

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 9, 2012**

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

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

**VETERAN HONOREE FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER**

Council President Carew introduced Veteran of the Month honoree for September, Tom Johnson.

Councilman Vain said Sergeant Thomas Johnson Jr. started his Army career with basic training at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, where he was trained in infantry artillery. Upon completion of basic training and advanced individual training, he was transferred to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Later he attended airborne school at Fort Benning in Georgia, and then returned to Fort Bragg as an 82nd airborne paratrooper. In 2010, Sergeant Johnson was deployed to the Kunar Province in Afghanistan. During his deployment in Afghanistan, he was awarded a purple heart for wounds received in combat. His son Jared Johnson is a second grader at Northfield Community School, and while deployed, Sergeant Johnson was able to Skype with students at the school's Veterans Day assembly, including his son. The family resides on Haviv Drive.

Vain, along with Mayor Mazzeo, congratulated Tom Johnson and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. Johnson thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition. He said it's great to be home, but while he was still in Afghanistan, Skyping with his wife and at the school assembly with his son was wonderful and got him over the hump. He said he has a little more than one month left before retirement.

Council President Carew announced a brief recess and resumed the meeting at 7:06pm.

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**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Perri, second by Councilman Dewees to dispense with the reading of the minutes of July 10, 2012, July 24, 2012, August 3, 2012, August 13, 2012, August 28, 2012, and September 11, 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 expressed condolences to Carol Raph and her family. Perri said he had many years of interaction with Glen when he was a police department dispatcher and other activities; he has many fond memories. He commended all involved in the Family Fun Fest. There have been problems with the relocation of a sewer main that the City owns that is in a County right-of-way; he said he will let the Engineer elaborate. There are costs involved. Perri is looking to have the next senior meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at City Hall and to possibly an event November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am at Birch Grove Park.

Councilman O'Neill said for the past several weeks he has been in contact with MRSH about their work/school program which provides benefits to the school and to the City. O'Neill and Council President Carew met with program coordinator John Capasso to discuss. There is no cost to the City, and teachers and assistants will supervise the students. A list is forthcoming.

Councilman Vain offered condolences to Carol Raph and her family. The Fun Fest event organizers did a great job. Councilman Polistina, Bill Vain and Louisa Vain manned the Veteran's Park table, and collected over \$100 in donations. Vain noted that bricks are still available. Opening day at the park is pending, and all donors will be invited.

Councilman Polistina also stated that the Fun Fest was a great event. He read the final report for Atlanticare from April through August, the Fire report for January through June, and separately, a report of incidents related to the June 30th storm. Councilman Dewees had no committee report this evening.

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Councilwoman Brown noted the passing of Northfield resident and dedicated volunteer Jim Hoopes. His loss will be felt for generations to come, and she offered condolences to his family. Brown noted the change in the school calendar due to days lost for mold closure. The September meeting of the Economic Development Commission meeting was canceled and will be rescheduled.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Council President Carew offered condolences to the Raph family, the Clark family, and the Hoopes family. Carew said with the passing of Jim Hoopes, Northfield lost a true leader. Carew was unable to attend the Fun Fest, but thanked all volunteers involved for the great turnout and a very successful event. Birch Grove Park hayrides start this weekend and will run through Halloween. Volunteers are needed.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Mazzeo said the Fun Fest was a great success. He thanked the organizing committee, and said new member Christa Toner did a great job in soliciting donations. Mazzeo noted that head organizer Bill Coulter also did a great job, and the event made \$1,700 for the Park. The Library started construction on their new meeting room. Mazzeo attended MIA day at NCS in September, and said Mrs. Devine did a fine job as she always does in recognizing Veterans. He attended the Mayors Association meeting, and learned that Deborah Hospital offers free screening to public safety personnel. Longport’s Mayor is a volunteer fire fighter and was screened routinely through this program, resulting in the discovery that he lung cancer. Mazzeo said our personnel may want to take advantage of this program. He noted that the Land Use Ordinance is on the agenda for final adoption, and thanked the Planning Board. Mazzeo attended a meeting with representatives from County Planning and noted that the Maple Run Bridge will be replaced and will close for 3 months in early 2013. He listed other big projects that are coming that will take approximately 2 years and \$10M in grant funding, including the intersection of Mill and Roads, and the Cedar Bridge. The Police Department collected 29 pounds of expired or no longer needed prescription drugs recently through Operation Medicine Cabinet. Mazzeo stated that Police Department detail fees have not increased in some time; the City does get a portion, and may want to look at this.

Council President Carew requested that Chief James survey other area towns with regard to detail fees and report back to council

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**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 said the 2012 Municipal Aid project is out to bid and he hopes to award at October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Regarding Roosevelt drainage, we are still waiting for the state for approval to cross Route 9. The Hemsley Avenue Pump Station to go out to bid in the next few weeks. The County is putting a new drainage system on Tilton Road that is in conflict with three City-owned sewer laterals. This will be done in concert with the County's work, and WECO got the annual bid and will be doing the work.

Councilman Vain inquired about the sidewalks on Mill and Cedar Bridge; are we still waiting to hear about safe routes to school? Doran confirmed this to be the case.

Mayor Mazzeo asked Doran to check about the Maple Rum plans, to make sure we don't have the same problems as we are having with Tilton Road

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion of Councilman O’Neill, second of Councilman Polistina, all in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 143-2012 through 149-2012, and 152-2012 through 156-2012. At the request of Councilwoman Brown, Resolutions 150-2012 and 151-2012 will be voted upon separately.

- 143-2012** To Ratify and Accept \$2,500.00 Grant from State Farm Insurance to Host the Celebrate My Drive Event
- 144-2012** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2012 Budget – State Farm Insurance Grant
- 145-2012** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2012 Budget –Community Development Block Grant funding from Atlantic County Improvement Authority Grant
- 146-2012** Inserting an Item of Revenue in the 2012 Budget - Cape Bank Charitable Foundation Grant for Veteran’s Park
- 147-2012** Authorizing Cancellation of Tax Sale Certificate

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- 148-2012** A Resolution Authorizing The City Of Northfield To Submit A Grant Application And Execute A Grant Agreement With The New Jersey Department Of Transportation For The 2013 Bikeway Program Reconstruct Running Path, New Traffic Markings, Signs And Stripes Along The Bike Path Project
- 149-2012** A Resolution Authorizing the City of Northfield to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the 2013 Municipal Aid - Reconstruction of Broad Street-Phase II Project.
- 152-2012** To Formally Request that the County of Atlantic Evaluate the Potential for the Installation of Sidewalks Along a Certain Section of Zion Road (CR 615) and on Mill Road in the City of Northfield
- 153-2012** To Formally Request that the County of Atlantic Perform a Traffic Safety Study at the Intersection of Mill Road (CR 563), Burton Avenue, and Atrium Court in the City of Northfield
- 154-2012** To Adopt the Provisions of Chapter 48 (N.J.S.A. 52:14.17.38) Under Which a Public Employer May Agree to Pay for the State Health Benefits Program Coverage of Certain Retirees
- 155-2012** Final Change Order No. 1 2011 Paving Project
- 156-2012** Resolution to Reconfirm the Acceptance of a Deed from the Estate of Beatrice Mazza Collo

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilman Polistina seconded to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 143-2012 through 149-2012, and 152-2012 through 156-2012.

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

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Polistina seconded to adopt Resolution 150-2012.

- 150-2012** Bond Resolution Providing for the Combination of Certain Issues of General Obligation Bonds or Notes of the City of Northfield, in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey, into a Single Issue of General Obligation Bonds in Aggregate Principal Amount of \$4,650,000

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Councilwoman Brown expressed concern that the City is bonding too much. Councilman Polistina stated that the City is paying for long term projects with long term funding. Councilman Perri noted the need to be more conservative with capital spending.

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

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Polistina seconded to adopt Resolution 151-2012.

**151-2012** Resolution Determining the Form and Other Details of \$4,650,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012, of the City of Northfield, in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey and Providing for Their Sale

Councilwoman Brown noted she has the same concerns as expressed regarding Resolution 150-2012.

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

**ORDINANCE**

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilwoman Brown seconded to adopt Ordinance 9-2012, to be read by title only.

**9-2012** An Ordinance Amending the 1986 Land Use and Development Ordinance, as Amended, and Amending the City’s Zoning Map and Schedule of District Regulations  
*As Amended by Resolution 136-2012*  
*Public Hearing on Resolution 136-2012*  
*Final Adoption of Ordinance 9-2012, as Amended*  
*Published in the Press October 13, 2012*

The Municipal Clerk read the ordinance by title, and announced that since introduction, full copies of the ordinance have been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the Municipal website, and have been available at no cost in the Office of the Municipal Clerk to any person requesting same. The ordinance as introduced was further amended by Resolution 136-2012, and there will be a public hearing this evening on Resolution 136-2012, after which Ordinance 9-2012 will be taken up for final adoption.

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Council President Carew opened the public hearing on Resolution 136-2012. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, he closed the public session.

Councilman Perri noted his prior concerns that Shore Road should remain residential.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill - no; Mr. Perri – no; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for final adoption of Ordinance 9-2012.

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilwoman Brown seconded to introduce Ordinance 11-2012, to be read by title only.

**11-2012**        Amending Ordinance 8-2008, an Ordinance Amending the 1986 Land Use and Development Ordinance, Regarding Tree Removal and Protection  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press October 13, 2012  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing/Final Passage November 20, 2012*

The Municipal Clerk read the ordinance by title, and announced that full copies of the ordinance have been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the Municipal website, and will be available at no cost in the Office of the Municipal Clerk to any person requesting same until the date and time of the public hearing. She stated that since this ordinance will amend the Land Use Ordinance, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55-D-26(a), after introduction it will be sent to the Planning Board for a 35 day review period. It will be taken up for second reading, a public hearing and final passage on November 20, 2012.

Councilman Perri asked about the tree requirement in site plans, and the word exempt. Solicitor Bonchi responded and clarified that the exemption is for a tree removal permit. Mayor Mazzeo spoke, and explained the ordinance was put in place in 2008 and was designed because of developers. The thought process now is that we don't have the manpower to enforce this particular provision; he hopes common sense will prevail. Councilman Vain commented that residents are afraid of some of the trees on their property, and should be able to cut them down.

The Solicitor requested that the Municipal Clerk copy him on the referral of the Ordinance to the Planning Board.

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 introduction of Ordinance 11-2012.

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**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Robert Pantazes, 1 Madison Avenue asked for an update on the permissibility of installation of an amateur radio tower. He said he does not want to submit for the permit and pay the fee only to be rejected. Council President Carew replied that he inquired with the building official and said nothing had been submitted on paper. Engineer Doran stated that he has read the letter presented by Pantazes, and said he does not read it as an exemption, as Pantazes did. Doran asked Pantazes to submit the request, adding that Pantazes should not pay the fee yet. Doran will then review it with the Zoning Officer and they will either approve it or reject it, but in either case Pantazes will get an honest answer. Pantazes continued, and noted what he said were examples of inspection code violations not realized by City inspectors.

John Hafner, 402 Cresson Avenue, commended Mayor Mazzeo and Council President Carew for remembering Mr. Clark's passing. He noted that Carew did not respond to his concerns as expressed at the last meeting. Carew apologized and assured Hafner he would get a response in the next week.

Tom Wolfe, Davis Avenue, asked for clarification of Ordinance 11; does it apply to a neighbor's tree? Carew explained the purpose of the Ordinance was for the property owner. Solicitor Bonchi replied that it is his understanding that if a tree overhangs your property, you are free to cut the portion that hangs over your property. Wolfe inquired about Zoning enforcing it? Bonchi replied that the City has very limited powers, in the context of property maintenance. Wolfe noted a particular tree on Wabash Avenue. Councilman Perri commented that the City approached homeowners after the storm and insurance companies paid to take the trees down.

Steve Wynn, 107 Haviv Drive, said he was happy to attend the City's budget meetings and urges Councilman Polistina to come to school budget meetings.

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

Councilman Vain read the meeting notices.

At 7:59pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk