

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011**

At 7:00pm, 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: Mr. Dewees Mrs. Kern, Mr. Perri, Mr. Polistina, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vain, Mr. Carew

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

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda

RESOLUTION

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded, to adopt resolution 127-2011.

127-2011 Promotion of Arthur J Faden to Captain of Police

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

Mayor Mazzeo administered the Oath of Office. Captain Faden was accompanied by his wife, Ginny, who held the bible and then pinned the Captain's badge to his uniform.

Captain Faden thanked his wife, and the spouses and families of all those in law enforcement, saying they make it possible for police officers to do their jobs.

Council President Carew thanked Captain Faden for what he has done for the town over the course of his career, and announced a five minute recess.

VETERAN HONOREES FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Councilwoman Kern introduced the evening's first Veteran honoree for the month of September as Ron Mathis. Mr. Mathis served in the United States Air Force for 28 years, and was in Viet Nam from 1968-1969 as a Technical Sergeant. He has been a

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Northfield Resident for 41 years. Mayor Mazzeo and Councilman Vain presented Mathis with a certificate of appreciation, and thanked him for his service.

Kern said the evening's other honorees could not be in attendance. They are Dominic Serago and Captain Nelson Candelario. Candelario is a graduate of Mill Road School, Mainland Regional High School, LaSalle University, and Rutgers School of Law. Captain Candelario is on active duty with the US Marine Corp in Afghanistan, serving as the Deputy Regimental Judge.

Kern congratulated all of the evening's honorees, and thanked them for their service.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Perri, second by Councilman Dewees, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the August 23rd meeting. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. All present in favor. Motion carried for approval of minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri thanked everyone involved, and Mayor Mazzeo, for the 9-11 ceremony, adding that it was a very nice service. He thanked the American Legion for offering to have the City become involved in their situation. Perri said he met with the Mayor, and the Legion will be meeting with their members; more information to follow. Perri is pleased to be a part of the planning for the memorial park as well. He would like to revisit the collection of yard waste and have the City reconsider returning the service to the ACUA. He said it is no slight to the performance of the road department, it's just too overwhelming.

Councilman Polistina said the recent Library Board meeting was postponed, but expansion plans continue and they will be bidding out for architecture services and providing an IT plan. These are prerequisites for the return of funds. He thanked the evening's Veteran honorees, and Captain Faden.

Councilman Vain said the flashing light at Zion is up and running, and thanked County for their part. He said there are ongoing projects with County and that he will keep the City updated. He attended the 9-11 ceremony and said the Mayor did a nice job. He congratulated Captain Faden, adding that he does great job for the City and the school.

Councilwoman Kern said the Veteran honorees for the month of October will be William Coulter, Lou Niremberg, and Mark Biehl. She said the old Oak Avenue

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School has new tenants in the building and the owners are offering the use of the fields to the City, as they have in the past. There is a large field behind the school. Kern thanked the City of Northfield for taking care of the fields during the season, adding that many teams went very far this year. She reminded all that there is a Use of Fields procedure in place that must be followed, including paperwork and insurance requirements. There will be a Municipal Alliance meeting at City hall Wednesday at 4pm if anyone is interested in attending. Kern congratulated Councilman Smith and his wife on the birth of their new daughter, Quinlan.

Councilman Smith referred to resolution 129-2011 which authorizes the transfer of an artifact from the World Trade Center to the City of Northfield. He explained that we don't yet know what we will do with it, but there is a sense of urgency in getting it because very few remain. He read the EMS report for August. NCS is now open and he congratulated them on another successful opening to the school year. Mainland will be opening tomorrow. He urged that everyone keep the Mainland community in their thoughts and prayers.

Councilman Dewees said the Road Department was one week behind on yard waste as of last Friday, and that collection went from 4-5 tons on an average collection, to 35 tons after the hurricane. Two trucks breaking down put them behind the eight-ball. The ACUA was brought in for a one-time effort; this was especially necessary because street sweeping starts September 26th. The Clean Communities collection has been postponed to the week of October 10th. Dewees reported on several lights out at the athletic fields.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew thanked all involved with handling events during hurricane Irene; Northfield and most of Atlantic County were very fortunate.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo said this year's Fun Fest will be October 1st with a rain date of Sunday, October 2nd, and said there are many new events this year. The 9-11 ceremony held at City Hall was very nice, and Mazzeo thanked Ace Hardware once again for donating the Flag of Heroes and the Flag of Honor. He also thanked Northfield resident and Mainland student Will Glick for playing taps, and thanked the police and fire departments as well. We sounded a siren at 1pm as part of the National moment of remembrance. The State Librarian has agreed to return the excess funds in the amount of \$245,000 to the City, plus the previously returned \$55,000 for a total of \$300,000. Mazzeo said the City could have been a lot worse off with hurricane Irene, and added that we will see how fall clean up goes with yard

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waste. He thanked Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Randy Clark, and the police and fire departments for their efforts during the storm. There were 230 calls handled by the police department on August 27th, the day of the storm. FEMA funding may be available. He read the August police department report. Mazzeo said there will be a teen driving seminar on September 20th coordinated by the Northfield and Linwood police departments in conjunction with Mainland High School. Mazzeo asked Chief James to elaborate.

James explained the program as being geared toward both parents and children. Mainland students who drive must have a permit to park at the school, and must have attended the program to get the permit.

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: the Marita Ann drainage project is proceeding but the City could not secure an easement on one side.

Councilwoman Kern mentioned the small section of Juniper between Zion and Mill; Doran said it is on the paving list of small jobs that we will do if we have funding.

BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST

Councilman Carew said the City’s Best Practices Checklist was sent to the state in August, as required, and has been distributed to all of Council for review. There were no questions.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded for a consent agenda for resolutions 128-2011 through 131-2011. Solicitor Bonchi noted that resolution 131-2011 authorizes a closed session to be held at the end of the regular meeting.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

128-2011 A Resolution Authorizing Extension of an Agreement with Atlantic County for the Installation of a Flashing Traffic Light System at the Intersection of Zion Road and Oak Avenue in the City of Northfield

129-2011 A Resolution Approving an Agreement between the City of Northfield and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for

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the Transfer of Certain World Trade Center Artifacts and Authorizing
the Mayor to Execute Same

130-2011 Final Change Order No. 1 Reconstruction of Jack Sloan Court and Joseph Court

131-2011 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 (B) (4) Regarding Contract Negotiations with Mainland PBA Local No. 77

Councilman Perri noted his abstention from the final adoption vote on resolution 130-2011.

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt the consent agenda for resolutions 128-2011 through 131-2011.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

ORDINANCES

On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilman Dewees, all in favor of reading Ordinance 6-2011 by title only.

6-2011 An Ordinance Providing for the Acquisition of Sanitary Sewer/Storm Water Easements by the City of Northfield
Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press 09/17/2011
2nd Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 09/27/2011

Roll call: Mr. Dewees – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 6-2011.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Bill Wannop, 314 Jackson Avenue, said he has complaints about rude treatment by workers collecting yard waste. Also, large items were not taken, he feels the storm

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justified taking the large items. He is also concerned about leaves in fall and is dissatisfied that the City does not take construction debris.

Council President Carew explained the mechanical problems with City trucks and the limitations on manpower. He also said weight limits such as those that apply to large branches are in effect to prevent worker injuries.

Mayor Mazzeo explained the two Clean Communities grants that will allow residents to place these items out for collection.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, congratulated the City on the 9-11 ceremony. He said City Hall is in disrepair; there is a phone sign outside by the police department but there is no phone. He feels we should go back to ACUA for yard waste, and that Northfield should also take dispatch service back from Egg Harbor Township.

Craig Tanzola, 10 Magnolia Court, expressed concerns that public works employees do not have brooms on their trucks to be used to clean up streets when bags break during pick up. He said trash cans should be turned upside down, not tossed, and the three trash can limit is unreasonable. He said public works takes fewer items now than in years past. He said he has asked Councilwoman Kern and Councilman Vain about dog cutouts to mitigate the problem of goose droppings on the fields. The City is not maintaining the basin at his development but it is their job.

Robert Lindquist, 2218 Zion Road, explained that he and his granddaughter were both transported by ambulance, on separate occasions, by Atlanticare. Both were taken to Shore Memorial; his bill was \$1000 and he owed \$20 and his granddaughter's bill was close to \$2,800, with him owing \$200. He is dissatisfied with billing differences for the same service.

Scott Van Vorst, representing Jersey Shore Federal Credit Union, located at 1413 New Road, reviewed the issue of the placement of a NJ Transit bus stop in front of their location, and listed several concerns primarily focused on the safety and security of Credit Union patrons. They are asking the City to approve the relocation of the stop, closer to Route 9 on Tilton Road.

Councilwoman Kern said she rode by the area and agrees that the current location is probably not the best spot. Council President Carew said we may have to find out from the State how far the stops have to be apart; there is a stop at Davis Avenue and Route 9. Council President Carew directed Chief James to investigate the feasibility of relocating the stop, and to respond to Council.

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

Councilman Perri read the meeting notices, and announced that Council would be entering closed session and would resume the public session thereafter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

The Municipal Clerk read Resolution 131-2011 by title and announced that the solicitor would explain the subject matter to be discussed, as well as when material may be released, if it may be released. The resolution was adopted earlier in the evening under the consent agenda.

Solicitor Bonchi announced that Council would be going into closed session to discuss the police contract negotiations. Since the discussion will involve strategy the minutes may never be released. Any agreement will be voted upon in public session.

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At 8:21 pm Council left the dais and entered the caucus room; Solicitor Bonchi, and Labor Attorney Pepper were also in attendance. At 9:05pm, the closed session was adjourned and Bonchi announced a summary for the record as follows: labor counsel provided a summary of negotiations, questions were asked, and no vote was taken. The issue will move towards mediation. The final contract will be released but strategy will not.

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk