

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 8, 2013**

At 7:06pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 7, 2013, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mayor Mazzeo. Following the flag salute a moment of silence was observed.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Carew, Dewees, Mahon, O'Neill, Perri, Polistina, Travagline

Mayor Vince Mazzeo, Chief Robert James, Solicitor Kris Facenda, Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski, and Deputy Clerk Mimi Marlor were also in attendance.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Perri, seconded by Councilman O'Neill to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 24, 2013. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

**2013 BEST PRACTICES RESULTS**

Council President Travagline stated that The Best Practices checklist is designed to encourage practice that promotes financial accountability and transparency. The State further requires that we review the checklist and discuss the results publicly; therefore are there any questions or comments?

Councilman Perri stated that he did not have a chance to read it.

Councilman Polistina provided a short summary and review for Council. He stated there were 50 questions on the checklist. This was a document issued by the governor's office in the tool kit for municipalities, starting two years ago. He read the list of general categories for the questions and noted highlights such as shared services, traffic safety, pay to play, OPRA compliance etc. He noted that the City's score is important as it ties directly to state aid. He explained that the City could lose their state aid if they do not achieve a certain percentage on the best practices

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checklist; but we are in good shape, having scored 45 out of 50. We should work toward moving those missing items to the affirmative next year.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Perri stated there will be a Senior Committee meeting on October 24, 2013 at BGP and they will provide a free hayride. All seniors are welcome to join the activity and partake of a free lunch. In the event of rain the meeting and activity will be at the Park Center. He announced that the insurance quotes are due soon. He thanked everyone who worked on Family Fun Fest and noted they did a fine job. He reported that he had good feedback from attendees. The Planning Board meeting on October 3, 2013 had two major applications that were approved. Riska Properties came back with a modified plan and was approved. In addition, Old House and Gardens, located where Shore medical is now, presented a site plan to demolish the Palumbo Property and put in a parking lot with a new business on the second floor that involves high tech treatments of some sort. Councilman Perri commented that these types of projects are a good sign for the financial recovery of the town.

Councilman O'Neill asked if documentation is being provided for Insurance RFP.

Municipal Clerk Canesi responded that some are asking for census data but we are not providing that because the RFP is soliciting for a broker, not actual insurance quotes.

Councilman O'Neill reported that the phone system will be installed soon and he will be having a meeting with managers to explain the phone system. He stated that the Historical Society requested hi-speed internet at the park in the museum building. He will research the situation and will advise Council.

Councilman Polistina asked if Wi-Fi is available at the Park. Councilman O'Neill stated it might be, but this is part of the Park, so this should be included.

Mayor Mazzeo asked if Birch Grove Park takes credit cards and noted that with broad band internet service this may be a possibility.

Councilman Perri shared that the Comcast building on Tilton Road is relocating to Pleasantville. He stated that in review of the Ordinance it indicates that certain government agencies are entitled to get service free of charge.

Council President Travagline asked Councilman O'Neill to make sure that employees have ample notice regarding phone training.

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Councilman O'Neill stated that he would do so, and noted that Kathi Smith has it on the schedule.

Councilman Mahon had no report this evening.

Councilman Polistina reported that he attended the Family Fun Fest and it was a great event. He updated Council that the sprinkler system at Veterans Park will be installed soon. He also announced that the Historical Society is hosting two fund raisers, the Antique Appraisal Night and the annual Garage Sale at the NCS.

Councilman Dewees had no report this evening.

Councilman Carew reported that it is Halloween season at the park and there is a need for volunteers to help with the hayrides. He urged all to talk within their groups and provide support if possible.

Council President Travagline reported that the surplus property auction generated over \$8,300.00 for the City.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Mazzeo shared that the "Run for the Fallen" took place on September 28<sup>th</sup>, from Cape May to Holmdel. The stop in Northfield was mile marker 52 at 7:30 am on Saturday. There was a nice group of young men running. He reported that Family Fun Fest raised about \$1,700.00. He thanked committee members Bill Coulter and Christa Toner and also thanked Vicky Rutter, Birch Grove Park Supervisor. He stated that he too was on the committee but there would be changes next year. He reported that Bill Coulter is stepping down after 5-6 years, and they would be looking for new members. He shared that in the upcoming November election there is a public question to authorize a constitutional amendment to permit Veterans groups to use the proceeds of legalized games of chance to support their own organizations.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The City Engineer's written report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the Municipal Clerk's office. Dan Kwapinski of Schaffer, Nassar, Scheidegg Consulting Engineers, LLC, was in attendance and available for questions. Engineer Kwapinski asked if there were any questions but noted first that the manufacturer was out at the pump station for the football field restrooms and they successfully started the pump service to the sewer system. He also reported that the Maple Run Sewer Force Main project test pits were done successfully and the force main has been located. He stated that he anticipates the project to move forward on the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>

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and should only take a few days. He shared that homecoming for Cardinals Football is the 19<sup>th</sup>. Again he asked if there were any questions.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, noted that politics of today is a dirty business. He restated that children of today are lacking morality and teaching it starts at home. He asked Council if the situation with Atlanticare was resolved. He also asked how many lawsuits there are against the City. He also stated that he has observed the presence of election signs at empty homes.

Erland Chau, 1001 Shore Road, stated that he thought the Family Fun Fest was a great event. He also asked if there has been any movement on the energy savings company. In addition, he noted that Comcast was moving but asked if anyone could clarify what the franchise agreement required regarding that certain radius from Northfield.

Council President Travagline shared that an Ordinance was being introduced this evening regarding the Commercial Utility Consultants.

Robin Margulies, 20 Jack Sloan Court, reported that she had an issue with the Northfield Police Department when getting a handicapped placard and initially it was not a pleasant experience. She came to the meeting this evening to report that she had a wonderful experience in a chance encounter with Sergeant Mark VonColln and another helpful unidentified City employee in the municipal parking lot. She shared that Sergeant VonColln offered to take care of her paperwork and drop it at her house the next day. In light of her husband's first visit which was unsatisfactory she urged recognition of VonColln for his efforts and to the City employees for their helpfulness. Regarding a second matter she noted the delay in minutes being posted to the website. She stated that she had discussed this with Councilman O'Neill and she can't see why the minutes are not posted and approved before the next meeting.

Municipal Clerk Canesi explained that the minutes must be approved in public, and if a month elapses it was because there was a month between meetings.

Robin Margulies, 20 Jack Sloan Court, suggested that Council vote on minutes by email.

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Municipal Clerk Canesi explained again, that isn't possible as the minutes must be approved in public.

Erland Chau, 1001 Shore Road, stated that he thinks that the Comcast franchise agreement specifies that it will keep a branch office in Northfield.

Councilman Perri noted that he thinks it is a radius distance around the City.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Council President Travagline closed the public session.

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

Council President Travagline stated that all matters listed under the consent agenda are considered to be routine in nature, and having been reviewed by Council, will be enacted by one motion. Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of any Council Member and if so removed, will be treated as a separate matter. Any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds. The executive sessions of Council will be held at the end of the meeting, and Council will return to public session to make a comment for the record after each executive session. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Mahon seconded to vote by consent agenda on Resolutions 176-2013 through 178-2013.

**176-2013** To Approve an Application for Use of Facilities

**177-2013** Approving Specifications for the General Construction and Repairs of Storm Water Facilities in the City of Northfield

**178-2013** 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 Personnel Matters and Contract Negotiations with Regard to a Step 4 Grievance Filed by Mainland PBA Local No. 77

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

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Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Mahon seconded, to adopt by consent agenda on Resolutions 176-2013 through 178-2013.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

**ORDINANCES**

Councilman Carew motioned, Councilman Mahon seconded to adopt Ordinance 11-2013, to be read by title only.

**11-2013** An Ordinance Amending Section 128-2 of the City of Northfield Code Entitled Fees  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 10/08/2013*  
*Published in the Press of AC 10/12/2013*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, and stated that since introduction, the ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies 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 Travagline opened the public hearing. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak on Ordinance 11-2013, he closed the public hearing.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries for final adoption of Ordinance 11-2013.

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, to introduce Ordinance 12-2013, to be read by title only.

**12-2013** Bond Ordinance Appropriating One Million Eight Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,845,000) And Authorizing The Issuance Of One Million Seven Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$ 1,752,750) In Bonds Or Notes Of The City Of Northfield For Various Improvements Or Purposes Authorized To Be Undertaken By The City Of Northfield, In The County Of Atlantic, New Jersey  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press 10/12/2013*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption October 10/22/2013*

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The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, announcing that there would be no public input on introduction. She provided the hearing and publication dates and noted that the Ordinance is posted on the City website, on the bulletin board at City Hall, and on the City website. Copies are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Councilman Perri noted that he is not in favor of spending \$400,000.00 on the fire truck.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

Councilman Carew motioned, Councilman Mahon seconded, to introduce Ordinance 13-2013, to be read by title only.

**13-2013** An Ordinance Establishing an Energy and Natural Gas Aggregation  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press of AC  
10/12/2013  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 10/22/2013*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, announcing that there would be no public input on introduction. She provided the hearing and publication dates and noted that the Ordinance is posted on the City website, on the bulletin board at City Hall, and on the City website. Copies are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Councilman O’Neill asked for clarification that this was not a contract.

Solicitor Facenda confirmed it was not a contract.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 222,098.09.

Councilman Perri stated he would abstain as he did not get a chance to review the bill list.

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Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – abstain; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

Councilman O’Neill read the meeting notices.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS OF COUNCIL**

Council President Travagline announced that Council will be entering an Executive Session and the resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

**178-2013** 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 Personnel Matters and Contract Negotiations with Regard to a Step 4 Grievance Filed by Mainland PBA Local No. 77

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and said she would defer to the Solicitor for an explanation of the subject matter to be discussed and the amount of time which could be expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session could be released.

Solicitor Facenda stated Council will enter into an Executive Session and the subject to be discussed will be the Step 4 Grievance. The content of the discussion will center upon continued negotiations with Local 77 in an effort to extend their existing collective bargaining agreement. At this time it is unknown if any action will be taken. If formal action is taken the minutes will become available to the public.

7:55pm Council leaves the dais and enters into Mayor Mazzeo’s office.

8:12pm Council returned and Solicitor Facenda stated that during the Executive Session Council discussed the terms and conditions of the continued negotiations of the collective bargaining agreement and based upon those discussions Council will entertain a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for approval.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Carew seconded to adopt Resolution 179-2013.

**179-2013** Authorizing Mayor to Execute MOU with PBA Local No. 77

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees –yes; Mr. Mahon – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri –yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

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At 8:53pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk