

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 11, 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.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE TO WILL GLICK

Mayor Mazzeo introduced Will Glick, a former student at Northfield Community School and now a senior at Mainland. Will was selected to attend the American Legion Boys' State Program for 2011. He was one of 850 boys, most from northern New Jersey. As a delegate, Will played the role of Senator. Mazzeo also said Will volunteered to play taps at the City's 9-11 ceremony, and contributed over 400 volunteer hours for Atlanticare. He displayed Will's Boys State plaque, adding that it is quite an honor to have Will coming from Northfield, and we are proud of him for representing our town. He presented Will with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Will thanked his teachers and his parents for their support, and said he wants to attend law school and join the military.

Joe Corba, past State Commander of the Sons of the American Legion, addressed Council, and said it was a great honor to sponsor Will.

Will invited the Mayor and Council to a Veterans breakfast at Mainland in November.

VETERAN HONOREES FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Councilwoman Kern introduced the evening's first Veteran honoree for the month of October, Mr. Mark Biel. Biel served in the US Army and is a Vietnam Veteran who was drafted while in law school. He spent a year in Vietnam serving as a combat journalist for Stars and Stripes; he received the Bronze Star and the Armed Forces Medal of Honor. Biel finished law school on the G.I. Bill and in the early 1970's went to Atlantic City to practice. His Vietnam experience had a deep impact and

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gave him real perspective. He has been a Northfield resident for 11 years and is active on our Veteran's Committee. Kern thanked him for his service. Mayor Mazzeo presented Biel with a certificate of appreciation.

Biel thanked the Mayor and Council, Mrs. Canesi, honored guests and fellow residents, his wife Irene and eldest son Justin. He said he was also chosen for Boys State at the age of 17. 41 years ago he returned from Vietnam, the most unpopular war in history; he said when you returned then it was different. It was very polarizing and dissention and protest were common. In one respect our country has come a long way, in that our men and women return to a place of honor and dignity. 9-11 has given the younger generation an appreciation for freedom and the sacrifice that others make for our freedom. Veterans suffer from psychological trauma and treatment even now is still hard to get, there is a higher rate of social issues amongst Veterans than in the rest of the population. Biel said he feels Northfield is paving the way for Veterans' recognition through the flag flying, and the proposed Veterans Park, and said he wants to support the effort, financially.

Kern introduced the second of the evening's honorees, Mr. Louis B. Nirenberg. He was a Seaman E3 Yeoman in the US Navy from June 1964 to July 1966 aboard the USS Shangri La Carrier Vehicle Attack 38. He was a reporter for the ship's newspaper, the Seafarer, and was responsible for writing the latest news aboard ship and for informing the crew about our ports of call around the Mediterranean Sea. They visited Istanbul, Naples, Palermo, Sicily, Palma, Majorca, among other places. After his assignment with the paper, he was transferred to X Division, or the Administrative Department of the ship. They were responsible for the creation, gathering and dissemination of all communications relevant to the Shangri-La, the Sixth Fleet and any other U.S. Navy entity. In other words, they spread the news, good and bad. The X Division also had the War Room, where war games were run, and Nirenberg participated in Operation Double Eagle, a war game exercise run in Sicily, and eventually employed in Vietnam. He also took part in ORE's, or Operational Readiness Exercises, where he had to sleep in the office in case he was needed. The Shangri-La being a war ship meant that she had to be ready at all times for combat. Every sailor had a battle station, when the ship went to General Quarters, or combat readiness. In July 1966, he mustered out, that is, was released from active duty. He served an additional 4 years on inactive duty, getting final release from the Navy in 1970. Kern thanked him for his service. Mayor Mazzeo presented Nirenberg with a certificate of appreciation.

Nirenberg, who was joined by his wife Marge, thanked Councilman Vain, Councilwoman Kern, Mayor Mazzeo and Mrs. Canesi. He said he agrees with Mr. Biel about the sentiment of the country regarding Vietnam. He shared humorous stories about serving on the Shangri La, and said it is very important for today's

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youth to understand the importance of serving our country. It is a prerequisite to being a good citizen. He thanked Council for the honor.

Kern announced that the evening's third honoree, Mr. Bill Coulter, could not be in attendance. He served in the US Air Force from 1962 to 1982, including active service in Korea and Vietnam. Coulter is still very active locally, assisting with our parades and with the Family Fun Fest. Kern thanked Coulter for his service.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda.

Carew asked Mr. Robert Webb to come forward from the audience. Mayor Mazzeo announced that he invited Mr. Webb, Northfield's 2011 Citizen of the Year, this evening, but did so using a ruse. Mazzeo proceeded to read a letter addressed to Mr. Webb from Secretary of the US Navy, Ray Mabus. Mabus wrote the letter to Webb to congratulate him for being named Citizen of the Year and to thank him for his US military service and continued service to our community through his efforts as an advocate for Veterans. Webb said he was surprised and appreciative of the honor.

Carew announced a 5 minute recess.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Perri, second by Councilman Polistina, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the September 13th 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 all who were involved in the Family Fest, it was a great day. The Senior Committee is moving forward; the Council President will discuss it further. Perri said at the September 27th Council meeting when he commented that he asked for an audit that was not available, it was not the City Clerk he spoke to, it was the CFO, and asked that the record reflect the correction. Perri added that he did not get the Fire Department audit yet. Councilman Polistina replied that we are still waiting for it.

Councilman Polistina also attended the Fun Fest, and agreed that it was a great day. The 2012 budget process will begin soon. With the recent resignation of our CFO, he will be meeting with department managers while we search for a replacement. He

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received an email from resident Linda Klersey about a web contest. If residents go to the befiresafe.com website and complete a survey, we could win a grant for \$10,000.00 for our Fire Department. The City will put a link on our website, and send out information about it in an email blast. Councilman Vain suggested involving the schools.

Councilman Vain said the Family Fun Fest was a great day; Bill Coulter and the other volunteers did a great job. He thanked the Veteran's Park Committee members, adding that he has the final rendering from the Mayor's cousin. Another meeting will be set up to discuss funding; he will keep Council informed. Doran is going to do the elevations, etc., gratis. Vain congratulated Will Glick, saying that he is a great kid and a great role model. He also recognized Linda Klersey for the information about the Fire Department. Vain reminded all Council members about the Elected Officials Seminars; we will get a \$250 credit for each person who attends.

Mayor Mazzeo clarified that his cousin is doing the plans for Veteran's Park on a pro bono basis.

Councilwoman Kern announced that the Cultural Committee garage sale will be held November 19th from 9am to 2pm at the school, with proceeds going to the museum. The glass message board out in front of City Hall needs repair, and the Committee is getting pricing. Shared Court has been successfully operating for two years now and continues to go well. Court revenue is slightly down.

Councilman Smith read the EMS report for September. He mentioned an email from Edward Vincent, Chief Fire Training Coordinator for Atlantic County, who thanked Northfield for providing cover-up service to the Cape May City and West Cape May Fire Departments during the funeral services for a firefighter who was killed in the line of duty. Smith thanked Assistant Chief Crooks and Chief Martinelli for their efforts. He also thanked the volunteers and vendors who made Fun Fest such a success, and thanked the Mayor for being in the dunk tank. Smith also congratulated Will Glick, adding that Glick is one of his students. Smith said he, too, was a Boys Stater.

Councilman Dewees said all public works trucks are up and running. We will have three trucks running tomorrow and will be catching up. We are also picking up renovation debris this week.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew thanked all involved in the Family Fest, adding that it was a very successful event. He announced the members of the Senior Committee as Marie

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McGlynn, Theresa Golebiewski, Mary Ann Lamy, Bob Webb and Jerry Magee. Council representatives are Vain, Perri, Carew and the Mayor. The Birch Grove Park hayrides start tomorrow, with only family rides this year, no haunted. The schedule has been published and is on the City website. Volunteers are needed. Carew thanked the evening's videographer, Jen, from Mainland.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo thanked Bill Coulter and the Fun Fest committee. It was a very enjoyable day, with nice weather. The dunk tank was cold; he said next time he will wear a wet suit. Mazzeo sees a lot of potential with Park Center; it could be a money maker for the City and it is a beautiful addition to the park. He walked the bike path with Council President Carew and identified six new spots for benches, some will be double pads. It is possible that we may add more in the future. Mazzeo would like to review City policies and procedures with Council President Carew and the Solicitor due to some inconsistencies. Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day was well publicized by TV40. The City is cleaning up some old cars that we'd like to sell and we will need resolution to put them on govdeals.com. Mazzeo announced a recommendation made by Captain Faden to relocate the bus stop at Northfield Avenue and Route 9. This too would require a resolution.

Council President Carew requested that Council review the recommendation made by Captain Faden, for action at the next meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the Municipal Clerk's office. There were no updates.

Councilman Dewees requested that the City Engineer check a large pothole on Mazza Drive.

Councilwoman Kern asked for an explanation of which curbs and driveways are done when roads are paved. Doran replied that when streets are paved, they even out the grades. From ¼ inch to 1½ inches are left alone; above that they even it out to ensure good drainage. If an apron is damaged by the contractor, it is repaired or replaced. We do not, as a matter of course, do curbs or driveways.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded for a consent agenda for resolutions 140-2011 through 141-2011.

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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.

140-2011 Amending Resolution 132-2011, Authorizing the Refund of a Construction Permit Fee

141-2011 In Support of Equitable Distribution of State Aid for Education

Councilwoman Kern commented that while the idea behind Resolution 141-2011 is wonderful, she does not see it happening. Councilman Polistina said he agreed with Kern, adding that Northfield supporting the effort will draw attention to the matter.

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded to adopt the consent agenda for resolutions 140-2011 through 141-2011.

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.

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 he feels Jackson and Tilton is a dangerous intersection. He made a recommendation that Burton Avenue be one way at Tilton. He noted frequent break-downs of public works vehicles, and suggested the City use pick-up trucks to get yard waste. He said West Revere Avenue needs to be paved. He thanked the Mayor for presenting him with the letter from the Secretary of the Navy, and for mounting it on a plaque.

Scott Van Vorst, from Jersey Shore Credit Union, thanked the Mayor and Police Department for addressing the bus stop issue, and for listening to their concerns.

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

Councilman Dewees read the meeting notices.

At 8:06pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk