

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 2, 2013**

This meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi, who welcomed the audience. This meeting was properly advertised in the Press of Atlantic City in accordance with Public Law 75, Chapter 231.

The flag salute was led by Mayor Mazzeo, after which a moment of silence was observed.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilman 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Frank Perri by Senator James Whelan. He was accompanied by his wife, Lynn, son Frank, daughter Donna and son-in-law Anthony. Perri thanked the public and his family and said he is proud to represent the City again.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilman 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Jim Travagline by attorney Nicholas Menas. Travagline was accompanied by his wife Toni Lynn and sons Timmy and Tommy. Travagline thanked the public, and noted the absence of a close friend who is not here but will be in his thoughts.

Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi took Roll Call as follows:

Present: Lisa Brown, Timothy Carew, Greg Dewees, Jim O'Neill, Frank Perri,  
Tom Polistina, Jim Travagline

Canesi opened the floor for nominations for Council President for the year 2013. Councilman Carew nominated Lisa Brown. Canesi called for other nominations; seeing none the floor was closed. Motion by Councilman Carew, second by Councilman Polistina to elect Councilwoman Lisa Brown as Council President.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Motion carries.

The oath of office for Council President Brown was administered by her husband, attorney Arthur Brown; she was accompanied by her children Michael and Becky.

Brown thanked the residents of Northfield and said it is an honor to serve them. She thanked Council for entrusting her with the position and said she is looking forward the challenges it brings. She thanked various local dignitaries in attendance this evening, including Senator Jim Whelan, Assemblyman John Amodeo, former City Council President Ben Mazzeo, former City Councilwoman Debi Doherty, Northfield's new Judge, John Rosenberger, and former City Council President Jimmy Martinez.

Assemblyman Amodeo spoke and wished all a happy New Year; he congratulated Brown and new members of Council. He commented that he hopes 2013 is better year and said the challenges faced as a result of storms will remain challenges for

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many years. Tourism remains key. He noted the tragedy in Connecticut and stressed the need to protect our children.

Senator Whelan wished all a happy New Year and congratulated and thanked Council saying Northfield has much to be proud of. He said the stagnant economy will make budgeting difficult.

Canesi opened the floor for nominations for Council President Pro Tempore for the year 2013. Councilman Travagline nominated Jim O'Neill. Canesi called for other nominations; seeing none the floor was closed. Motion by Councilman Travagline, second by Councilman Perri to elect Councilman O'Neill as Council President Pro Tempore.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Mrs. Brown – yes; Motion carries.

The oath of office was administered to Council President Pro Tempore O'Neill by Mayor Mazzeo.

**MAYOR VINCENT MAZZEO'S 2013 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

“Members of City Council, honored guests, friends, family and residents of Northfield; in 2012, the City of Northfield tax rate remained stable with a zero municipal tax levy increase.

Being creative with revenues and sharing services provided a strong surplus and helped reduce expenditures while maintaining services that our residents expect.

The overall revenue in our construction department was down from 2011. The court revenue was also slightly down. The \$245,000 the city received from the library in 2011, \$55,000 was applied to the 2012 budget and the balance will be used for future budgets.

The library expansion will be completed in early 2013 providing a 1,200 square-foot meeting room and also updating the HVAC system and other improvements to the existing building.

The housing market saw a little added life, but we also had a record number of tax appeals. The total valuation of our wonderful city is \$986 million. And 95.34 percent of our taxes were collected. The city went out for permanent financing, receiving a double A bond rating. Our total debt is \$9.2 million.

In 2012 City Council passed 183 resolutions and 10 ordinances. One major decision was the second phase of sharing municipal courts with Linwood. The shared service

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agreement allows court to be held in Northfield for both municipalities. This will provide about an \$80,000 savings for our municipality in 2013.

The sewer interlocal agreement with Linwood was negotiated with a 50/50 split, which is a two-year agreement. The shared chief of police was a historical decision in 2011 and was agreed upon for another year. In 2013 talks will continue with shared services; for it to make sense it has to be a cost savings and we must maintain our services that our residents depend upon.

Another major decision made by council was updating our land use ordinance. Our master plan had some changes that will benefit our city in the future. The Atlantic City Country Club, if ever sold to a developer, will now have less of a developmental impact and cause less of a burden on city services. I want to thank the planning board members who worked on this committee.

The 2012 drainage projects completed were Marita Ann Drive, Leeds and Revere avenues. The awaited Roosevelt drainage project will begin in 2013 providing relief for many residents in this area of town who have been facing drainage problems for many years.

The first phase of Northfield Veterans Park was completed and dedicated in November. We are hoping for the completion of the park in 2013. Of course, a special thanks to those who donated funding for this project. What better way to recognize our veterans than having a park for them.

The funding for the paving projects in 2013 was approved in the spring of 2012. Broad Street, from Dolphin to Putting Green, will be repaved. We received \$220,000 from the municipal aid grant in 2011 for this project. This will be the first of a three-phase project. We intend to apply for further funding to pave all of Broad Street in the next few years.

The remaining paving projects are Burton Avenue from Evergreen to Cresson Avenue; and Aster, Dahlia, Elder from Burton to Walnut. Also Spruce Avenue from New Road to Maple, and north on Maple to Walnut. And Philmar Drive from Mill Road to Hollywood Drive and Birch Grove Park Road behind Public Works. These will close out the paving projects for 2013.

The city received funding through the Community Development Block Grant for phase three of the accessible walkway. To date, 90 percent of the entire walkway has been funded through this grant. Improvements to the baseball field fences were installed in 2012. Updates to the football building with new bathrooms are scheduled to be completed in 2013.

The advancement of technology with social media is becoming an important tool for getting information to our residents. Our website is continually being updated with

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valuable information that serves the community well. Email blasts continue to be an effective way to get the word out for municipal information and emergency events. The infamous Derecho storm that plowed through Northfield on June 30 causing millions of dollars in damage to properties was too fast to predict. The days after with many homes and businesses without electric, Facebook became a valuable tool to our residents. Thanks to Councilwoman Lisa Brown and our emergency management team for their professional care.

Hurricane Sandy was more predictable and gave us time to warn residents of the pending storm. Although the shore communities were the hardest hit, I believe that our emergency management team was ready and gave our community the latest information through these new means of sharing information.

Updates to public works and City Hall computers came to fruition and we must always look to technology to help government run more efficiently.

The police department had fewer checkpoints from 2011, unable to secure all grants that make these initiatives possible. The police department fleet saw the addition of three new vehicles. This was made possible through a lease program for which the city received state pricing. In 2012 we installed car video (cameras) in our police cars to protect our officers and civilians from frivolous lawsuits. The police department was instrumental in helping setup a time management system that will be up and running this month. This will make for a more efficient tracking of all city employees.

In 2013 a goal for the police is to put a license plate reading system in place to quickly identify unlawful vehicles and make our roadways safer.

The city has many events throughout the year that many enjoy and participate in. The Connolly Mile run before the July 4th parade has been going strong for over 30 years. National Night Out is another Northfield event that brings the community together in August. It is one of the best in the area. The Family Funfest in the fall has continued to attract large crowds with good family fun and local vendors adding their favorite food for all to enjoy. The holiday tree lighting brings our residents together to watch the arrival of Santa Claus. The events are made possible through many volunteers and city employees. I would like to thank all volunteers from the fire department, the ladies auxiliary, planning board, library trustees, Birch Grove Advisory, Northfield Neighborhood Watch, Northfield All Sports and Northfield Little League. Our volunteers continue to be the strength of our community.

The decision making from City Council was delayed at times in 2012. The council mid-way through the year decided to go back to a work session prior to the council meeting. I think it benefitted the continuity of government and quality discussion made for productive meetings. I would like to thank City Council for its hard work and dedication in 2012.

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All city employees – thank you for your commitment and continued hard work for our residents. We all must remember that Northfield is a great community with a history of generations of families making their home here. We must all work together to provide the best for all who live here.

Looking forward to a great 2013, I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.”

Council President Brown thanked Mayor Mazzeo, and acknowledged the presence of Assemblyman Chris Brown and Freeholder John Risley.

Assemblyman Brown wished all a happy New Year and said he hopes 2013 is a better year. He appreciates what Northfield's governing body is doing, especially with Veterans' Park. Brown thanked the public for attending.

Freeholder Risley said he echoed Brown's remarks, and wants the public to know that County Government is here to serve them.

At 7:26pm, Council President Brown announced a ten minute recess. The meeting resumed at 7:42pm.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Brown reviewed the agenda. She announced that all matters listed under the consent agenda are considered to be routine in nature, and having been reviewed by Council, will be enacted by one motion. Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by the request of any Council Member and if so removed, will be treated as a separate matter. Any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds.

Brown stated that she would like Resolutions 13-2013 and 26-2013 voted individually. Councilman Perri requested the same of Resolution 11-2013.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/ DECEMBER 11, 2012**

Motion was made by Councilman Perri, second by Councilman Dewees to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 11, 2012. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Mrs. Brown – yes. Motion carries.

**RESOLUTIONS**

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Councilman Carew motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded, to adopt Resolution 13-2013.

**13-2013**            A Resolution Adopting Robert's Rules of Order

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Mrs. Brown – yes. Motion carries.

Councilman Carew motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded, to adopt Resolution 26-2013.

**26-2013**            Authorizing Award of Contract for Municipal Solicitor as a Professional Service through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.4, Et Seq.

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title.

Councilman Polistina questioned the experience of the chosen professional as opposed to others who applied; he said when the agreed upon criteria is applied, the individual who was chosen is not the best choice.

Council President Brown noted this applicant's experience with Weymouth for 2011-2012 and Port Republic from 2005-2012.

Councilman O'Neill stated that he called Port Republic and got a glowing reference from them.

Councilman Dewees asked if the applicant has any support staff. Council President Brown replied that he does not.

Councilman Polistina noted that both prior municipal appointments were as a staff member at a large firm, and said the two towns together have a much smaller budget and much smaller population.

Councilman Dewees said the point system did not result in this applicant being the highest score

Councilman Carew said the lack of support staff and residency are an issue, and that the applicant's prior experience was not as solicitor, but as the assistant solicitor in a large firm that had the contract. However, he said he will still vote for this applicant.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees – no; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – no; Mr. Travagline – yes; Mrs. Brown – yes. Motion carries.

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Council President Brown asked new Solicitor Kristopher Facenda to take his seat on the dais. Facenda thanked Council for their support and confidence.

Councilman Carew motioned, Councilman Travagline seconded, to adopt Resolution 11-2013.

**11-2013** Appointment of Risk Management Consultant in Accordance with the Bylaws of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title.

Councilman Perri requested that the appointment be postponed and that one of the other principals in the firm be selected instead of the principal who applied.

Mr. Carew declined to withdraw his motion.

Roll call: Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – no; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes; Mrs. Brown – yes. Motion carries.

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion of Councilman Carew, second of Councilman Travagline, all in favor of voting by consent agenda on Resolutions 1-2013 through 10-2013, 12-2013, 14-2013 through 25-2013, and 27-2013 through 28-2013.

- 1-2013** Annual Schedule of Meetings
- 2-2013** Temporary Appropriations
- 3-2013** Designate the Press of Atlantic City and the Current of Northfield, Linwood, and Somers Point as the Official Instruments for the Publication of Legal Notices for the City of Northfield
- 4-2013** Annual Appointments
- 5-2013** To Authorize the Tax Assessor to File a Petition of Appeal or Appeals for the Tax Year 2013
- 6-2013** Confirmation of Appointment of Municipal Court Judge
- 7-2013** Safety and Health Committee Appointments

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- 8-2013**      Establishing Charges for Municipal Public Records
- 9-2013**      Appointing Fund Commissioner and Alternate Fund Commissioner  
for the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 10-2013**     Appointing Public Agency Compliance Officer
- 12-2013**     A Resolution Authorizing the Contact Persons to Access the  
Employment Practices Liability Consultation Service (EPL) /  
ACMJIF
- 14-2013**     Hazardous Materials Emergency Management Advisory Council  
Appointments
- 15-2013**     To Authorize Northfield-Linwood Shared Service Committee
- 16-2013**     To Establish 2013 Rates for Birch Grove Park
- 17-2013**     A Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan
- 18-2013**     To Establish the Rate of Interest for Nonpayment of Taxes or  
Assessments
- 19-2013**     Authorize Delinquent Tax Penalty Charges
- 20-2013**     Authorizing Award of Contract for Registered Municipal Accountant  
as a Professional Service through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant  
to N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.4, Et Seq.
- 21-2013**     Authorizing Award of Contract for Licensed Land Surveyor as a  
Professional Service through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to  
N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.4, Et Seq.
- 22-2013**     Authorizing Award of Contract for Bond Counsel as a Professional  
Service through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to N.J.S.A  
19:44A-20.4, Et Seq.
- 23-2013**     Authorizing Award of Contract for Labor Relations Attorney as a  
Professional Service through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to  
N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.4, Et Seq.
- 24-2013**     Authorizing Award of Contract for Tax Appeal Attorney as a  
Professional Service through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to  
N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.4, Et Seq.



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**25-2013** Authorizing Award of Contract for Municipal Engineer as a Professional Service through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.4, Et Seq.

**27-2013** Cultural Committee Appointments

**28-2013** 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 Personnel Matters With Regard To A Step 4 Grievance Filed By Mainland PBA Local No. 77

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes;. Motion carries.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Polistina seconded for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 3,722.87.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Carew – yes; Mr. Dewees – yes; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – yes; Mr. Travagline – yes;. Motion carries.

Councilman Polistina read the meeting notices.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Brown opened this meeting to the Public.

John Rosenberger introduced himself as the new Municipal Court Judge and thanked all for their vote of confidence. He gave an overview of his experience and said he is looking forward to the opportunity.

Seeing no others from the public wishing to speak, Council President Brown closed the public session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL**

The resolution was adopted earlier in the evening.

**28-2013** A Resolution Providing For An Executive Session Not Open To The Public In Accordance With The Provisions Of The New Jersey Open

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Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, Regarding Personnel Matters  
With Regard To A Step 4 Grievance Filed By Mainland PBA Local  
No. 77

The Municipal Clerk read the resolution by title and explained that the City is required to set forth as much information as possible about the subject matter to be disclosed, and must state the amount of time that is expected to elapse before the minutes of the non-public session can be disclosed. She deferred to the Solicitor for this information to be stated for the record.

Solicitor Facenda stated that the minutes will be disclosed when allowed and permitted by law.

At 8:04pm, Council left the dais and entered the City Clerk's Office; also in attendance were Solicitor Facenda, Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk, Chief of Police Robert James, and Marie Marlor, Deputy Municipal Clerk.

At 8:34pm, the closed session was adjourned and the regular meeting of Council resumed. Solicitor Facenda announced a summary for the record as follows: Council met to discuss the stage 4 grievance, and a discussion concerning strategy occurred. The Committee will request an extension until the next meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The minutes will be released when permitted by law.

At 8:36pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk