

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2013**

At 7:20pm, 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, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Polistina, Travagline

Mayor Vince Mazzeo, Solicitor Kris Facenda, Municipal Engineer Dan Kwapinski, and Deputy Clerk Marlbor were also in attendance.

Council President Travagline announced that the responses for professional services are available in the Clerk's office. He also stated that streets on the paving list are subject to change based on several factors such as budgeting and existing infrastructure. He deferred to Mayor Mazzeo for the presentation of the proclamation.

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION – ROBERT J. CAMPBELL

Mayor Mazzeo noted the presence of Mr. Campbell and asked him to come forward. Mazzeo read the Proclamation:

WHEREAS, for years, Robert J. Campbell, resident and past Mayor of the Township of Hamilton, has served and continues to serve and be active in a number of Veterans' organizations that impact our community; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Campbell is the President of the Branch 13, the Atlantic City Branch of the Fleet Reserve Association, an organization consisting of active duty members, veterans, and retirees of the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, the Branch has substantially increased its membership under Mr. Campbell's leadership during the past two years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell recognized the need for and established a new Branch 232 of the Fleet Reserve Association at the United States Coast Guard Training

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Center in Cape May, New Jersey, the only new national FRA Branch in the last four years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell has been appointed to the United States Coast Guard Memorial Association where he is actively contributing to the process of building a Cape May Memorial for enlisted Coast Guard members who have given their lives in service to America; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell was awarded the prestigious Frank J McPherson Memorial Award as the shipmate who best exemplified the three Fleet Reserve Association cardinal principals of Loyalty, Protection and Service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the City of Northfield, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim our respect and appreciation to Mr. Robert Campbell.

He congratulated Mr. Campbell and presented the Proclamation from the City. The Mayor shared that Mr. Campbell also received a Proclamation from Hamilton Township where he resides. He also noted that Mr. Campbell was the recent recipient of the Loungin Award. As the recipient he was presented with a ship's bell.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere, explained what it was like to spend Christmas overseas and encouraged residents to keep service members in their prayers at Christmas time.

Robert J. Campbell congratulated Mayor Mazzeo on his victory to the State Assembly. He thanked Council for all they have done for Northfield veterans. He also thanked Mr. Webb and Mr. Burness for all they do and he stated how proud he was that their branch is based in Northfield. He shared that it was the first time the local branch received the national first place award. He stated he was proud to be a member of the Fleet Reserve Association and shared he was in the Navy for 41 years. He thanked Mayor Mazzeo and reiterated he is proud to be from the Northfield branch and to meet at the Northfield American Legion.

END OF YEAR REPORTS

Council President Travagline announced the end of year reports and asked Marty Cortelessa to present for Northfield Babe Ruth Baseball.

Marty Cortelessa noted the teams' accomplishments. He indicated that he had distributed to Council a profit and loss statement together with a balance sheet. He

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reviewed the revenue and expenditures noting that the uniforms were one of the biggest expenses for the year. He asked Council if they had any questions.

Council President Travagline thanked Mr. Cortelessa and introduced Jason Yard, President of the Northfield Little League.

Jason Yard noted the League's accomplishments and distributed a profit and loss statement to Council. He stated that Northfield Little League also saw an increase in uniform fees. He highlighted the increased fund raising activity. He shared that enrollment was down in 2013 and hopes to see it increase in this coming year. He shared that the snack bar income was down mainly due to lack of commitment from volunteers. He hopes to bring new ideas to generate additional revenue from the snack bar next year.

Councilman Polistina shared that the Northfield Little League did break even for the year and the bank account currently reflects an estimated \$8,000.00 balance, which is a good start for the coming year.

Council President Travagline congratulated Mr. Yard for doing a great job and introduced Tom Sher, President, and Tim Dolan, Treasurer, from the Family Association of Northfield.

Tom Sher, President of FAN, thanked Council and stated this was FAN's first year in charge of football, cheerleading and basketball. He listed the current Board members and shared their contributions and accomplishments, including new bathrooms, improved fields, more merchandising and increased parent volunteerism. He shared that the parents were great with the snack bar. He is looking forward to the upcoming basketball season. He noted the dedication of the cheerleading group and all the supportive parents. He thanked everyone for their support.

Tim Dolan, Treasurer of FAN, stated there is \$27,000 in their bank account and they still have the basketball season to get through. He estimated the cost of basketball to be approximately \$17,000, which would leave a balance of \$10,000 to start next season. He reviewed some of the larger expenditures, including the purchase of new varsity cheerleading uniforms, basketball uniforms, football cancer awareness socks and the refurbishment of all the football helmets. He also stated they spent close to \$7,000.00 on field refurbishment and snack bar upgrades. He explained that together with the contribution from Northfield, the total revenue for the year was approximately \$114,000.00. He shared that FAN, in turn, contributed approximately \$2,500 to other groups. He also stated the overall financial condition of FAN is good and noted the City's contribution of \$10,000.00 toward their successful first year. He

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thanked Council for their support and mentioned their future goal of being self-funded. He thanked the Board, families and volunteers of the FAN organization.

Council President Travagline added that he attended most FAN meetings and feels that the Board members are very responsible. He additionally noted that hundreds of volunteer hours were donated on a weekly basis and this shows that Northfield is the best. He also commented on the hard work and efforts of Babe Ruth Baseball and Northfield Little League. He commended all volunteer for the hours expended and added a personal thank you to Nick Droboniku, Tom Polistina and Marty Cortelessa.

Councilman Carew thanked everyone for their efforts.

Councilman Piergiovanni commended all for what they do. He stated that sports participation is an important part of the character development for children.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman O'Neill, seconded by Councilman Piergiovanni to dispense with the reading of the minutes of November 19, 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. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Piergiovanni – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes Motion carries

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Perri reported that the Senior Committee hosted their holiday celebration at Denny's Restaurant on December 12th. He stated it was a nice event and shared that Officer Kristina Longo delivered a presentation on disposal of prescription drugs. He thanked the committee for their hard work. He shared that Northfield Planning Board granted an approval for an addition on a Northfield Plaza home. He noted that Mayor Mazzeo has conferred with the State Health Benefits Program representative with regard to the prescription plan and will be meeting with the departments. He also shared there was a sewer problem on Leeds Avenue but the sewer staff addressed it and he thanked the staff for a job well done. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Councilman O'Neill had no report this evening.

Councilman Piergiovanni had no report this evening.

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Councilman Polistina explained the Northfield Lifeline Program and encouraged anyone who may benefit from the program to take advantage of it. He shared a recent incident when one resident was having her smoke detector battery changed and she asked Ted Wolcott to check her blood pressure. He did and suggested she contact her physician. As it turned out she had a previously undetected medical condition that Firefighter Wolcott was instrumental in helping to identify. Councilman Polistina stated that Firefighter Wolcott will get the appropriate recognition for going above and beyond with the resident. He thanked Councilman Carew for his 13 years of service as Councilman, Council President, and Council at Large. He shared that Councilman Carew had accomplished great things at Birch Grove Park. He also thanked him for serving as his mentor on Council. He also expounded upon Carew's efforts coaching our youth and stated he had done a great job for the City. Councilman Polistina also stated that this was his last meeting and he thanked the public for the opportunity to serve the City of Northfield.

Councilman Dewees reported that the bike path lights in the area of Merritt Drive are on in the daytime. He wanted to report that Public Works is aware and has an electrician working on the problem. He thanked Councilman Carew and Councilman Polistina for everything they have done for the City. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Councilman Carew referred to Resolution 205-2013 and clarified how it will improve drainage at the park in the area of the old golf course. He stated this has been in the works for a long time. He thanked Councilman Polistina for his kind words and stated it was a pleasure to serve with him. He commended his efforts at the Veterans Memorial Park, his work on union contracts and the running of the City's finances. He took this time to read a prepared statement which he asked to be in the minutes verbatim. He read as follows:

“Good Evening Everyone, I would like to first thank my family, Donna, Sean and Zach for well I guess putting up with what comes with the territory and understanding that I truly enjoyed what I was doing, even though it didn't always make sense.

I would like to thank the residents of Northfield for the opportunity and their trust in me too serve for 13 years on City Council.

Too the employees of Northfield, Thank you for all you do and your commitment to our great town. You all are truly the best.

Northfield is fortunate to have the dedicated volunteers that we have in so many programs and boards. It has been said many times over but this is what truly makes Northfield the

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"GREAT AMERICAN HOME TOWN" So much gets done by and through them on an almost daily basis in so many different ways.

To Mary Canesi I would like to say: Thank You for your Professional and Ethical approach to your office. While sitting as Council President for 3 years I had the opportunity to work closely with you and it was reassuring to know how it was being handled. Thank you again. To City Council, It certainly has been interesting and I wish the future Council and Mayor all the best in your work ahead. I would also like to acknowledge the past Council members I have an opportunity to work with and thank them for all that was done. Mayor Mazzeo, I wish you all the best on your next endeavor as our Assembly MAN from the great CITY OF NORTHFIELD, and I am proud to say that I had the chance to work with you. I truly believe we have shown through working together what cooperation can do and means to everything involved.

A few things that I would like to mention about my 13 years on council are:

In early 2002 working with police and fire developing a traffic study identifying our most dangerous intersections leading too oversized and reflective signage, enhanced intersection markings, creation and upgrading of pedestrian walkways and through the years with Council leading to flashing lights at various intersections and other quality improvements.

Our infrastructure improvements that led to the lowering our annual flow expenses and drainage improvements that not only fixed storm water issues but I believe led to quality improvements to our neighborhoods.

BIRCH GROVE PARK, well, it certainly was personally rewarding for me in many different ways to have had this opportunity to be a part of something sooo special. I have to start with the person that has been there with me through the journey, Vicky Rutter. I cannot say enough about her dedication, passion, care, and overall love for our Birch Grove Park. Northfield is fortunate to have what I would consider the perfect person for that job.

With all of the overall improvements that have taken place through the years through many different grants opportunities, the cooperation of Atlantic County and generous donations it has been nothing less than a most exciting ride to be a part of.

To Flora, well I think you would be proud (I kept my intentions pure).

To the Birch Grove Advisory Board and the Friends of Birch Grove, thank you for your countless hours of work and your continued dedication to what is no less than one of the

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most beautiful treasures a community like ours could have. I will always be a phone call away.

Thank you again Northfield for this opportunity in what is nothing less than finest place to call home and raise a family.”

Council President Travagline stated that when he first came to Northfield 13 years ago, the first person he saw at a meeting was Councilman Carew. Councilman Carew took him in and led by example. He commended Councilman Polistina for his contributions, including countless volunteer hours. He thanked them both and remarked that he hopes they are only a phone call away.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo announced the ACUA’s collection rate increases effective March 2014. He stated that he was sorry to see that Northfield’s tree lighting ceremony was cancelled on the 6th and again on the 13th due to rain. He commented that this has never happened. He thanked the firefighters for driving Santa around on the fire truck. He noted that the County dispatch is getting closer, possibly as soon as five years away. He read the Police Department report. He thanked Councilman Polistina. He commented that Councilman Polistina has sat in on many union negotiation meetings and always had the City’s best interest at heart. He addressed Councilman Carew and said he enjoyed their great working relationship and knew that he too always had the City’s best interest at heart. He noted that they didn’t always agree but he respected him and they worked well together on behalf of the City. He wished him well. He also thanked the residents for all their well wishes but reported that he will be at the reorganization meeting.

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.

Councilman Carew commented that he was proud that Northfield now has an Assemblyman and congratulated Mayor Mazzeo.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened the meeting to the public and asked if anyone wished to speak on any subject. Seeing no one wishing to speak, he closed the public session.

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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 Session of Council will be held at the end of the meeting, and we will come back in public session to make a comment for the record after the Executive Session. Any vote made on subjects discussed will be made in public.

Councilman Carew motioned, Councilman Perri seconded to vote by Consent Agenda on Resolutions 194-2013 through 207-2013.

- 194-2013** To Authorize Award of Contract for General Construction and Repairs of Storm Water Facilities
- 195-2013** A Resolution for the Cancellation of Grant Balances and Appropriation Reserves
- 196-2013** Release of Escrow Monies from the Planning Board
- 197-2013** To Authorize the Cancellation of Taxes on Block 16.01, Lot 14.01 due to Tax Exempt Status
- 198-2013** Refund of Overpayment of Taxes on Block 16.01, Lot 63.01
- 199-2013** To Authorize Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Extension 1/1/2014 to 6/30/2014
- 200-2013** Authorizing Release of Performance Guarantee and the Posting of a 2-Year Maintenance Guarantee for Block 95, Lot 16
- 201-2013** To Authorize the Cancellation of 2013 Taxes Balances Under \$10.00
- 202-2013** Transfer of Funds
- 203-2013** To Authorize the Cancellation of Taxes

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- 204-2013** To Amend Resolution No. 190-2013 Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property No Longer Needed for Public Use on an Online Auction Website
- 205-2013** Authorizing the Award of Contract for Drainage Improvements at Birch Grove Park Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9 and in Accordance with the Provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, also Known as NJ Pay-to-Play Law
- 206-2013** New Jersey Department Of Transportation, Division Of Local Aid And Economic Development Recommendation Of Award State Aid Project Reconstruction Of Broad Street – Phase Ii
- 207-2013** 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 an Employment Agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief

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

Councilman Carew motioned, Councilman Perri seconded, to adopt the Consent Agenda for Resolutions 194-2013 through 207-2013.

Councilman Perri asked about the calculation errors on the bids on Resolution 206-2013 and asked the Clerk to explain.

Municipal Clerk Canesi explained that the figures are always checked by the Engineer prior to award and deferred to the Engineer for additional comment.

Engineer Kwapinski reiterated the procedure and explained the errors that were made by the bidders.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Polistina motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 559,109.93.

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Councilman Carew read the meeting notices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL

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

207-2013 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 an Employment Agreement between the City of Northfield and Lauren W. Crooks, Assistant Fire Chief

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. She also stated that Crooks had been issued and has signed a Rice Notice.

Solicitor Facenda stated the substance of the discussion will center on an employment agreement with the City of Northfield and Assistant Chief Lauren W. Crooks. It is unknown at this time if the matter will be resolved but once that agreement is finalized the minutes of the Executive Session may be released.

At 8:18pm, Council left the dais and entered the Mayor’s office. Solicitor Facenda and Mayor Mazzeo and were also in attendance.

At 8:42pm, the Executive Session was adjourned and the regular meeting of Council resumed in Council Chambers. Solicitor Facenda announced a summary for the record as follows: Council discussed general and specific contract terms and conditions. The negotiations are ongoing and no formal approval was agreed upon tonight. When the agreement is finalized minutes may be made available.

At 8:43pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC Municipal Clerk