

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION
JANUARY 2, 2007**

This meeting was called to order by Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC. It was properly advertised under Public Law 75, Chapter 231. Carol welcomed everyone to this annual reorganization meeting.

The flag salute was led by Mayor Frank Perri, Jr., accompanied by Sean and Zachary Carew. He called for a moment of silence to honor the passing of President Gerald Ford.

The Oath of Office was administered to Timothy Carew Councilman First Ward, by County Executive Dennis Levinson. Councilman Carew thanked County Executive Levinson for coming out to perform the swearing-in and added that "it's truly an honor." He thanked his children for their help during the election campaign, and thanked his wife, family and friends for their continued support. Carew stated he's honored to be a Councilman and that Northfield is a great hometown.

The Oath of Office was administered to Steven Vain, Councilman Second Ward, by County Executive Dennis Levinson. Councilman Vain thanked his wife and children for their support. Appreciative of the honor, he thanked the people of Northfield, his fellow Council members and coworkers at the Northfield Community School.

Roll Call: Tim Carew, Cindy Kern, Jimmy Martinez, Vincent Mazzeo, David Notaro, Michael Turon, and Steve Vain

Municipal Clerk Carol A. Raph called for a motion to elect a Council President for the year 2007. Motioned by Councilman Carew, second by Councilman Turon to elect Councilwoman Cindy Kern as Council President.

Roll call: Carew – yes; Kern – yes; Martinez – yes; Mazzeo – yes; Notaro – yes; Turon – yes; Vain – yes. Motion carries.

Council President Kern thanked Council for the privilege and stated that she takes the position very seriously. She vowed to make communication a major goal for 2007 and hoped that Council would work together through whatever challenges the new year brings. Kern recognized several dignitaries who were in attendance and thanked them for coming.

On a motion of Councilman Carew, second of Councilman Turon, a point of order was called to vote on Resolutions 9-2007 and 17-2007 in advance of the consent agenda. All were in favor, motion carries.

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Resolution 9-2007

On a motion of Carew, second of Turon, all in favor of adopting a Resolution to Approve the Hiring of Steven Fisher, Firefighter/EMT

Roll Call: Carew - yes, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo, Notaro – yes, Turon – yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes. Motion carries.

Mayor Perri administered the oath of office to Steven Fisher and wished him a long and safe career with the City of Northfield Fire Department.

Resolution 17-2007

On a motion of Turon, second of Notaro, all in favor of adopting Resolution to Approve the Hiring of Benjamin Nixon, Firefighter/EMT

Roll Call: Carew - yes, Martinez – yes, Mazzeo, Notaro – yes, Turon – yes, Vain – yes, Kern – yes. Motion carries.

Mayor Perri administered the oath of office to Benjamin Nixon and wished him a long and safe career with the City of Northfield Fire Department.

Council President Kern called for a brief recess. The meeting re-adjourned and Kern distributed the 2007 Committee Assignments.

Motion by Councilman Notaro, second by Councilman Martinez to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 12, 2006. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. All present in favor, motion carries.

Council President Kern welcomed Councilman Steve Vain to his new position. Councilman Notaro welcomed and congratulated Vain. Councilman Mazzeo congratulated Vain, Carew and Kern.

Mayor Perri gave his 2007 State of the City Address. With the Country still at war and housing sales and construction at a stand-still, he predicted the City's economy would slow in 2007. With the costs of fuel and employee benefits increasing, the City's Officials will face another challenging year of providing the same services with less resources. With the communities overwhelming support for Shared Services, it is evident that consolidating government services may be an effective way to reduce costs. Mayor Perri also advised Council that a property revaluation

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should be taken into consideration, as the City's ratio of true to assessed value is one of the lowest in the County.

Perri described how the City combined certain general improvement bonds into one, consolidated bond and received an excellent bond rating. As new budgets are under development, the Mayor advised that the City needs take a more careful and conservative look at capital projects. The new debt for 2006 shows a total of \$2,159,430.00, with a total City loan debt of \$8,504,000.00. The debt payment for 2006 was in the amount of \$610,000.00. Added assessment for 2006 is \$8,721,000.00 compared to \$14,018,000 in 2005. The tax collection for the City is excellent at 98.60%. The year was busy with 197 Resolutions and 16 Ordinances adopted.

Accomplishments for the year 2006 include:

- An Ordinance regulating street openings and repairs
- The change of Municipal Court to day-time hours, resulting in a cost savings
- Amending the Police Department delegation of regulatory powers and promotional procedures
- The regulating and controlling of the collection and disposal of solid waste and recyclables
- The amending of the Drug Free School Zone Map
- The Public's support of the Shared Services Referendum
- The completion of over 80% of the 2006 municipal street paving projects
- Upgrading the security camera equipment at City Hall
- The awarding of the Police Department Safe and Secure Communities Grant
- The televising of City Council Meetings
- The Open Space Grant secured from the County for \$350,000 to acquire 1.4 acres of property
- The agreement between the City and the Library Board
- Installation of the Bike Path "Yield to Pedestrians" signs
- The installation of the flashing traffic signal lights at the intersection of Oak Avenue and Zion Road
- Installation of new playground equipment at Birch Grove Park
- Upgrades to communications radios
- The completion of the new all-purpose athletic field

Year 2007 Objectives include:

- Completing the upgrades to the Babe Ruth Baseball Field
- Obtaining municipal aid for the Banning Avenue drainage improvement and paving
- Completing the Planning Board's update of the Master Plan and Land Use Ordinance

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- To acquire the Community Development Block Grant for the installation of accessible curb ramps
- To complete the required security improvements in the Municipal Court
- To acquire four-way stop signs for Bike Path intersections

Mayor Perri concluded by thanking the Governing Body, City employees and volunteers who help make Northfield a special place to live, and for their continued support and dedication. He stated that he is looking forward to working together with everyone and vowed to continue his commitment to the residents to ensure a positive future for the City.

RESOLUTIONS

Municipal Clerk, Carol Raph, read all of the Resolutions by title only. On a motion by Councilman Carew, seconded by Councilman Turon, all present in favor of a Consent agenda, as follows:

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|----------------|--|
| 1-2007 | Annual Schedule of Meetings/Published in the press 1/ 6/07 |
| 2-2007 | A Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan |
| 3-2007 | Designate the Atlantic City Press as the Official Instrument for the Publication of Legal Notices for the City of Northfield |
| 4-2007 | Annual Appointments |
| 5-2007 | Temporary Appropriations |
| 6A-2007 | Appointing Keith Bonchi City Solicitor |
| 6B-2007 | Appointing Edward J. McManimon, III, Bond Counsel |
| 6C-2007 | Appointing Kenneth W. Moore, CPA/RMA, City Auditor |
| 6D-2007 | Appointing Lawrence Pepper, Esquire, Labor Relations Attorney |
| 6E-2007 | Appointing Michelle Verno, Esquire, Municipal Prosecutor |
| 6F-2007 | Appointing Darrin M. Lord, Esquire, Public Defender |
| 6G-2007 | Appointing Thomas G. Smith, Esquire, Tax Appeal Attorney |
| 6H-2007 | Appointing Matt Doran, Municipal Engineer |

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- 6I-2007** Appointing Matt Doran, Licensed Land Surveyor
- 7-2007** Northfield Cultural Committee Appointments
- 8-2007** Hazardous Materials Emergency Management Advisory Council
- 9-2007** Approve the Hiring of Steven Fisher, Firefighter/EMT
- 10-2007** Safety and Health Committee Appointments
- 11-2007** Charges for Municipal Public Records.
- 12-2007** Rate of Interest for Nonpayment of Taxes or Assessments
- 13-2007** Authorize Delinquent Tax Penalty Charges
- 14-2007** Tax Assessor to File a Petition of Appeal or Appeals for the Tax Year 2007
- 15-2007** Northfield-Linwood Joint Sewer Committee
- 16-2007** Rescue Squad Appointments
- 17-2007** Approve the Hiring of Benjamin Nixon, Firefighter/EMT
- 18-2007** LOSAP Point System and Qualifiers/Northfield Volunteer Fire Co. #1
- 19-2007** Appoint Risk Management Consultants/ Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund (JIF)
- 20-2007** Requesting Active Participation of the Public at Any Meeting
- 21-2007** Establishing Salaries for Non-Union Employees of the City of Northfield for 2007
- 22-2007** Authorizing the Contact Person for the Employment Practices Liability Attorney Consultation Service / ACMJIF
- 23-2007** Appointing an Alternate Fund Commissioner
- 24-2007** To Enter into an Agreement with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield to Provide an Employee Dental Care Plan to the City of Northfield

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Roll call: Carew – yes; Martinez – yes; Mazzeo – yes; Notaro – yes; Turon – yes; Vain – yes; Kern – yes. Motion carries.

ORDINANCES

On a motion of Councilman Turon, second by Notaro Ordinance 1-2007 was read by title only. All present in favor.

1-2007 Ordinance Providing for and Establishing Salary Ranges of Officers and Employees of the City of Northfield and Repealing All Ordinances Heretofore Adopted, the Provisions of Which are Inconsistent Herewith

Introduction/No Public Input/Advertised in The Press 1/6/07

Roll call: Carew – yes; Martinez – yes; Mazzeo – yes; Notaro – yes; Turon – yes; Vain – yes; Kern – yes. Motion carries.

On a motion of Councilman Mazzeo, second by Vain, Ordinance 2-2007 was read by title only. All present in favor.

2-2007 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 35 of the Code of the City of Northfield Regarding Certain Positions within the Police Department

Introduction/No Public Input/Advertised in The Press 1/6/07

Roll call: Carew – yes; Martinez – yes; Mazzeo – yes; Notaro – yes; Turon – yes; Vain – yes; Kern – yes. Motion carries.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Mazzeo motioned for payment of bills in the amount of **\$178,894.65**, second by Councilman Carew.

Roll call: Carew – yes, Kern – yes, Martinez – yes, Notaro – yes, Schlachter – yes, Turon – yes, Mazzeo – yes. All in favor, motion carries.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Kern opened the Public Session of the meeting, asking if anyone wished to speak. Seeing none, the Public Session was closed.

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MEETING NOTICES

Council Work Session	January 16, 2007	7:00 p.m.
Council Regular Session	January 16, 2007	Following Work Session

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Turon, seconded by Councilman Carew. This meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Raph, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk