

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 14, 2010**

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 Northfield resident James Sundra. Following the flag salute, Mayor Mazzeo requested a moment of silence be observed.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mrs. Kern, Mr. Martinez, Mr. O'Grady Mr. Perri, Mr. Smith, Mr. Vain, Mr. Carew

Mayor Vincent Mazzeo, City Solicitor Keith Bonchi, and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance.

**PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION TO CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL**

In honor of Beth Israel's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Mayor Mazzeo read a brief history of the congregation, and presented a proclamation to Susan Simon, congregation Vice President, and Ted Rich congregation President, accepting on behalf of Rabbi David Weis who was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. The congregation was formed in 1890, coming to its current home in Northfield in 1987, and has long been a valued contributor in the community.

On behalf of Rabbi David Weis, Ted Rich thanked the City. The Congregation is proud of the partnership it has formed with Northfield, and looks forward to the next 120 years.

Councilwoman Kern announced that Rabbi Weis was invited to attend, but was unable to do so because of an ongoing Tuesday evening commitment.

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT AND APPRECIATION TO NORTHFIELD RESIDENT JAMES SUNDRA**

Mayor Mazzeo introduced MRHS senior James Sundra and explained that Sundra had created a scale model of the Northfield Community School and vicinity as part of his application to be an Eagle Scout. Mazzeo said this is an extremely detailed model, and will be a very important public safety training tool and would cost a lot of money if we were to privately contract it. Mazzeo presented Sundra with a Certificate of Appreciation for helping to make Northfield a safer place, and a Certificate of Achievement for Eagle Scout status.

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Sundra explained that Eagle Scout projects don't have a time requirement but must benefit the entire community. Involved in Scouting since the 1<sup>st</sup> grade, he showed how the model comes apart with floor plan detail. He said he spent 226 hours on the project, 128 by himself and the remainder with his parents, the rest of his troop and with friends.

Council President Carew congratulated Sundra for his accomplishments, and announced a 10 minute recess.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Carew reviewed the agenda.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Councilman Martinez, second by Councilman Vain to dispense with the reading of the minutes of November 30, 2010. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. All present in favor, motion carries for approval of minutes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Martinez asked that the new Allsports liaison work out a plan for the football field; it was previously discussed that due to heavy use they need extra attention. Victory Farms has documentation and information on an improvement plan, as does True Green.

Councilman Perri had meeting with the ACUA on wastewater for the upcoming year. Our flows were up this year. The ACUA presented documentation regarding rainfall; we have budgeted accordingly for next year. Northfield has a 52.51% recycling rate, which is excellent. Perri has the proposed agreement for the sewer interlocal; we will go over it in the beginning of the year. The split is 47.5%/52.5% with the cap unchanged at \$150,000, which we may want to address. He will make copies for everyone. Perri thanked everyone for their condolences on the passing of his Mom. She was a Northfield resident for over 60 years who raised 6 children. He thanked the City workers and volunteers for another year of duty, wished all a happy holiday and New Year.

Councilman Vain congratulated Beth Israel on 120 years, and congratulated James Sundra on an outstanding job. The model looks very realistic. Vain said that he, Councilwoman Kern and Mr. Webb met to discuss the flag project to honor Veterans. Vain asked for names of Veterans we can honor by flying a flag. He said Mr. Webb

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suggested a Veteran's Memorial Park on the Oak Avenue site, with benches. He thanked Mr. Webb for the idea and said this can be discussed in 2011. Vain spoke with residents of Forest Drive about traffic, and met with Chief James about getting a car counter. Vain wished all a safe and happy holiday season.

Councilwoman Kern attended the Tree Lighting at City Hall, and said it was a wonderful event. She thanked the Volunteer Fire Company for driving Santa around on his truck, and the Ladies Auxiliary for hosting Santa in the fire house and for providing treats and hot chocolate. She also thanked the choir from NCS. In January, Kern would like to implement the flag project mentioned by Councilman Vain. Council President Carew replied in agreement. Kern said the Park Center is moving along nicely, and suggested that anyone who has not been out there recently visit. Recent Alliance programs include Forest Friends, the DARE program and a coaches training for MRHS coaches with speakers including Dr. Bob Zlotnick from Atlantic Prevention Resources, and John Delgado from Atlanticare. On December 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a seniors program at St Gianna. She wished happy holidays to all, and thanked the City employees for everything they do.

Councilman Smith received a report from the Tax Collector about delinquent commercial property taxes, it is slightly better than last year. He read the Fire report for November and noted that resolution 216-2010 is to authorize a grant application; will find out if we get the grant early in the New Year. Santa is still available to come to your house; call the Fire Department and arrange for a house visit. Smith read the EMS report for the month of November. Based on a recent EMS meeting with Chief Delgado, Smith said that Shore Memorial is the primary destination. He will have a year-end breakdown at a future meeting. ALS care began this year; 52% of calls needed ALS care with 48% requiring BLS. Smith read the response time reports for October and November and said he will have year-end numbers on that as well. He congratulated Atlanticare for receiving the Baldrige Award; representatives will be sent to Washington, DC, tomorrow to meet the President and receive their award. He reminded Council about the liability seminars for which we get a \$250 premium credit. He wished all a merry Christmas and happy New Year, and thanked O'Grady and Martinez for their service.

Councilman O'Grady said the last meeting of the Library Board was December 9<sup>th</sup> and that they'll meet again on January 13<sup>th</sup>. New members are being sought, see the Mayor if interested. O'Grady said the City has made much progress in technology since 2007. The website now has a lot of information on it and he encourages all to use it, including signing up for email blasts. He hopes the Green Team continues on next year, noting that this is a great way to save money and that he hopes the next Council sees current projects through. He thanked his colleagues on Council; it has

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been great working with them for the past three years, and thanked all City employees and residents. He wished all a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Council President Carew thanked Councilman Martinez and Councilman O'Grady for their service. He said the Park Center is making good progress and he estimates it will be complete in January. The walkway where the old zoo was will be going in. Council will address the field issues brought up by Martinez. Carew thanked Marilyn Dolcy, Chief James, Assistant Chief Crooks and all other City employees. He said it has been a tough year, with a lot of transition, and he appreciates the support of the employees. He wished all a safe and happy holiday and New Year.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Mazzeo said he attended the Tree Lighting, and thanked the Ladies Auxiliary, the Volunteer Fire Company, and the career Fire Department. It was a very nice evening. Seth Brilliant has resigned from the Library Board, and Lou Milone has indicated that he does not wish to be reappointed. The City sent out an email blast seeking new members and got a good response. Mazzeo mentioned a new law that relates to the mandatory return of Library surplus. He feels we can look at the Library Maintenance Agreement as an easier way to return money to the City. He asked that Council review the Maintenance Agreement.

Kern and Carew asked what the options are; Mazzeo explained that the Agreement between the City and the Library accounts for certain expenses, and provided an overview of the new law relating to mandatory return of surplus.

Vain asked if the contents of the Agreement were governed by statute; Mazzeo said he'd investigate.

Perri stated that the Agreement provides for the cost of operation for services directly and indirectly provided, plowing, trash collection etc. The City provides a written agreement to document expenses and it is used as a footprint to allocate the funds.

Solicitor Bonchi said he'd email the new law to Council.

Mazzeo announced that police Captain Clark is retiring on December 24<sup>th</sup>; he mentioned the retirement party being held on December 29<sup>th</sup> at the Country Club. He'd like to bring Captain Clark in to be recognized at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in January. He read the Police Department report for November. Mazzeo wished all happy

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holidays and happy New Year, and thanked employees and Council for hard work in a difficult year.

**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. Doran stated that the final change order for the 2009 Paving Project is on the agenda tonight for overall reduction of \$10,000.00.

**RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded for a consent agenda for resolutions 195-2010 through 217-2010.

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O'Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

- 195-2010** Cancellation of 2009 Sewer Balances Under \$10.00 (Various)
- 196-2010** Cancellation of 2009 Tax Balances Under \$10.00 (Various)
- 197-2010** Issuance of Bingo License to the St Gianna Beretta Molla Parish
- 198-2010** Authorize Acceptance of Bid Proposal for Issuance of One New Plenary Retail Distribution License
- 199-2010** Release of Escrow Monies by the Planning Board
- 200-2010** To Authorize Captain George R. Clark to Purchase His City-Issued Service Handgun
- 201-2010** A Resolution Opposing the State's Retention of Energy Taxes it Collects on Behalf of New Jersey Municipalities and Supporting Assembly Bill A307
- 202-2010** Final Change Order No. 1 2009/2010 Paving Project
- 203-2010** To Authorize Installation of Street Light on Cedar Springs Drive
- 204-2010** To Authorize Installation of Fire Hydrant on Cedar Springs Drive

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- 205-2010** To Authorize Cancellation of 2009 Tax Credits Under \$10.00 (Various)
  
- 206-2010** Authorizing Doran to Proceed – Drainage Improvements at Hollywood Drive
- 207-2010** Release of Inspection Escrow Block 95 Lots 15 and 16
  
- 208-2010** Release of Inspection Escrow Block 82 Lot 4
  
- 209-2010** Release of Inspection Escrow and Performance Guarantees Block 95 Lots 36 and 37
  
- 210-2010** Refund of Overpayment of Taxes Due to Disabled Veteran Status
  
- 211-2010** Cancellation of Grant Fund Receivables and Appropriation Reserves
  
- 212-2010** Authorizing Release of Performance Guarantee and Posting of Maintenance Guarantee Block 50 Lots 11 and 12
  
