendation was made to award to the lowest responsible bidder. Councilman O'Grady asked for an explanation of base bid and alternate bids. Doran replied that the alternate bid is new poles; the base bid is to use existing poles. Perri asked for the original appropriation to do the job; Dolcy replied that it was \$110,000 from last year and the balance from prior years. Councilman Vain asked the lifespan of a light pole; Doran said they last a long time but the existing poles are very old, adding that new poles are to new code and newer industry standards. Councilman Martinez asked about the electrical panel; Doran said he will ensure the proper panel is purchased but that the installation will be done by volunteers, which saves a substantial amount of money. Martinez said it was discussed at the last Allsports meeting that the electrical service was inadequate. Mayor Mazzeo said the panel box was in 2010 capital and lights were in 2009

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Council President Kern referred to resolution 46-2010 and to a letter sent by TD bank to the City Engineer. Doran proceeded to explain the letter, the performance and maintenance guarantee processes, and the request made by TD Bank for a waiver of the maintenance guarantee. Discussion ensued, and Council President Kern read changes to 46-2010 that will reflect the waiver of the maintenance guarantee. She noted that County Executive Dennis Levinson was ill and that his speaking

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2010**

engagement has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 25th. The Municipal Alliance Senior's luncheon has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm and will include an anti drugs and alcohol program for seniors.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Councilman Vain, second by Councilman Perri, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 9, 2010. 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.

**RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Martinez seconded for a consent agenda for resolutions 41-2010, 42-2010 and 44-2010through 48-2010.

Roll call: Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O'Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries.

- 41-2010** To Authorize a Raffle License for the Church of St Bernadette
- 42-2010** To Authorize a Raffle License for Congregation Beth Israel
- 44-2010** Refund Overpayment of Taxes Block 16.01 Lot 36.07
- 45-2010** To Authorized the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to United Computer for Comprehensive Computer and Network Support for the City of Northfield
- 46-2010** To Authorize the Release of Performance Guarantee and Cash Guarantee and to Waive the Posting of a Maintenance Guarantee for TD Bank
- 47-2010** Authorizing Emergency Temporary Appropriations Per N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20
- 48-2010** To Authorize the Cancellation of a Sewer Unit on Account # 502

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Martinez seconded to adopt resolutions 41-2010, 42-2010 and 44-2010through 48-2010 by consent agenda.

Roll call: Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O'Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – absent; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2010**

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman O'Grady seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ \$2,856,637.65. Councilmen Smith and Vain, and Councilwoman Kern announced their abstentions from certain line items on the bill list.

Roll call: Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O'Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – absent; 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.

Greg Hull, 3 Madison Avenue, stated that at present his street is 6" under water at the center and 12" at the curb. He asked about money set aside for Madison Avenue; Doran and Kern confirmed that funds had been allocated for the project. Hull expressed concern that the light project is proceeding, and asked if all volunteers were going to be licensed electricians. Kern replied that no unlicensed personnel would be doing electrical work.

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

Councilman Perri read the meeting notices.

At 7:36pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk