

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 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. He thanked Jess from Mainland Regional, the videographer for the evening.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Vain, second by Councilwoman Kern, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the September 27th 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 had no committee report.

Councilman Polistina said the Library will be preparing an RFP for architecture services for the addition to their building. It will be out shortly. He said Mayor Mazzeo will report on the return of funds. We are interviewing candidates for CFO and the budget process has begun.

Councilman Vain said the application process for the 2012 Safe Routes to Schools grant has begun; last year was a non-infrastructure grant and was very successful in the form of a safety event at the school. This year is an infrastructure grant and several possibilities are being discussed, including sidewalks for Mill and or Cedar Bridge; he will keep Council posted. He walked the Veteran's Park location with Dave Notaro, who has advised that he will donate landscaping services. We are also looking for financial donations, as well as paving and additional landscaping. The

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next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1st. Vain will report back at the next meeting of Council.

Councilwoman Kern said she would like to add Zion Road for consideration for sidewalks. Local historian Boo Pergament will be at City Hall on Thursday, November 10th, talking about some of the events that inspired Boardwalk Empire. The Cultural Committee garage sale will be November 19th from 9am-2pm, with all proceeds to benefit the museum. November's Veteran honorees will be Norman Hilton, Gary Harris and Raymond E. Adams.

Councilman Smith referred to a fire grant funded by liberty mutual; the City email blasted the information to encourage participation. He also approached NCS about including it in their email blast. They are concerned about the solicitation requirement. Dr. Fipp has said she will get back to Smith with a response.

Councilman Dewees said he spoke with a resident of East Revere Avenue that had trees fall behind his property. The trees are in the bird sanctuary. Dewees met with Jim Clark and visited the area; DPW will remove dead and leaning trees and leave them where they fall. The large stump remains will be removed by DPW.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Carew said a car hit the telephone pole in front of City Hall on Friday, which resulted in phone outages which were only resolved today. He added that the problem with the generator will be addressed with Mr. Smith and Assistant Chief Crooks. The family hayrides are continuing; he encouraged all to take the time to attend.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo attended the ribbon cutting for Fox Rehabilitation on Tilton Road; it was well attended and he wishes them the best. We are continuing to interview candidates for the CFO position and hope to have a recommendation for Council in the next few weeks. The excess funds in the amount of \$245,000 have been returned by the Library. We appreciate their assistance. Judge Broome has retired after many years of service; Mazzeo wishes him well. As per the shared court agreement, the reappointment is Linwood's, and he received a letter from the chosen appointee, Michael Blee. Mazzeo read from the letter, which said Blee thanks Northfield for the opportunity and expressed regret that Blee could not attend this evening due to a prior commitment. Mazzeo referred to the Police Department report, which he said has information that may be useful as we look towards future consolidation. Directed calls for service are 53% and 46%, for Northfield and Linwood, respectively, based

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on percentages. More information is forthcoming and he will keep Council informed. He concluded by reading the balance of 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. There were no updates.

Councilman Perri inquired about a project from several years ago that would have put sidewalks on Route 9 in front of the school; Doran responded that he will investigate and report back with a status update.

PUBLIC HEARING – HARDSHIP WAIVER REQUEST MT VERNON AVE

Solicitor Bonchi called the applicant forward. Scott Abbott, the attorney for the applicant, introduced himself and introduced the applicant, Ms Lori Collins, and her father, Mr. Tom Collins.

Abbott said Ms Collins is willing to abide by the City's process to repave and mill the full width of the street. The hardship is that the house does not have heat; he explained that the prior owner had an oil leak that has since been remediated. Ms Collins has the NFA letter from the DEP.

Lori Collins, 321 Mt Vernon Avenue, stated that the heat has not been working in the home and the air conditioning did not work over the summer. She said she has put on a new kitchen, new bath, and is planning on an addition.

Tom Collins stated that the current home is 1000 square feet, and sits on two full building lots. No variances or tree removal will be required for the addition. His daughter plans to put in new sidewalks, she wants to raise a family here.

Council President Carew spoke, saying that in the past 8-9 years we have been focused on infrastructure improvements to improve the neighborhoods. It takes 30-35 years to get a street done, and then street openings take you a step back. The new paving job on Mt Vernon Avenue is a vast improvement to the neighborhood.

Mayor Mazzeo noted that the street was paved in two phases. He asked for clarification on what reparations they will make.

Abbott responded, it will be a 20 foot swath, 36 foot wide, curb to curb. It will look pretty good, but he deferred the engineer for an opinion on the final product

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Doran spoke, saying the gas company would pull permit, so they would be responsible for final paving, unless a separate agreement with them is made. The City will need a bond and a professional contractor must do the repair. Doran reiterated the requirement of the ordinance with regard to paving.

Tom Collins said they are willing to put up cash bond with City as a backup in case the gas company does not do the correct job.

Doran stated that he would rather deal with the gas company because they do work in town all year, and they need to work with us all year.

The Municipal Clerk stated for the record that that the full requirements of the City's ordinance have been met with regard to the hardship waiver application, and no objections were received in her office.

Council President Carew opened the hearing to the public for comment. Seeing no one, he closed the public session.

Solicitor Bonchi read the requirements of the resolution which would satisfy Chapter 100-6 of Northfield's code. The applicant will be required to post a bond. He had Scott Abbott, Lori Collins, and Tom Collins swear an oath that the testimony they provided this evening was truthful.

Council President Carew said in the future, homeowners will be notified of paving intentions. He motioned Resolution 149-2011 by title; Vain seconded.

149-2011 A Resolution Approving A Request For A Hardship Exception From
Road Opening Moratorium For Block 113 Lots 13-16 Located At 321
Mt Vernon Avenue

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.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Vain seconded, to vote by consent agenda on resolutions 142-2011 through 148-2011.

Councilman Smith requested that Resolution 146-2011 be voted separately from the consent agenda. Councilman Polistina withdrew his original motion, and motioned to vote by consent agenda on resolutions 142-2011 through 145-2011 and 147-2011 and 148-2011. Councilman Vain seconded.

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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.

- 142-2011** Refund of Raffle License Fee to the Church of St Gianna Beretta Molla Parish
- 143-2011** Final Change Order No. 1 Flashing Traffic Signal at Zion Road and Oak Avenue
- 144-2011** To Authorize the Relocation of the Bus Stop at Route 9 and Northfield Avenue
- 145-2011** To Hire a Laborer in Public Works
- 147-2011** 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
- 148-2011** 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 Regarding Pending Litigation

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Vain seconded, to adopt the consent agenda for resolutions 142-2011 through 145-2011 and 147-2011 and 148-2011.

Councilman Perri asked if Resolution 145-2011 is an addition to staff; Dewees replied that the position replaces a former employee.

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.

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Vain seconded to adopt resolution 146-2011.

- 146-2011** To Confirm the Appointment of Mike Blee as Municipal Court Judge for the City of Northfield

Councilman Smith said he has not seen a resume for the applicant; he is uncomfortable that he is being asked to confirm an appointment for municipal judge

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without ever having seen his resume. He has no idea of the qualifications, demeanor, etc.

Solicitor Bonchi spoke, saying he has known Mike Blee for 20 years and provided a description of his background, qualifications and demeanor.

Councilwoman Kern expressed disappointment that Linwood did not include her and Smith, as chair and co chair of Northfield's Municipal Court in some small way, even though it's Linwood's appointment.

Councilman Smith asked the Mayor and Council President Carew if each was comfortable with the appointment. Carew replied that he was. Mazzeo responded that the appointment of the municipal judge is the responsibility of the Mayor, and that Blee sent his resume along with the letter he read earlier.

Smith said he appreciates the comments but encourages more open communication when decisions are made that affect both towns. Councilman Polistina asked if the appointment of the judge will always be at Linwood's discretion. Bonchi replied that it is Linwood's for one more year, and then it will be Northfield's appointment for the next three years.

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 adoption of Resolution 146-2011.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 1,111,858.43.

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 payment of bills.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Carew opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Seeing no one, he closed the public session.

Councilwoman Kern read the meeting notices.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

The Municipal Clerk read Resolution 147-2011 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.

147-2011 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

Solicitor Bonchi announced that Council would be going into closed session to discuss the police contract negotiations, specifically, there will be an update from labor counsel. Discussions of strategy will not be released. The vote to approve or reject the final contract will be in public.

At 7:55 Council left the dais and entered the caucus room; Solicitor Bonchi, and Labor Attorney Pepper were also in attendance. At 9:14pm, the closed session was adjourned and Bonchi announced a summary for the record as follows: labor counsel laid out the progress of negotiations including the fact that the issue went to mediation, and the mediator's work, proposals and counter-proposals leading up to tonight. Labor counsel provided guidance on the matter to Council, nothing was voted upon. Strategy and negotiations will not be released but the final agreement will.

Councilman Dewees motioned to table Resolution 148-2011; Councilwoman Kern seconded.

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 to table Resolution 148-2011.

At 9:16pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk