

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 22, 2012**

At 7:00 pm, 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 a moment of silence was observed

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mrs. Brown, Mr. Dewees, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Perri, Mr. Polistina, Mr. Vain, Mr. Carew

Mayor Vincent Mazzeo, Engineer Matt Doran, Police Chief Robert James, and City Solicitor Keith Bonchi were also in attendance.

**VETERAN HONOREE FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE**

Councilman Vain introduced Veteran Honoree for the month of June, Ed Hackett. Vain said Hackett enlisted in the United States Air Force at the age of 18 just out of High School. Following basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, he was assigned to the 821st Combat Support Group of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) 15th Air Force at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota. Hackett was trained as a Heating Specialist, Airman 2nd Class, to support the mission of the KC135 air refueling tankers and the B52 Bombers. His term of enlistment lasted 4 years was from July 1961 to July 1965. He also served during the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the early years of the Viet Nam War. On behalf of the City of Northfield, Vain thanked Hackett for his service to our Country, and along with Mayor Mazzeo, presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Hackett thanked the City for the honor, and said he would like to see more Veterans recognized. Vain urged the public to contact the Municipal Clerk if they wish to nominate a Northfield resident as a Veteran honoree.

Council President Carew commended Hackett for his leadership in the Volunteer Fire Company and for his dedication to the community; Hackett has served the City for 45 years with the Fire Company.

Carew announced a brief recess; he resumed the meeting at 7:06pm.

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**PRESENTATION**

Chief James introduced Craig Mortman, from Visual Computer Solutions, Inc., and said Mortman would be presenting information on the proposed City-wide time and attendance tracking system.

Mortman provided an overview of the scheduling software, which can be customized for all departments. The system is a flexible, rules-based and includes data collection and an activity log to track all changes; time clocks are an option. It is accessible by smart phone from anywhere but individual users would not have the security access to manipulate numbers. It can track training activities, extra duty assignments, time sell-backs, vacation and other time off requests. It would be a yearly contract per user; start-up costs are approximately \$120 per user for the first year. Mortman provided Council with literature and encouraged those with questions to contact him.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Motion was made by Councilman Perri, second by Councilman O'Neill to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 22, 2012. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain –yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Perri noted that the Sewer Interlocal is on agenda with a 50/50 split. He thanked the Mayor and Councilman Dewees for their work on the Agreement. The Senior Advisory meeting last week had 12 people in attendance; they will meet once a month in committee and then have an event. Perri would like to create an alternate member.

Councilman O'Neill is researching an OPRA secure email system that will let us retire one of our email servers; he is also looking at our phone bills. He urged all to use only City email for city communications. O'Neill would like Council meetings available on the website via a media player and suggested an electronic calendar for meeting tracking.

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Councilman Vain said the flashing crosswalks are operational at Tilton and Wabash and Burton and Mill; the Police are monitoring for compliance, giving warnings out initially. Vain said an RFP went out yesterday for the monument area and flag pole for Veteran's Park; bids are due June 1<sup>st</sup> and work must be done by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Vain contacted County personnel about reports of speeding on Burroughs Avenue; he will report back to Council.

Councilman Polistina attended the Library meeting last week; the construction documents are 75% complete and should go out as an RFP soon. There will be a tax sale on June 12<sup>th</sup> and there is approximately \$90,000 in delinquent sewer and tax bills. Polistina said he will distribute the final draft of the EMS RFP at the end of the meeting, and urged all to get back to him with concerns right away. He explained that there is no advantage to being Lead Agency and that doing so would have delayed the RFP by a few months. He reiterated that the RFP is being done jointly but responses from vendors can come back for Northfield, or as a joint service. He issued a reminder that the RFP is a draft and not a public document. Polistina stated that at the EMS forum things got very heated and there was unprofessional behavior that he hopes he will not see at any other meeting.

Councilman O'Neill asked for written notes from EMS meetings; Polistina replied that he has provided the notes he had. Councilman Perri requested an explanation of the evaluation process for the RFP's. Carew replied; saying that just like the Sewer Interlocal that is being voted on tonight, that came out of committee, the EMS RFP will come out of committee. Perri asked why the EMS meetings are not advertised as open to the public; Carew said it is for the same reason the Shared Court committee meetings are not advertised that way.

Discussion ensued between Councilman Perri, Councilman O'Neill and Solicitor Bonchi regarding allegations that Northfield received documentation about falsified times that was not distributed to Council. Bonchi advised that an Atlanticare attorney confirmed that the information O'Neill was referring to was never disseminated to anyone from Northfield. It was an internal Atlanticare document. The Municipal Clerks' office has records of the recalculated times.

Councilman Dewees announced that Public Works put up the flags for the Memorial Day parade.

Councilwoman Brown stated that the NCS now has computer workshop in the school; there are 26 mobile workstations with wireless internet. The Arts Boosters got \$5,000 in musical equipment for the school. Lunch prices are going up to \$2.45 and \$2.55, and \$4 for adult. The Shared Service Agreement for Court is on tonight's

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agenda for approval. The Economic Development Committee should start bi-monthly meetings in June. .

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Council President Carew stated that he will be distributing a summary of changes to the Land Use Ordinance after tonight’s meeting; these will be discussed at the June 24<sup>th</sup> Work Session. The full ordinance will be emailed to all of Council as well. Solicitor Bonchi reminded Council that there have been no changes to the proposed ordinance since Council saw it last.

Carew noted the many safety improvements that have been made across town to the benefit of our residents, including the recently installed flashing lights.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Mazzeo provided details for the Memorial Day parade and urged all to come out to recognize all who have made the ultimate sacrifice. He is proud to have chaired this event for the past 5 years. The Sewer Interlocal and Shared Court Agreements are tonight’s agenda. There were a lot of meetings to get to this point and shared services provide savings without reducing services. Mazzeo noted the appointment of Randy Clark as Class II Special to staff the metal detector for Court; it is good to see Clark back in uniform. Mazzeo reminded all of this year's lost revenue due to tax appeals, and said this year it looks like we have many more and will see another hit in next year's budget. He thanked Mr. Gurwicz for a recent donation used to purchase rifles for the Police Department and asked the Municipal Clerk to draft a thank you letter. Mazzeo read the Police Department report.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT**

The City Engineer’s report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the Municipal Clerk’s office. Updates were as follows: Doran advised that the bid opening date for Revere and Leeds is June 1<sup>st</sup>; he hopes to award at the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. The bid date for valves at Oak is June 8<sup>th</sup>. Drainage at Roosevelt and Davis is ongoing and Doran hopes to bid in June. The Paving of Broad via the NJDOT grant should be awarded at the July meeting.

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilwoman Brown seconded to vote by consent agenda on Resolutions 75-2012 through 87-2012.

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- 75-2012** Requesting Approval of an Item of Revenue and Appropriation in the 2012 Budget – Body Armor Grant
- 76-2012** A Resolution Memorializing A Grant Application Submitted By The Northfield Police Department For A ‘Cops In Shops’ Grant From The New Jersey Division Of Alcoholic Beverage Control
- 77-2012** Requesting Approval of an Item of Revenue and Appropriation in the 2012 Budget – Clean Communities Grant
- 78-2012** Requesting Approval of an Item of Revenue and Appropriation in the 2012 Budget – NJDOT Local Aid Grant
- 79-2012** Release of Escrow Monies by the Planning Board – Chido Burrito
- 80-2012** Requesting Approval of an Item of Revenue and Appropriation in the 2012 Budget –Over the Limit Under Arrest Grant
- 81-2012** Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement between the County of Atlantic and the City of Northfield for the Installation of Pedestrian Safety Equipment at Two Intersections in the City of Northfield
- 82-2012** Authorizing the Execution of an Interlocal Agreement for Sewer Maintenance with the City of Linwood
- 83-2012** Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for Landscaping Services for Birch Grove Park
- 84-2012** Appointment of George R Clark as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II
- 85-2012** Confirming Reappointment of Harold L Bogie as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II
- 86-2012** A Resolution Authorizing An Amended Agreement For Shared Municipal Court For The Municipalities Of The City Of Northfield And The City Of Linwood
- 87-2012** To Hire a Seasonal Concession Stand Attendant at Birch Grove Park

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries to vote by consent agenda.

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Councilman Vain motioned, Councilwoman Brown seconded, to adopt the consent agenda on resolutions 75-2012 through 87-2012.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

Councilman O’Neill requested that a Resolution be added to the agenda to form an ad hoc committee for investigations of EMS issues; Councilman Perri seconded.

Council President Carew announced that he would not accept a Resolution off of the floor; Perri disagreed that this was within the purview of the body Chair. Solicitor Bonchi offered that the Council President sets the agenda and disagreed with Perri’s conclusion. Discussion ensued. Mayor Mazzeo said it is customary that the Council President be consulted on the agenda, but he feels a resolution should be able to come off of the floor. Perri asserted that Title 40 gives them the right to form an ad hoc committee; Bonchi clarified that his opinion does not refer to the formation of a committee, but to the addition to the agenda. Vain stated he has no issues with the subject, but would appreciate having seen the resolution beforehand. Carew stated he tried to meet with Perri, but did not hear back; he is happy to meet. Councilwoman Brown asked for the specific purpose of the committee; Perri replied that there is a lot of information he's asked for that he has not gotten.

Council President Carew did not recognize the motion or the second.

**ORDINANCES**

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded, to adopt Ordinance 4-2012, to be read by title only.

**4-2012** Ordinance Providing for and Establishing Salary Ranges of Officers and Employees of the City of Northfield and Repealing All Ordinances Heretofore Adopted, the Provisions of Which are Inconsistent Herewith  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption*  
*Published in the Press May 26, 2012*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that since introduction full copies of the ordinance have been posted on the City Website, on the bulletin board at City Hall, and have been available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

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Council President Carew opened the public hearing; seeing no one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

Councilman Perri announced that he would be voting against the ordinance because volunteers should not be paid.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – no  
Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

Councilman Perri motioned, O’Neill seconded, to adopt Ordinance 5-2012, to be read by title only.

**5-2012**           An Ordinance Amending Chapter 111-35 of the Code of the City of Northfield to Remove Certain Streets or Parts Thereof From Being Designated as Through Streets and Amending Chapter 111-36 to Add Stop Intersections  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption*  
*Published in the Press May 26, 2012*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that since introduction full copies of the ordinance have been posted on the City Website, on the bulletin board at City Hall, and have been available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Council President Carew opened the public hearing; seeing no one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

Councilman Vain motioned, Perri seconded, to adopt Ordinance 6-2012, to be read by title only.

**6-2012**           An Ordinance Regulating Automobile Repairs in a Residential Zone  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption*  
*Published in the Press May 26, 2012*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that since introduction full copies of the ordinance have been posted on the City Website, on the bulletin

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board at City Hall, and have been available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Council President Carew opened the public hearing; seeing no one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

Councilman Vain motioned to amend Ordinance 6-2012 to delete the word 'blood' as it relates to 'relative' in Section 1, and to add the following sentence to Section 1: "The term relative shall be defined as parents, children, step children, siblings and/or grandparents of any of the residents of the house. Councilman Perri seconded.

The Municipal Clerk noted that a second public hearing was not required as the amendment did not make a material change to the substance of the ordinance. All in favor of adopting the amendment; none opposed.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for final adoption of Ordinance 6-2012, as amended.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilwoman Brown seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 4,314,147.87.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for payment of bills.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, said Atlanticare should not be given another contract because it is a conflict of interest, and EMS providers should not balance-bill.

Tom Wolfe, Davis Avenue, stated that illegal businesses are running in Northfield and everyone knows. Councilman Vain suggested meeting with Wolfe to review the code enforcement activity from the past week.

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Kim Hegenbart, 710 Hollywood Drive, commended the trash collection staff in her neighborhood; they are definitely doing their job on her street. She also commended Assistant DPW Supervisor Qwin Vitale for assisting a motorist who had a disabled vehicle; no one would help her but he did.

Lynn Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, asked how many people wanted to do a joint RFP from the public meeting. Councilman Polistina replied; at the first meeting 13 people spoke, the majority did not want joint. At the second meeting 7 different people spoke, 2 or 3 did not want joint. He stated that he also had several emails that did not have a preference about a joint RFP but wanted reassurances that the prior condition of friction between the rescue squad and police and fire would not recur.

Linda Harrison, 1205 Shore Road, requested the cost to use Atlanticare for an ambulance. She said she used them and had to pay 505, owing \$400 and was in the hospital 20 out of 24 months. She stated that the bill went to collection in 3 months. She said there have been problems with Atlanticare not knowing how to get around Northfield. She asked if the Northfield Rescue Squad is out of the picture. Carew replied that they have to decide if they want to bid. He explained the reason it was bid out before was because the Northfield Rescue Squad became a paid entity and the service had to go out to bid.

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

Councilwoman Brown read the meeting notices.

At 8:51pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk