

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 14, 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 all community residents; may they have a safe and enjoyable summer with their families and friends.

ROLL CALL

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

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

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE TO DR. RICHARD STEPURA, Ed. D.

Council President Kern announced that Dr. Richard Stepura was being recognized this evening for his many years of service to the community of Northfield and the students of the Northfield Community School. Mayor Mazzeo presented Dr. Stepura with a certificate on behalf of Council, thanked him for always showing a great understanding of the needs of the community and students, and wished him well as he moves on to a new position.

Dr. Stepura thanked President Kern, Mayor Mazzeo, members of Council and of the community, adding that it has been a great experience working with them over the years. He said he is proud that Northfield has always put the children's interests first above all others.

AGENDA REVIEW

President Kern reviewed the agenda, noting that Council would be postponing the vote on Resolutions 135-2009 and 136-2009, and Ordinances 11 through 14-2009 due to lack of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/June 10, 2009 and June 23, 2009

Motion was made by Councilman Turon, second by Councilman O'Grady to dispense with the reading of the minutes of June 10, 2009 and June 23, 2009. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. All present in favor, motion carries.

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RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Turon motioned, Vain seconded for the adoption of Resolution 119-2009.

119-2009 Authorizing the Appointment of Mary Canesi as Municipal Clerk

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

Council President Kern announced that Canesi is replacing long-time City Clerk Carol Raph, who served the City for 30 years before retiring in December 2008. She said Canesi is doing an outstanding job and that she hopes Canesi will be with the City for 30years, just like her predecessor. Kern read the resolution authorizing her appointment. Mayor Mazzeo administered the oath of office, and Kern announced a brief recess to allow for photographs to be taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Turon read the statistics from the Fire Department report for June 2009. He noted that the Flora Dickinson Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs fishing tournament is being held Saturday, July 18th at Birch Grove Park from 8am to Noon. Dickinson was a long-time volunteer at the park, and this youth tournament held every year in her memory is a great time for all.

Councilman Vain congratulated Canesi on her appointment, noting that she does a great job and is an asset to the City. There will be a pre-construction meeting Wednesday, July 15th for the Reconstruction of the Intersection at Zion and Cedarbridge Roads.

Councilman O’Grady also congratulated Canesi, agreeing that she is an asset to the City. He also extended congratulations to Dr. Stepura. O’Grady said the e-mail blast feature was used recently to announce the delay in sending out 3rd quarter tax bills; all residents can sign up for this email alert service on the City website. The Library’s summer newsletter is now available, and the One Book event will be taking place July 28th through 30th. The Library will also be represented at Northfield’s Night out on August 5th. He also commented that he’s noticed an issue with the water quality in town, and asked if any residents had noticed it. No one commented. O’Grady is following up with the water company. He would like to place the energy audit on the next Council agenda. Kern asked who would be assuming the role of program facilitator and be responsible for preparation of the data forms, quote solicitation, and

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other audit related tasks; she also asked for more details on audit costs. O'Grady replied that he would assume the administrative responsibilities, and that he was given an estimate of 20-30 cents per square foot, but that we won't have a firm number before going out to bid. He added that there is no obligation in going out to bid. Kern said she conferred with CFO Marilyn Dolcy about the funding for the audit; depending on the cost there would be a line item to which we could expense the audit.

Mayor Mazzeo stated that the July 4th parade and Connolly Run were very successful, and thanked Jay Hurley, the Cultural Committee, and all participants for their contributions to the success of these events. Mazzeo received a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding a \$2.5 million dollar grant to help municipalities reduce greenhouse gases. He passed the letter on to City Engineer Doran for review and research. There is a possibility of an increase in State Health Benefit plan costs next year, and the City is requesting claims experience from the State so we can have other vendors look at our insurance for possible savings. Captain Clark is here this evening for Chief James who will be at the FBI Academy for 10 weeks. August 5th will be National Night Out in Northfield, and the location has been moved to the Bike Path between Mill and Merritt to make room for added attractions. Mazzeo read the statistics for the June 2009 Police Department report.

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: the final change order for the Pump Station at Philmar Circle should be on the agenda for the next meeting. The work has started on the Sidewalks at Cedarbridge Road project, and the Police Department has been very helpful. President Kern asked if Cedarbridge Road was closed; Doran replied that it will vary from day to day, but during construction the road will be limited to local traffic only. Councilman O'Grady asked about the timeline for the Reconstruction of Cedarbridge and Zion project; Doran advised that work will start relatively quickly, within a week or two. Road detours, etc. will be discussed at the preconstruction meeting scheduled for July 15th, and work should be completed by the fall of 2009. Councilman Turon asked how the \$41,000 Safe Routes to Schools grant money was being spent; Doran said it cannot be used for infrastructure improvements and is limited to educational, informational, and personal safety uses, such as helmets. Kern mentioned a possible bike Rodeo. Doran said there is a list of approved activities; Councilman Vain has the list and will share it with Council. Turon inquired about a speed monitoring device; Captain Clark advised that the City already owns one and that the batteries need to be changed to make it operational.

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RESOLUTIONS/CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion of Councilman Vain second of Councilman O’Grady, all present in favor of a Consent Agenda for Resolutions 120-2009 through 134-2009:

- 120-2009** Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue and Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 Pedestrian Safety Grant
- 121-2009** Authorizing Cancellation of 2008 Tax Balances Under \$10.00
- 122-2009** Authorizing Cancellation of 2008 Tax Overpayments Under \$10.00
- 123-2009** Authorizing Release of Surety Guarantee for Four Seasons Complex
- 124-2009** Authorizing the Relocation of Fire Hydrant #5 on Cedarbridge Road
- 125-2009** Authorizing the Creation of a Tax Lien on Block 131 Lot 20
- 126-2009** Authorizing the Creation of a Tax Lien on Block 66 Lot 12.01
- 127-2009** Authorizing the Creation of a Tax Lien on Block 98 Lot 5.02
- 128-2009** Authorizing the Creation of a Tax Lien on Block 65 Lot 19.02
- 129-2009** Authorizing the Refund of Escrow Monies from Planning/Zoning Board
- 130-2009** Community Development Block Grant Program
- 131-2009** Authorizing Doran to Proceed – Reconstruction of Intersection at Cedarbridge/Zion Roads
- 132-2009** Authorizing Doran to Proceed – Open Space 8th Round, Oak Avenue
- 133-2009** Authorizing the Relocation of Fire Hydrant #157 on Cedarbridge Road
- 134-2009** Authorizing a New Purchase Order to Pay Outstanding Doran Engineering Bills

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Turon motioned, Councilman Vain seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 2,612,318.29; Turon and Vain 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 – absent; Mr. O’Grady – yes; Mr. Smith – absent; Mr. Turon – yes; Mr. Vain – yes; Mrs. Kern – yes. Motion carries for payment of bills.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, said that former Mayor Frank Perri is in the hospital and asked for prayers on his behalf. He inquired if the Court is moving to Linwood; Kern replied that negotiations are ongoing with Linwood to share Court services. Webb asked if we would lose our judge; Kern stated that Linwood and Northfield use the same judge. He asked about the disposition of the City-owned ambulances; Kern said the City is discussing putting them and other unused vehicles up for auction.

Jarod Ganter, 215 Steelman Avenue, mentioned Ordinance 12-2009 and the use of power lawn equipment at night; will such activity be permitted after dark? Kern replied that the revision to the ordinance limits it to 9pm. Ganter feels 9pm is too late, especially in the fall and winter months.

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

Councilman Vain read the meeting notices.

At 7:44pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk