

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2010**

This meeting was called to order by Council President Tim Carew. Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk announced it had been properly advertised according to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

The flag salute was led by Mayor Vincent Mazzeo. 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, Mr. Carew

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

President Carew reviewed the agenda.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Martinez, second by Councilman O’Grady, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of February 23, 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Martinez announced that the most recent Planning Board meeting was canceled due to lack of applications. The next Allsports meeting will be held March 10th at NCS.

Councilman Perri stated that the Northfield-Linwood Sewer Interlocal Committee will be meeting on March 16th at 6:30pm.

Councilman Vain urged all to residents to complete the Census forms that will be mailed out shortly. The Safe Streets to School Committee met earlier today, and Chief James was a big help. The date for their event has been changed to June 12th from 10am to 2pm to coincide with DARE day. Volunteers are needed. Vain said he’s the advisor for the National Junior Honor Society, and would like to use the kids for community service project to clean up the park. He will contact park supervisor Vicky Rutter.

Councilwoman Kern said she attended the 2nd of 4 required Municipal Alliance meetings, and there was a great turn out with 10 people there. The Alliance

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continues to fund programs at NCS, MRHS and for seniors; they also fund the after-prom. Kern said she was contacted by Pleasantville Council President Judy Ward about the possibility of a joint program with the Pleasantville Municipal Alliance. The Cultural Committee's recent yard sale was very successful with all monies raised to benefit the museum. Kern stated that Shared Court continues to go well, and thanked the Court staff.

Councilman Smith read the statistics for the Fire Department report for the month of February. The 2nd Annual Dave's Day is scheduled for March 20th, with lots of activities; he encouraged all to attend. We have 2 bids so far for shared service fertilization, and are waiting on a 3rd. Smith invited Councilman Martinez to participate when the bids are reviewed.

Councilman O'Grady said the Library Board met on February 11th and the new officers for 2010 were nominated and approved. O'Grady reviewed upcoming Library events and highlighted April 12th through 17th as Library Week. An email blast was sent out to advise residents of an upcoming Neighborhood Watch Meeting. Energy Audit bids are due March 23rd.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew announced that the City's annual free rabies clinic would be held Saturday, March 13th; in the event of inclement weather residents will be asked to line up at the covered walkway. April 10th will be opening day at Birch Grove Park, and a busy season is anticipated. Baseball season is starting and traffic is increasing near the park. Carew urged all to use caution.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo said he has gotten a lot of positive feedback about the senior programs sponsored by the Municipal Alliance. The Family Fun Fest will be held October 2nd this year; they are trying to grow the venue with additional vendors and attractions. The committee will meet once monthly for now, and twice a month when the event gets closer. The County has installed larger stop signs with break-away posts and has added new pavement markings to the Mill Road and Wabash Avenue intersection. The Library sign was also moved back to improve visibility. He thanked the County for their prompt efforts at improving the safety of the intersection. Regarding the budget, Mazzeo said we are currently \$350k over the 4% CAP. At the request of Council, he met with the PBA and the fire department to discuss options for reducing the budget. He thanked both groups for meeting with him. Mazzeo said he will also be meeting with the Library and that Council President Carew met with public works. Revenues are down considerably from past

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years; increases include health benefits, pension requirements, the revaluation payments, the reserve for uncollected taxes, and increased wastewater fees due to an unusually wet season. State aid remains an unknown. The next budget meeting will be March 30th.

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 bid date for the 2009 paving project is March 18th and he hopes to recommend an award for the March 23rd meeting.

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Perri stated that he'd like to pull Resolution 51-2010 out of the consent agenda for separate discussion.

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded for a consent agenda for Resolutions 49-2010, 50-2010 and 52-2010. President Carew announced that Resolution 52-2010 was an Executive Session and would take place following the regular meeting.

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

49-2010 Authorizing Doran to Proceed with Certain Projects

50-2010 Award of Contract Single Axle Dump Truck

52-2010 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 Pending Litigation In The Matter Of Jack Trocki Development Co., LLC, v City Of Northfield, Et Al, Docket No. Atl-C1130-09

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded to adopt Resolutions 49-2010, 50-2010 and 52-2010

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

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51-2010 To Authorize the Award of Contract for Lights at Babe Ruth Field

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded to adopt Resolution 51-2010.

Councilman Perri voiced concerns about the bid process and the use of volunteer labor for this project. Councilman Carew explained the extent to which volunteer labor was going to be used, and that it does not affect the warranty for the lights.

A lengthy discussion ensued with regard to the breakdown of costs for the entire project, the energy efficiency of the lights, the availability of grant funding or the use of fund raising to offset the cost, and the use of old poles versus installing new.

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – no; Mr. O’Grady – no; Mr. Perri – no; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Carew opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak.

Peri Pantazes, 1 Madison Avenue, was upset that public comment was not permitted before the vote on the light award; too much money is being spent. She urged Council to reconsider the lights and fencing. Councilman Carew responded that the only money being spent at the fields is to address safety improvements.

Ted Khoury, 10 Juniper Drive, thanked Council for adopting the light award Resolution. He said he has been a member and Coach of Allsports for 12 years. Tournaments and various events hosted at the fields bring money into town. The lights are needed.

Jim Leeds, 35 Northfield Plaza, thanked the members of Council who voted for the light award. Increases in housing developments in Northfield in recent years have brought more children to town. Northfield has very limited recreation space, just baseball fields. We have to give kids some place to play.

Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court, said he is in agreement with the lights but we are spending quite a bit of money this year. He said he doesn't want to lose police and has heard parents say they may have to move due to taxes. He encouraged conservative use of the lights when not needed.

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

Councilman Smith read the meeting notices.

Council President Carew announced a 5 minute recess before Council would be entering Executive Session, after which formal action may be taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

The Municipal Clerk read the Paff injunction under which the City of Northfield has been bound with regard to closed sessions of Council, and read Resolution 52-2010 by title.

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Solicitor Bonchi said this Executive Session pertains to strategy and therefore the minutes of which may never become public.

At the recommendation of the JIF, Councilman Perri recused himself from this Executive Session of Council due to a conflict. Trocki is his landlord.

At 7:50pm, Council entered closed session; they remained in Council chambers. At 7:59pm, on motions properly made and seconded, the closed session was adjourned and Bonchi announced a summary for the record as follows: during the Executive Session a proposal made by the plaintiff to dismiss the case with the ability to re-file in 6 months was discussed. We talked about strategy, positives, and negatives.

Councilman Vain motioned, Martinez seconded to reject the offer made by Dr. Trocki to dismiss the case with the ability to re-file it in 6 months.

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – recused; Mr. Smith – abstain; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

At 8:01pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk