

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION
JANUARY 6, 2009**

This meeting was called to order by Acting Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi, who welcomed the audience. This meeting was properly advertised under Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

The flag salute was led by Mayor Vincent Mazzeo. Following the flag salute there was a moment of silence for the 2009 governing body; may they make decisions for the betterment of the community and may Northfield residents enjoy a prosperous and healthy New Year.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilman 1st Ward Brian Smith by County Executive Dennis Levinson. Smith was accompanied by his wife Renee and daughter Kylie. He thanked his running mates Carew and Kern for their support and guidance, and the Mayor and balance of Council for welcoming him. Appreciative of the honor, he thanked the citizens of Northfield for their support, and his parents, including his late Mother, Lois Smith, who was Deputy City Clerk for 15 years. Smith's Father, Len Smith publicly congratulated his son and shared a series of striking similarities between his own and his son's personal, professional, and political experiences.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilwoman 2nd Ward Cindy Kern by County Executive Dennis Levinson. Kern was joined by her husband Dan, her sons Dan, Brian and Billy, and daughter-in-law Kelli. Kern thanked everyone for coming this evening, and extended gratitude to her running mates, to the members of the community for their assistance and support, and especially to her family. Kern said she loves Northfield and promises to do the right thing and work with the other members of Council to do the best for our City.

Acting Municipal Clerk, Mary Canesi took Roll Call as follows:

Present: Timothy Carew, Cynthia Kern, Jimmy Martinez, Brian Smith,
Michael Turon, Steven Vain
Absent: Jason O'Grady

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

Canesi then called for a motion to elect a Council President for the year 2009. Motion by Councilman Carew, second by Councilman Vain to elect Councilwoman Cindy Kern as Council President.

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

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Council President Kern thanked the members of Council for the opportunity. She recognized and introduced the many current and former elected officials in attendance this evening, thanking them for coming. Kern announced that the 2009 Committee Assignments will be distributed at the end of the evening.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/ DECEMBER 16, 2008

Motion was made by Councilman Vain, second by Councilman Carew to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 16, 2008. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. All present in favor, motion carries.

MAYOR VINCENT MAZZEO'S 2009 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Mazzeo declared 2008 as a year with many challenges, including unexpected decreases in state aid of \$262,000 and a \$250,000 increase in pension contribution requirements. Due to tougher economic times, the building department saw a decrease in revenue, and during budget meetings, the Mayor and governing body decided to reduce expenses by going from a full time to a part time building code official, a savings of \$30,000 in 2009.

The Police Department had a busy year, increasing revenues by \$53,000 through summonses; Mazzeo thanked Chief James and the Police Department for a wonderful job.

Real estate sales were once again in a downward cycle, but Northfield still had added assessments of \$4,578,000 and our tax collection rate remained excellent at 98%. Our City's total debt is \$7,244,000 and our total assessed value is \$553,688,917.

Accomplishments for the year 2008 included:

- Passage of 178 Resolutions and 17 Ordinances
- We went a little "greener" with a tree ordinance that protects our trees from being clear cut by developers; Mazzeo thanked City Engineer Matt Doran and Councilman O'Grady for their efforts
- Our yard waste ordinance was amended prohibiting plastic bags, an environmentally friendly effort which will yield a cost savings to the City
- We are in the home stretch of purchasing a 3 acre parcel on Oak Avenue; this is one of the last parcels in Northfield and will be permanently designated as open space
- Drainage issues at Wabash and Davis Avenues were addressed

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- Work began on the new storm water pump station at Philmar Circle
- Sewer pipes were replaced on 2nd Street
- Paving projects on Yorkshire, Wabash and Birch Grove were completed
- Councilman O’Grady headed the Technology Department, upgrading and consolidating the city’s computers; our website was also improved and is now a more informative tool for residents
- Council President Martinez initiated a Traffic Safety Committee to address traffic safety concerns in Northfield
- Councilman Vain’s speed hump project was installed on Cedarbridge Road, reducing the speed of vehicles as they approach the school
- Under the guidance of Chief James, the Police Department dedicated a full time police officer to Traffic Safety
- Franklin Avenue and 1st Street became a four-way stop next to the 1st Street Playground to protect our children and families
- New lighting was installed at the all purpose practice field
- A new walkway was constructed at Birch Grove Park
- New bleachers were purchased for our athletic fields
- We saw the return of the Mayor’s Cup Golf Tournament, and Mazzeo thanked Councilwoman Cindy Kern for her efforts at making the event a success

Year 2009 Objectives include:

- Sidewalks on Cedarbridge Road should be completed through a Safe Routes to Schools Grant we received in 2007.
- With an interlocal agreement with Atlantic County and Linwood, the reconfiguration of Zion, Cedarbridge, and Burroughs Avenue will be constructed
- We are looking to provide online payment systems for sewer and taxes as a convenience to residents
- A new speed hump is in the works for 2009, possibly funded by the 2008 Safe Routes to School Grant
- A new snack bar is hoped to be completed with the use of a \$300,000 grant applied for and received through the Atlantic County Open Space Trust Fund

Mazzeo thanked the many volunteers who give their time to the City, including the members of the Volunteer Fire Department, Northfield Rescue Squad, Planning and Zoning Board, Birch Grove Park Advisory Board, Cultural Committee, Library Board of Trustees, Northfield Allsports, Northfield Little League, and those who plan and organize city events, such as the 4th of July Parade and Tree Lighting. He also

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thanked the Veterans of the community for their dedication and effort, and City employees for their hard work and commitment.

He concluded, saying that he is looking forward to 2009; although it will be a challenging year, Mazzeo is confident that by working together these challenges can be met.

AGENDA REVIEW

President Kern reviewed the agenda; Mayor Mazzeo inquired why a new Risk Management Consultant was chosen for 2009. Kern replied that there was no specific reason; the former consultant did a wonderful job and she is confident that the new person will do so as well.

RESOLUTIONS

On a motion by Councilman Turon, seconded by Councilman Smith, all present in favor of adopting Resolutions 1-2009 through 22-2009 by Consent agenda, as follows:

- 1-2009** Annual Schedule of Meetings
Published in the press January 10, 2009
- 2-2009** A Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan
- 3-2009** Designate The Press of Atlantic City as the Official Instrument for the Publication of Legal Notices for the City of Northfield
- 4-2009** Annual Appointments
- 5-2009** Temporary Appropriations
- 6-2009** Award of Contracts for Professional Services
- 7-2009** Northfield Cultural Committee Appointments
- 8-2009** Appointments of Hazardous Materials Emergency Management Advisory Council
- 9-2009** Safety and Health Committee Appointments
- 10-2009** Establishing Charges for Municipal Public Records.

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- 11-2009** To Establish the Rate of Interest for Nonpayment of Taxes or Assessments
- 12-2009** Authorize Delinquent Tax Penalty Charges
- 13-2009** To Authorize the Tax Assessor to File a Petition of Appeal or Appeals for the Tax Year 2009
- 14-2009** To Authorize Northfield-Linwood Shared Service Sewer Committee
- 15-2009** DELETED
- 16-2009** Appoint Risk Management Consultants/ Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund (JIF)
- 17-2009** Acceptance of the LOSAP Point System and Qualifiers/Northfield Volunteer Fire Co. #1
- 18-2009** A Resolution Appointing a Fund Commissioner and an Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Atlantic County Joint Insurance Fund
- 19-2009** A Resolution Authorizing the Contact Persons to Access the Employment Practices Liability Consultation Service (EPL)/ ACMJIF
- 20-2009** Authorizing the Release of a Letter of Credit and Escrow Funds, and the Posting of a 2 Year Maintenance Guarantee for Block 98 Lots 11.01 – 11.06
- 21-2009** To Reappoint Marilyn Dolcy as Chief Financial Officer
- 22-2009** To Extend the Temporary Appointment of Matt Doran Inspections to fill the positions of Part Time Construction Code Official and Part Time Building Inspector

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Carew motioned, Councilman Martinez seconded, for payment of bills in the amount of \$158,719.93.

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

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PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Kern opened this meeting to the Public. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, the public session was closed.

President Kern invited all members of the public to regularly attend Council Meetings and to keep its members informed as to what is going on in our city. She also stated she would like to regularly recognize members of the community for their accomplishments, and encouraged the public to submit suggestions.

Councilman Vain announced the next meeting of Council will be held on January 20, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi
Acting Municipal Clerk