

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 7, 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 for the families of the victims in Binghamton, New York, and of the Police Officers in Pittsburgh and Oakland. We don't always understand these events, but we send our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Kern reviewed the agenda.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Councilman Vain, second by Councilman Carew, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of March 24, 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.

**NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL 2008-2009 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

School Superintendent Dr. Richard Stepura and Northfield School Board Administrator Linda Albright presented the proposed 2009-2010 budget for Northfield Community School, and responded to questions from the Mayor and Council. A copy of the proposal is on file in the Northfield Community School Board office.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Martinez stated that he attended a COAH meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>; the requirements are still being formulated by the State and he will continue to report. At Kern's request, Martinez advised that when appropriate, the Planning/Zoning Board Chair, Dr. Richard Levitt, will come before Council to explain and review the final process. The 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting of the Planning/Zoning Board will be on April 16<sup>th</sup>

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regarding signage for Kensington Square. Martinez will be meeting with President Kern to discuss the punch list items for Sustainablejersey.com™; he encouraged Council and members of the public to visit this website, noting that Northfield's participation will qualify us to apply for available grants.

Councilman Vain reported that Councilman Turon would not be in attendance this evening due to illness. Vain attended an additional 'Dave's Day' function on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Birch Grove Park, consisting of a 5 mile run and 1 mile walk. Vain read the names of the winners, and acknowledged the event planners for their successful efforts. An ordinance for the reduction of the speed limit on Burton Avenue is on tonight's agenda; Vain thanked his fellow Council members and Doran engineering for helping to make this happen. After adoption of the budget, Vain would like to address having the Burton Avenue cross walks re-stripped and the handicapped access points in the area more clearly marked. Vain said he's been approached by a few members of Council with regard to making the local sign ordinance more restrictive to enhance the appearance of our town. He will bring it to Council for discussion. Vain said he attended a Municipal Alliance meeting with President Kern, and that she will discuss the meeting during her report.

Councilman Carew said the Road Department continues to perform spring clean-up; any matters in need of attention may be referred to Carew. Opening day at Birch Grove Park is April 11<sup>th</sup>; the fishing tournament is for those 15 years and under; there is no fee and no license is required. Carew said he is anticipating a great turnout, adding that the State has stocked the ponds twice thus far, and will return.

Councilman Smith provided the statistics from the March Rescue Squad Report. He said 7 potential bidders have picked up the RFP documentation for Rescue Squad services; bids are due April 24<sup>th</sup>. The latest report from the Courts indicated that the recent cell phone crackdown resulted in a tremendous increase in revenue. Smith said the Little League fields opened last Saturday and the fields looked great; he wished them well. He also mentioned the April 25<sup>th</sup> Happy Home Orphanage Walk in honor of sisters Jacqueline and Christina Becker; the event is being sponsored the Northfield Board of Education

Councilman O'Grady said he continues to work with Chief James on a more efficient and less costly communications system. National Library Week begins April 12<sup>th</sup> with many events planned. The Library link on the city website has additional information, and the next meeting of the Library Board will be April 9th. O'Grady was present at the most recent COAH meeting, and as Martinez stated the rules keep changing and we are trying to get into compliance. The consultant we hired is very knowledgeable and helpful with the process. He also added that it is a requirement of the Sustainablejersey.com™ program to establish a 'green committee'.

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**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Mazzeo said he attended the Earth Day festivities at the NCS, and commented that it was a very educational event. He was in attendance at the Atlantic County Mayor's Association meeting held at the Atlantic City Country Club; Joe Silipena and Ralph Peterson were honored. Together these gentlemen have a combined history of public service of almost 75 years. The budget will be introduced this evening with a 5.9 cent tax increase and Mazzeo thanked the members of Council and CFO Dolcy for their efforts. He cited a 28% decrease in State aid and a 75% reduction in interest income as two of the many factors that make this a very tough budget year. He got two letters from County Executive Dennis Levinson; one about the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009, and the other requesting that someone from Northfield contact the County regarding participation in the Complete Count Committee for the 2010 census. The Reinvestment Act letter advised that there is a work program for youth and targeted funds for workforce development programs. If it is not too late, Mazzeo would like to investigate using the program at the Snack Bar. Mazzeo will discuss the census issue with President Kern. Mazzeo also has a letter sent by the ACUA about available grants through Sustainablejersey.com™. He advised that we are already registered and will explore the grant options.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The City Engineer's report was provided to Mayor and Council and is on file in the City Clerk's office. There were no updates to the report.

President Kern commented on the one-way street signage that has been installed on Cedarbridge Road, and deferred to Chief James for explanation. James announced that Jim Clark has been installing the one-way signage and that it will be unveiled on April 13<sup>th</sup>, after the NCS spring break begins. James reviewed the various communication efforts being used to ensure maximum public awareness. He also mentioned the ordinance on tonight's agenda that relates to limiting parking on Juniper Drive, and noted that Dr. Stepura is doing a phone blast tonight to inform parents.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Council President Kern mentioned the sign ordinance revisions proposed by Vain and agrees that it needs to be modified to tighten controls. Solicitor Bonchi commented that the City should be more aggressive in bankruptcy court in the future with regard to signage permitted. Kern also suggested exploring shared service opportunities with the NCS, adding that Council enjoys a good working relationship with the

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School Board. Vain advised that he will hold a meeting to discuss. Kern referred to the Municipal Alliance grant, stating that the controls are tight with how the money can be spent; she is planning a bike rodeo and is asking for suggestions for any additional events. Vain suggested involving the Library. Kern stated there will be an Alliance-sponsored breakfast for seniors at the Atlantic City Country Club on April 27<sup>th</sup>; topics include dealing with health issues and substance abuse. The event is free of charge.

**RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion of Councilman Smith second of Councilman Carew, all present in favor of a Consent Agenda for Resolutions 75-2009 through 79-2009 as follows:

- 75-2009**        To Authorize Filing of 2008 Recycling Tonnage Grant Application
  
- 76-2009**        Authorizing Doran to Proceed with Coordination of CAFRA Permit for the Concession Stand at Birch Grove Park
  
- 77-2009**        A Resolution Requesting Approval Of The Director Of The Division Of Local Government Services To Establish A Dedicated Trust By Rider For Donations - Acceptance Of Bequests, And Gifts Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40A:50-29
  
- 78-2009**        A Resolution Designating the National Incident Management System (NIMS) As the Basis For All Incident Management In The City Of Northfield
  
- 79-2009**        A Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Northfield and Northfield Rescue Squad, Inc.

Councilman Smith motioned, Carew seconded to adopt Resolutions 75-2009 through 79-2009 by Consent Agenda. Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – absent; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries.

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**ORDINANCES**

On a motion of Councilman Carew, second of Councilman Vain all in favor of reading Ordinance 4-2009 by title only.

**4-2009**        An Ordinance Providing For the Appropriation Of \$350,000.00 As A Special Emergency Appropriation For the Property Revaluation Services To Be Performed In The City Of Northfield  
*Final Adoption / Open to the Public /No Public Comments Received  
Published in the Press 04/11/2009*

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – absent; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries for final adoption of Ordinance 4-2009.

On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilman Martinez all in favor of reading Ordinance 6-2009 by title only.

**6-2009**        An Ordinance Providing For Two Hour Parking On Juniper Drive And A Portion Of Cedarbridge Road  
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press 04/11/2009*

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – absent; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 6-2009.

On a motion of Councilman Vain, second of Councilman Smith all in favor of reading Ordinance 7-2009 by title only.

**7-2009**        An Ordinance Providing For A 25 Mph Speed Limit For The Entire Length Of Burton Avenue Between Tilton Road And Mill Road  
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press 04/11/2009*

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – absent; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 7-2009.

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On a motion of Councilman Martinez, second of Councilman Carew all in favor of reading Ordinance 8-2009 by title only.

**8-2009**           Calendar Year 2009 Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)  
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press 04/11/2009*

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – absent; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 8-2009.

**RESOLUTION/2009 BUDGET**

On a motion of Councilman O’Grady, second of Councilman Carew, all in favor of reading Resolution 74A-2009 by title only.

**74A-2009**           Introduction of the 2009 Budget  
*No public input on introduction*  
*Budget Synopsis/the Press/April 11, 2009*  
*Public Hearing and Final Adoption: May 12, 2009*

Full copies of the 2009 Budget are available in the City Clerk’s Office

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Martinez – yes; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Turon – absent; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries to introduce the 2009 Budget.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Frank Perri, 7 Haddon Avenue, President of the Northfield Rescue Squad Inc., commented that the RFP’s for rescue squad services are due soon and requests that Council consider keeping the Northfield Rescue Squad in town. He acknowledged the many efforts made by Council to accommodate them, and asked for their continued support. Anyone with questions is urged to contact Perri.

Gerad Ganter, 215 East Steelman Avenue, commented about heavy traffic on his street during the summer months and requested that the speed limit be enforced. He

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also cited the current City noise ordinance that permits the use of lawn equipment until 10pm. Ganter is asking that Council review this ordinance, and advised that Linwood's allows such use until only 8pm, and 6pm on Sundays. President Kern advised that the ordinance will be reviewed, adding that Steelman Avenue traffic was addressed at the last Council meeting. Chief James said the Police Department recognizes the issue and they are in the process of writing a grant to fund overtime patrols for enforcement.

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

Councilman Smith read the meeting notices. The School Board Election will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the NCS from 2pm-9pm; the next regular meeting of Council will be on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi  
Acting Municipal Clerk