

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 22, 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.

**CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION - TYLER ALLEN**

Mayor Mazzeo invited Tyler Allen, and his parents, Bill and Andrea Allen to come forward. He also called upon Jason Yard Jr., and his father Jason Yard Sr. Mazzeo explained that in the summer of 2011, both families were at a graduation party. Tyler, who was 8 years old at the time, was in the deep end of the pool with friends. 3 year old Jason reached for a floatie in the pool and fell in, sinking immediately to the bottom. Without hesitation, Tyler dove down and pulled Jason to safety. When asked why he did that, Tyler replied that he didn't want the little boy to die. Mazzeo presented Tyler with a certificate of honor, mounted on a plaque, and told him the City is very proud of him. Mazzeo called Tyler's brother and sister, Brendan and Danielle Allen, to come join the families. Brendan and Danielle presented Tyler with a plaque from the Allen family and read the inscription. They also said they are very proud of their brother. Council President Carew thanked Tyler, on behalf of Council, for his selfless act.

**VETERAN HONOREES FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

Councilwoman Kern stated that each month, the City flies the flag in front of City Hall in honor of local veterans. She said November's honorees are Raymond E. Adams, Gary Harris and Norman Hilton. She called Adams forward.

Mr. Adams joined the US Army 6 months after he graduated from high school in 1958. He was stationed in Korea and in Germany, as a Specialist 4<sup>th</sup> Class. He continued to serve in the US Army until 1962. He and his family have lived in Northfield for over 30 years. She thanked him for his service to our country, and Councilman Vain presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

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Mr. Adams said he came out of high school and went into the service, to Korea, then to Germany. He said he learned that after you see how the rest of the world lives, you appreciate what we have, and we must all respect the American flag at all times. He appreciates the recognition.

Kern introduced Gary Harris, who was on active duty in the US Navy for four years as a 2nd Class Petty Officer aboard the aircraft carrier Oriskany. Mr. Harris served from April 1969 until January 1973; Kern noted that his former ship is now a reef. After 56 years the ship was laid to rest in 2006 in 212 feet of water in Gulf of Mexico, 25 miles south of Pensacola, Florida. She thanked him for his service to our country, and he was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Councilman Vain.

Harris said it was a great honor to serve this country. He learned a lot during the Vietnam War. It was a terrible time for veterans. Things are being corrected now. He thanked Council for the honor.

Kern called forth Mr. Norman Hilton. Hilton joined the US Navy in 1944 and served as a Signalman Quartermaster, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class aboard several ships in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. He was discharged in July 1946, and has lived in Northfield for over 30 years. She thanked him for his service, and he was given a certificate of appreciation by Councilman Vain.

Hilton said he lived here in Northfield as a young boy, when he was 9 years old. He lived here off and on for 50 years. When he was a boy, it was a great thing to be a volunteer in Northfield; it was a city of volunteers. He thanked his fellow honorees and those who served before him who did not get a chance to have this honor.

Council President Carew called for a 5 minute recess to allow for photographs to be taken. At 7:15pm, he reconvened the meeting.

**INTRODUCTION OF WORLD TRADE CENTER ARTIFACT**

Mayor Mazzeo explained that we acquired a piece of steel from the twin towers, and he thanked Assistant Fire Chief Crooks, who was instrumental in obtaining it. The artifact will be displayed in the City Clerk's office after tonight, until we identify a permanent home. He said by looking at this artifact it is a reminder to us all how that day changed America. Our freedom sometimes comes at a cost and this artifact will remind us that our freedoms are sometimes challenged. But we are a resilient nation and through the rubble of 9/11 came hope and the courage to rebuild. He said he is honored to unveil this piece of history so that it can be observed by our community.

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On behalf of City Council, Council President Carew thanked the Fire Department, adding that this artifact adds more adds more character to our town. He announced another 5 minute recess, to allow members of the public to view the artifact.

At 7:29, he reconvened the meeting.

**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 Councilwoman Kern, second by Councilman Dewees, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the October 11<sup>th</sup> 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 NCS Veteran's Day event. He also thanked all who ran in the recent election for being a part of the political process. He extended thanks to everyone for being patient with the Senior Committee; he hopes to have a meeting soon. He wished all a happy, healthy Thanksgiving.

Councilwoman Kern asked Perri if the members of the Senior Committee have been notified. Perri said not yet; he is waiting on the Council President. Council President Carew replied that he will discuss the matter with Perri and set a few meeting dates before the end of the evening.

Councilman Polistina said we will be getting an RFP out for architecture services, for the Library, with bids due in mid January. He announced the appointment of new CFO on the agenda this evening. She will start in January. The budget process is underway. He congratulated the Veteran honorees, Tyler Allen, and all involved in the recent elections.

Councilman Vain congratulated the winners of the recent election. He said Tyler Allen's story is remarkable, and thanked Mayor Mazzeo for bringing it to Council. He attended the unveiling of a sign at Veteran's Park. The event was well attended, and donations are welcome. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Mrs. Canesi. Vain said last year's Safe Routes to Schools grant was a non-infrastructure

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grant; this years is for infrastructure improvements and we are putting in for sidewalks and flashing crosswalks. We may not get everything but he will keep Council up to date. He is glad to see the drainage at Marita Ann on the agenda for award this evening, and thanked Doran and Carew for keeping things moving on drainage.

Councilwoman Kern said the Cultural Committee yard sale was very successful, with all monies going to the museum. She thanked the fire department for getting the artifact, adding that she knows Assistant Chief Lauren Crooks worked hard to get it. December's Veteran honorees will be Dante Vergulti, John Alvarez, and Thomas D'Elia.

Councilman Smith reads the EMS report for October 2011. He mentioned the MRHS Veteran's Day commemoration, which included a breakfast for Veterans. It was put together by teacher Joanne Kearney. Congressman LoBiondo attended as did numerous veterans; Mainland did a very nice job. He thanked Assistant Chief Crooks for the effort in securing the artifact, and that of the other members of the fire department. He wished all a safe holiday weekend.

Councilman Dewees attended the recent Allsports meeting; there is no report from that meeting. Only one of the City's three trash trucks is running as of now. The ACUA will start picking up yard waste on November 26<sup>th</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup>. It is unknown when our trucks will be back in service

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Council President Carew congratulated Councilwoman-elect Brown and Councilman-elect O'Neill on being elected, and is looking forward to working with them. He thanked Mayor Mazzeo, and Bill Vain, Councilman Vain's brother, for getting the sign at Veteran's Park. Bill Vain made the sign. Carew also thanked the fire department, for working to get the artifact.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Mazzeo attended the Ocean City Home Bank grand opening recently. The location was formerly that of Sun Bank. Three new banks opened on Tilton Road in the past year, and Mazzeo welcomed them to town, wishing them well. He congratulated those who won the election, and those who ran. He is looking forward to working with Councilwoman-elect Brown and Councilman-elect O'Neill. Mazzeo attended the NCS Veteran's program; he said Mrs. Devine did a great job. The unveiling of the Veteran's Park sign was well attended. The park will be a great addition to our town. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm, the Ladies Fire Auxiliary will be

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having their annual tree lighting at City Hall. Mazzeo said that after the Veteran's Day ceremony at the American Legion, he was approached by George Edwards, who asked if the City would be taking over their building. We need to make a decision one way or another.

Council President Carew asked if Perri, Dewees, and Mazzeo would join him, along with the City Engineer, in visiting the site. The group can then report back to Council.

Perri noted that they still want to be able to use the building for their meetings. Carew agreed, and said we'd have to work out the insurance issues.

Mazzeo said he is glad that the police contract has been settled. He said he received a letter from Mr. Robert Lindquist, relaying the story of a diamond ring that had been stolen from his home. Lindquist's letter said the police quickly solved the crime and got the ring back. It went on to thank Officers Peary, Pollack, Geiger, and Heller, and Detective Steinecke for their professionalism and expertise. Mazzeo read the police department report for the month of October.

**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 received a letter from the state DOT about the sidewalks on Route 9. They will be able to start work on that project in spring 2013.

Council President Carew inquired about a timeframe for Marita Ann drainage. Doran replied they would start by the end of December or 1st of the year. Carew asked how residents would be notified; Doran said communication with residents has been ongoing. Vain asked if they can work if the ground is frozen. Doran said no, but if the weather is nice they can work all the way through.

Councilman Perri asked if it was possible to get a street sign on Franklin Avenue; Dewees replied that Jim Clark is aware of the need, but to save money we do not order until several are needed.

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman Vain seconded, to vote by consent agenda on resolutions 148-2011 and 152-2011 through 162-2011.

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Council President Carew noted that resolution 148-2011 authorizes a closed session of Council; the public session will resume at the conclusion of the closed session.

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.

- 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
- 152-2011** Refund Overpayment of Taxes
- 153-2011** To Authorize the Disposal of Surplus Property Via Online Auction – State Forfeiture Account
- 154-2011** Authorizing Doran to Proceed
- 155-2011** Renewal of Contract for Banking Services with CapeBank
- 156-2011** To Authorize the Disposal of Surplus Property Via Online Auction
- 157-2011** A Resolution Authorizing an Expenditure to Remington and Vernick Engineers for the Preparation of Updated Election Ward Maps
- 158-2011** Award of Contract for Drainage Improvements at Marita Ann Drive
- 159-2011** Cancellation of Grant Fund Receivables and Appropriation Reserves
- 160-2011** In Support of a Grant Application for the 2012 Safe Routes to Schools Program
- 161-2011** A Resolution Appointing Thalia C. Kay as Chief Financial Officer
- 162-2011** Transfer of Funds

Councilman Polistina said he will be abstaining from the vote on resolution 148-2011.

Polistina motioned, Councilman Vain seconded, to adopt the consent agenda for resolutions 148-2011 and 152-2011 through 162-2011.

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Councilman Perri asked if the possibility of shared service in regard to resolution 161-2011 was discussed. Polistina replied that it was discussed with Linwood to see if it was feasible and it was determined not to be so at this time. Our auditor also advised against it.

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.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman Vain seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 1,573,033.60

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.

Councilman Smith read the meeting notices.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL**

The Municipal Clerk read Resolution 148-2011 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.

**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

Solicitor Bonchi announced that Council would be going into closed session to discuss a lawsuit filed by John Paff against Egg Harbor Township and the Northfield Police Department. The purpose of the closes session is to give council an update. It is not anticipated there will be any vote after the session. Any discussions of strategy will not be released at a future date.

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At 7:55 Council left the dais and entered the caucus room; Councilman-elect O'Neill and Councilwoman-elect Brown were in attendance as observers only. At 8:06pm, the closed session was adjourned and Bonchi announced a summary for the record as follows: during the executive session, he set forth the basic status of the lawsuit to City Council and the Mayor, and to the two newly elected council people who were just watching. There has not been a conference with a judge yet. They were made aware of our position and strategy for dealing with the case. Ultimately, the outcome of the lawsuit will be public, but strategy will not as it is exempt from OPRA. There will be further reports in the future.

At 8:08m, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk