

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2009**

This meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Acting 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, there was a moment of silence to honor our new President as he takes office; may he lead with strength and courage so our country will prosper.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Martinez, Mr. O’Grady, Mr. Smith, Mr. Turon, Mr. Vain, and Mrs. Kern
Absent: Mr. Carew

City Solicitor Keith Bonchi and City Engineer Matt Doran were also in attendance.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Kern reviewed the agenda, noting that the budget meeting scheduled for February 9th has been rescheduled to February 3rd and will be properly advertised.

7:15PM - PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF HONOR

Council is honoring four Northfield residents this evening who have dedicated a total of 178 years of service to our community.

Mayor Mazzeo presented the 1st certificate to Monsignor Thomas Sharkey in recognition of his 60 years of service to the priesthood. Council President Kern shared that Sharkey began as a priest in 1948 in the Diocese of Camden. Early in his career he served as Assistant Chancellor for the Diocese, and for over 50 years he worked for the Camden Diocese Matrimonial Tribunal. He has been at several parishes, including St. Theresa’s in Runnemede, St. Joan of Arc Parish, Our Lady of Good Counsel, and most notably for us, St. Bernadette’s in Northfield for the last 10 years as parish priest. Kern noted that Sharkey has retired, but still regularly says mass at St. Bernadette’s, and extended congratulations on behalf of Mayor and Council for an extraordinary career.

The evening’s next honor went to Fire Chief Henry Martinelli, who was accompanied by his wife Sue. “Hank” joined the Northfield Fire Company in August of 1968 and

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has served for over 40 years as a volunteer in our Fire Department. He ran for 2nd Lieutenant in 1972, rose to the rank of 1st Assistant Chief in 1977, and has been Chief since 1986. Mayor Mazzeo presented Chief Martinelli with a Certificate of Honor in recognition of his 40 years of service. Kern congratulated Martinelli and extended appreciation to Sue Martinelli also, adding that the families of volunteers are a big part of their service.

Firefighter Edward Hackett was asked to come forward with his wife, Pat, for presentation of his Certificate of Honor. Kern announced that Ed started in December of 1968 and has just completed his 40th year of volunteer service to the City of Northfield. First becoming an officer in November 1975 as 3rd Lieutenant, he rose to the rank of 1st Lieutenant in 1977. In 1986 Ed became Assistant Chief and has remained in that position to date. Kern congratulated Ed and his wife Pat, and Mayor Mazzeo presented the certificate.

Tonight's final honoree, Robert Leeds is in Florida with his wife June and could not be here this evening. Kern shared that with 38 years of service, Leeds is the 'baby' amongst the group, having joined the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company in December of 1970. He became an officer in 1975 as Lieutenant, moving to Assistant Chief in 1977 and Deputy Chief in 1986. Kern extended congratulations to Robert Leeds and his wife, June.

Kern called for a 5 minute recess to allow for photographs to be taken. At the conclusion of the recess, Kern called the meeting to order.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Vain, second by Councilman O'Grady, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 6, 2009. 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 announced his support of the most recent proposal submitted by the Northfield Rescue Squad and encouraged the other members of Council to review it before entering into budget talks. Martinez also asked for a new "green" committee to be formed to explore energy savings and seek energy-savings grant monies. President Kern said she'll speak with Martinez about his committee proposal, and encouraged the committee chairs to meet with the Rescue Squad as soon as possible.

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Councilman Turon presented the following statistics from the Fire Department's annual report: total fire incidents 244, total EMS incidents 376, and total non emergency responses 52. Turon attended the Fire Department's annual installation dinner 2 weeks ago, and congratulated the department's returning officers as well as those of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Councilman Vain reminded Council of the JIF-sponsored elected officials seminar on January 29th in Hammonton; for any Council member who attends the City will receive a \$250 insurance premium credit. The 2nd speed hump has arrived with an installation location as yet to be determined. Mayor Mazzeo asked what areas were being considered for the new speed hump; discussion ensued with several possibilities mentioned but no area has been definitively identified. Vain and Councilman Smith met with the Little League and they are up and running for the 2009 year; residents may visit their website at www.northfieldlittleleague.org. Vain concluded his report by requesting that any citizen who has lived in Northfield for 40 or more years contact him at the school. He and his 7th grade class at NCS are working on a project related to the history of Northfield and the input of residents is welcome. He is also interested in video-taping some of the older homes in Northfield.

Councilman Smith stated that he hopes to meet with the Rescue Squad in the coming week and will report at the next Council meeting. A fundraiser has tentatively been scheduled for March 21st for the family of the late Dave Lewis, a former Northfield resident. Smith said former Councilman Notaro had passed along information on the proposed clean energy audit, and he will pass it along to the appropriate individuals.

Councilman O'Grady said there are many changes in process on the City website, and encouraged citizens to regularly visit www.cityofnorthfield.org, as new information is added regularly. The Library Board of Trustees had their meeting on January 6th and will meet again on February 19th.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mazzeo announced that Ida Margolis has done an excellent job serving on the Library Board of Trustees and will be reappointed at their February meeting. Birch Grove Park Advisory Board Alternate Liz O'Grady will be installed as a full Board Member, and Joyce Pullan will join the Board as well. The 2009 Family Fun Fest is scheduled for October 3rd; Chairman Bill Coulter and members of the Birch Grove Park Advisory Board have met to begin the planning stages for this event. Mazzeo thanked the members of the Northfield Police Department for their quick

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apprehension of the suspect in Northfield's 1st homicide in 10 years. Chief James and Lieutenant Faden have coordinated their department's participation in the 2009 Law Enforcement Challenge, a traffic safety competition that encompasses enforcement and education for the municipality. This is a state-wide competition with opportunity to advance to the Federal level. The Police Department's December report included 123 investigation reports generated, 50 arrests, 633 motor vehicle stops, 177 traffic summonses, 49 motor vehicle crash reports, and 772 property checks. Mazzeo suggested that Councilman Turon meet one more time with department heads to review operating expenses for possible savings before budget talks begin.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the City Clerk's office. City Engineer Matt Doran provided updates to the report as follows: Resolution 25-2009 on tonight's agenda is a final change order for the 'Drainage Improvements at Wabash Avenue Phase I' project; the result is a net decrease of \$12,265.08 in the cost of that project. These funds will be directed towards 'Drainage at Wabash Phase II', to be bid on January 30th. Doran advised that Mayor Mazzeo had requested prices to have the stop bars repainted at the intersection of Burton Avenue and Tilton Roads; the low bid was \$1,750.00; he will check to see if the County will do this free of charge or for less than our lowest bid. Councilman O'Grady motioned, Turon seconded, for a voice vote to spend \$1,750.00 on striping if the County cannot do the work for less. All present in favor, motion carries.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Kern listed the beneficiaries of the Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament and announced that the monies have been distributed with the exception of the scholarship funds that are set aside for a graduating Northfield high school student. The beneficiary committee included Mr. Robert Roesch, a Guidance Counselor at MRHS, Mr. Chuck Smith, and Mrs. Victoria Rich. Kern also noted that Mayor and Council were given copies of a resolution passed by the Atlantic County JIF honoring retired City Clerk Carol Raph for her service, and read the resolution for the members of the audience. Referring to the national 'Keep Kids Alive Drive 25' initiative, Kern said the program should begin in the Spring to coincide with the Happy Home Walk.

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RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

23-2009 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 Police Contract Negotiations

At 7:41p.m., Councilman Vain motioned, Smith seconded to adopt resolution 23-2009 and enter into Executive Session.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries. Council excused themselves and entered the private meeting room adjacent to Council Chambers.

At 8:11 p.m. this Executive Session was adjourned and Solicitor Bonchi announced a summary for the public as follows: during the Executive Session Mayor and Council reviewed the PBA contract and the Mayor pointed out the various changes. There was a question as to certain language and clarification of that language and therefore Resolution 27-2009, approving the contract, will not be voted on this evening. Council President Kern announced that Resolution 27-2009 is being tabled until we resolve the issue in question.

RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion of Councilman O’Grady, second of Councilman Martinez, all present in favor of a Consent Agenda for Resolutions 24-2009 through 26-2009 and 28-2009 through 30-2009 as follows:

- 24-2009** Amending Resolution 4-2009 Annual Appointments
- 25-2009** Final Change Order No. 1, Drainage Improvements at Wabash Avenue
- 26-2009** Agreement with Commerce Risk Control Services for CDL Alcohol and Drug Testing
- 27-2009** TABLED
- 28-2009** Release of Escrow Monies from the Planning/Zoning Board

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- 29-2009** Authorizing Doran to Proceed – County Municipal Open Space Round 8
- 30-2009** A Resolution Recognizing Appointments to the Northfield Rescue Squad

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

ORDINANCES

On a motion of Councilman Turon, second of Councilman Vain all in favor of reading Ordinance 1-2009 by title only.

- 1-2009** An Ordinance Establishing Cedarbridge Road as a One-Way Street from Juniper Drive to Wabash Avenue and Restricting Parking on the South Side of Cedarbridge Road
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press 01/24/2009
Public Hearing and Final Adoption 02/10/2009*

Councilman Martinez requested clarification of the temporary period referred to in the ordinance and Solicitor Bonchi explained this provision.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 1-2009.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Turon motioned, Councilman Martinez seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 2,778,033.00. Smith, Turon, Vain, and Kern announced their abstention from certain line items on the bill list. Copies are on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – absent; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries for payment of bills.

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PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Kern opened this meeting to the public and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak.

Robert James, Chief of Police for the City of Northfield announced that he has been working with Finance Assistant Kathi Smith investigating options for a new telephone system for the City. James requested a meeting of the Technology Committee so that he may bring them up to speed, and asked if sharing technology services with the school is an option. Discussion ensued. Chief James will provide the information he's gathered from proposed telephone system vendors to Councilman Vain as the Shared Services Committee representative, and to O'Grady as the Technology Chairperson.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, Council President Kern closed the public session.

Councilman Smith read the meeting notices. City Council will meet for budget discussion on Tuesday February 3rd at 6:00pm and the next regular meeting of City Council will be held on February 10th at 7:00 pm.

On motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi
Acting Municipal Clerk