- 213-2010** Issuance of Raffle License to the Northfield Education Foundation
  
- 214-2010** Cancellation of Tax Sale Certificate
  
- 215-2010** To Authorize The Execution Of A Right Of Way Agreement Between The City Of Northfield And Fiber Technologies Networks, L.L.C. To Permit The Installation, Use And Maintenance Of Telecommunications Facilities Within Public Rights-Of-Way For Purposes Of Providing Telecommunications Services
  
- 216-2010** To Authorize the Fire Department to Apply for and Obtain a Grant from New Jersey American Water Company for the Purchase of Communications Equipment
  
- 217-2010** A Resolution Authorizing The City Of Northfield To Reimburse Out Of Pocket Costs Incurred By The Owner Of Block 23 Lot 16 Associated With A Proposed Drainage Basin On Said Property Or With An Easement On Said Property Requested By The City Of Northfield

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded to adopt resolutions 195-2010 through 217-2010.

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Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

Councilman Perri questioned the Fibertech resolution; he does not see compensation to the City with a 50 year agreement and asked for enlightenment.

Solicitor Bonchi replied that he asked the same question when first presented with the agreement. The contract hooks onto an existing easement, but PUC requires it. The other towns had all approved it; Fibertech presented a plan to document what they would be doing. It’s a very small device, no bigger than a camera.

Perri said he does not feel comfortable using existing poles for aerial antennae without compensation. He asked that someone from the company come to Council and address the issue.

Councilman Perri motioned to reconsider resolution 215-2010 and table for further discussion. Councilman Vain seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

**ORDINANCES**

On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilwoman Kern, all present in favor of reading Ordinance 18-2010 by title only.

**18-2010** Bond Ordinance Appropriating One Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$137,000) and Authorizing the Issuance of One Hundred Thirty Thousand One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$130,150) in Bonds or Notes of the City of Northfield for Roadway Improvements to Jack Sloan Court and Joseph Court in the City of Northfield, in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey

The City Clerk announced that this ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading on November 9, 2010. The public hearing was held on November 30, 2010. This is final adoption; the ordinance will be published in the same manner as introduced in the Press on December 18, 2010.

Full copies of the ordinance have been available upon request at no cost in the City Clerk’s Office; it has been posted in City Hall, and is available on the City’s website.

Council President asked if anyone from the public wished to speak regarding Ordinance 18-2010; seeing none he closed the public session.

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Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – abstain; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries for final adoption of Ordinance 18-2010.

**RESOLUTION**

**194-2010** Resolution to Amend Capital Budget

Councilman Vain motioned, Kern seconded, to adopt resolution 194-2010.

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Perri – abstain; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman O’Grady motioned, Councilwoman Kern seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 942,836.11. Perri and O’Grady announced they would be abstaining from the vote on certain line items; said abstentions are on file in the City Clerk’s office.

Roll call: Mrs. Kern – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – 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.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, thanked Councilman Vain and Councilwoman Kern for working on the Veteran's project, and suggested putting the names of Veterans out by the Monument when the flag is flown in their honor. He hopes the Oak Avenue site can be used as a Veteran's Park. He wished all a Merry Christmas and happy New Year, and thanked Lynn and Frank Perri for their service on the Rescue Squad.

Jake Eggie, 2004 Wabash Avenue, asked for an explanation of why Northfield has made so many streets 4-way stop streets; he feels it is a waste of gas since there are no accidents in many of these areas.

Council President Carew said in 2000 when he started on Council, speeding was the number one issue with residents and new paving projects made speeding worse. He

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noted that there have been horrific car accidents in the past at some of the intersections recently made 4-way stops. Many of these streets are cut-throughs and this was a project driven by the desire to improve safety.

Chief James agreed there have not been accidents at some locations, but said there has been what is called “close call reporting”. The police consistently get calls and complaints, and reports from crossing guards about people not stopping, speeding, etc. We can't put a police officer on the bike path 24/7 but we can put traffic calming devices such as stop signs. In these areas, speeds have been documented in the 40's and 50's. Oak, Cedar Bridge, Fuae, Merritt, Ridgewood and others have become back street expressways. The system is not perfect but is a great stride towards making the bike path and pedestrian areas as safe as possible.

Eggie wished all happy holidays.

Mike Weierbach, 11 Forest Drive, thanked Councilman Vain and Chief James for pledging to look into the speeding and traffic on his street. There is 4 times more traffic on Forest because motorists don't want to use Juniper or deal with the crossing guards. He presented a petition from every resident of Forest and Juniper and would like Council to consider making Forest a one-way street. He shared a story of almost getting hit by a car while getting his newspaper. He said teachers are now parking on Juniper. He wished all happy holidays.

Tom Evans, 400 Davis Avenue, asked what Council is doing to address his issues. The Burton Estates ordinance has passed and that neighborhood did not exist when his flooding issues started.

Council President Carew explained the differences between Burton Estates and Evans' issues. The City Engineer stated that we have letter into the County asking to let us tie into the County inlet on Tilton; that is the shortest, quickest fix. We are waiting for a response.

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

Councilwoman Kern read the meeting notices.

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk