

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 2, 2019**

At 7:04pm 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, on November 17, 2018.

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

Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi took attendance as follows: Mr. Dewees- absent; Ms. Korngut – yes, Mr. Lischin – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes.

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced the Official Oath of Office for Councilman Smith to be administered by Senator Chris Brown. Clerk Canesi introduced Senator Brown and called forward Councilman Smith, who was joined by his wife Renee, and daughters Kylie and Quinlan.

Senator Brown said it was an honor to administer the oath to Brian; noting that a true measure of someone is what they are willing to give back. Senator Brown then administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Smith.

Councilman Smith thanked Senator Brown for swearing him in, and for coming out and supporting his election. Councilman Smith thanked the elected officials for their support, he thanked his wife and daughters for their support as well, it's a lot of time and it's not easy making the sacrifice. He thanked the voters of Northfield; he ran a grass-roots campaign, with a late start. He looked forward to serving the citizens to the best of his ability.

Councilman O’Neill thanked Councilman Smith and his family; he was looking forward to working with him.

Clerk Canesi announced the Official Oath of Office for Councilwoman Madden to be administered by Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo. Clerk Canesi introduced Assemblyman Mazzeo and called forward Councilwoman Madden, who was joined by her son Andrew.

Assemblyman Mazzeo wished all a Happy New Year. It was great that Barbara would be the 2nd woman on the dais, and noted that at the County level the Chair and Vice Chair are women, and such diversity represents good government. Assemblyman Mazzeo then administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Madden.

Councilman O’Neill congratulated Councilwoman Madden, he was looking forward to working with her, and he greatly appreciated her getting involved.

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Councilwoman Madden replied that she was stepping out of her comfort zone and it was due to a chance meeting with another female Council person. She thanked her son Andrew for his support; he traveled from Pennsylvania to be here. She thanked Michael Suleiman and all for their support. She will do the best she can. She is new at this but would work very hard.

Clerk Canesi called the final attendance roll of the evening as follows: Mr. Dewees - absent, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mr. Lischin – yes, Ms. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith – yes.

Clerk Canesi opened the floor for nominations for Council President for the year 2019.

Councilman O’Neill nominated Councilman Lischin; the nomination was seconded by Councilman Smith. Clerk Canesi called for other nominations; seeing none the floor for nominations was closed.

Clerk Canesi announced the roll call for the election of Jeff Lischin as Council President for calendar year 2019 as follows: Mr. Dewees - absent, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mr. Lischin – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - yes; Motion carried.

Council President Lischin thanked all, and welcomed Councilwoman Madden and Councilman Smith. He thanked Council for their confidence. He was grateful to his wife and children; they understand the requirement of time. He proudly accepted the responsibility; he will put in the time necessary and will do his best. He said he is a very open person and always available to everyone; he believed in accountability.

Council President Lischin opened the floor for nominations for Council President Pro Tempore for the year 2019.

Council President Lischin nominated Councilman O’Neill; the nomination was seconded by Councilman Perri. Council President Lischin called for other nominations; seeing none the floor for nominations was closed.

Clerk Canesi announced the roll call for the election of Jim O’Neill as Council President Pro Tempore for calendar year 2019 as follows: Mr. Dewees - absent, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mr. Lischin – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - yes; Motion carried.

**MAYOR ERLAND CHAU’S 2019 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

Good evening. Let me first take this opportunity to say that it has been an honor and

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privilege to serve as the Mayor for the City of Northfield.

As I look out and see in our City Council Chambers, I see local residents, our City Council members, and other local elected officials, I especially would like to recognize Senator Chris Brown, Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo, Freeholders Amy Gatto, Maureen Kern, Ernest Coursey, Caren Fitzpatrick, and Frank Formica, Atlantic County Surrogate James Curcio, Somers Point Councilman James Toto, Republican Committee Chair Keith Davis and Democratic Committee Chair Michael Suleiman.

I would also like to recognize and thank our outgoing City Council President, Greg Dewees who has provided us with strong leadership and dedication which has helped guide our governing body in the years he has served as our Council President. And congratulations to our newly City Council President, Councilman Jeff Lischin. I have the confidence that he too will have the motivation and leadership qualities that will help guide this City Council. Congratulations to newly elected First Ward Councilman Brian Smith and to the newly elected Second Ward Councilwoman Barbara Madden.

I want to thank each and every one of the City of Northfield employees and City volunteers. Thank you for the hard work that you all put in every single day. Believe me when I say, it matters who is standing behind you and beside you when one needs to efficiently maintain and run our City.

Today, our municipality continues to face the economic downfall within Atlantic County. Northfield has been through some very tough times, no doubt about it. We have had some hard blows as a result of our personal economic depression such as the loss of state revenue sharing and tax appeals. In 2017 there were 351 tax appeals that resulted in a reduction of \$731,821; a \$15 million loss of assessed value and a tax rate per \$100,000 of 3.237. In 2018, there were 444 tax appeals that resulted in a reduction of \$668,000; a \$13 million loss of assessed value and a tax rate per \$100,000 of 3.348. But through it all, every single bit of it, we have managed to be steadfast and diligent in managing our City's fiscal responsibilities. It has been my mission to ensure that Northfield comes back stronger than before. While there is still work to do, we have come a long way and continue to work hard during these difficult times.

In 2018, City Council continued to work to protect, preserve, and maintain the character of our city and simultaneously, worked to meet its Affordable Housing requirements as mandated by the Legislature of the State of New Jersey. The City has negotiated and filed its Fair Share Housing Plan with the Superior Court of New Jersey, essentially settling its pending litigation with the Fair Share Housing Center and others. At this time, the City is awaiting the Court to approve the same issue its

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Compliance Order so as to bring a final conclusion to these Affordable Housing issues for our City.

We have modernized the 40-plus years old Rosedale Avenue Sanitary Sewer pump station, bringing an antiquated station up to modern standards thus increasing service, efficiency and safety for our employees who maintain the pumping station. We are in the process of doing the same to the Davis Avenue Sanitary pump station, which is the largest in the City.

We have completed a significant project in the area of Cresson, Burton, Pincus, Walnut and Aster Streets to improve drainage in a historically flood-prone area. New drainage infrastructure was installed which connects to the County drainage system.

A portion of this area has already been paved and the balance will be completed as part of this year's paving project.

We renewed cooperative pricing agreement with the neighboring City of Linwood for the provision of Emergency Medical Services by Tri-Care, with no increase cost over the prior year's contract.

Our Police department has begun wearing body-worn cameras, which was partially funded by grant funding- these cameras have become the norm for protecting our police officers and the public. We have increased the duties and responsibilities of one of our Class II Police Officers. The officer will continue to supervise and provide police security for our Northfield-Linwood shared service court, provide a police presence at many of our youth athletic events and our Northfield Community School. We are fortunate to have a strong dedicated police department under the leadership of Chief Paul Newman. Through the work that the entire Police Command staff are doing, we are seeing lower numbers in the most violent offences and more drug arrests.

Our Paid and Volunteer Fire Department, led by Chief Bruce Cummings has responded in 2018 to over 361 fire and EMS calls. Chief Cummings and his Officers continue to work with representatives from the Insurance Service Rating Office maintaining our ISO Rating and seeking ways to improve our rate through: training, maintaining specific fire equipment and apparatus. In addition, we continue to partner and seek grants to ensure that our Fire Department remains compliant and our firefighters are safe and we improve on the services offered to our residents and businesses.

Our Planning Board approved the 268 unit Cresson Hill Housing, and 12 new businesses opened in the City. 218 Resolutions and 11 Ordinances were approved by the governing body, and the reconstruction of Bay Drive was completed. We also

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obtained easements necessary to proceed in a partnership with Atlantic County for the installation of sidewalks along portions of Mill Road. By coordinating and working with several utility companies in planning their infrastructure project 1.2 miles of road were paved without cost to our taxpayers.

When I became Mayor, I knew I was just an ordinary resident who wanted to help move my City forward, to put Northfield back in the news for being a wonderful City to live in.

My administration and I along with the support of City Council will continue to move forward with that in mind, we are all Northfield residents who want to move this City to being a great place for other residents to raise their families. And to be proud that we are Northfield.

*At 7:27pm Council President Lischin called for a 10-minute recess.*

*At 7:37pm Council President Lischin resumed the meeting.*

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Lischin thanked Mayor Chau; he asked all to take out their agendas.

Council President Lischin announced that 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 at 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.

Council President Lischin asked if any member of Council had questions, or if anyone wished to have any matter voted on separately from the consent agenda. There were none; Council President Lischin made assignments for the evening.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilwoman Korngut, second of Councilman O'Neill, with Councilman Smith and Councilwoman Madden abstaining and Councilman Dewees absent, all others were in favor of approving the minutes of the meetings of December 18, 2018, without formal reading. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

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**PUBLIC SESSION**

Council President Lischin opened this meeting for any member of the public to speak on any topic.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak the public session was closed.

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman O'Neill seconded to vote by consent agenda on Resolutions 1-2019 through 31-2019.

- 1-2019** Annual Schedule of Meetings
- 2-2019** Temporary Appropriations
- 3-2019** Designation of Official Newspapers for the Publication of Legal Notices for the City of Northfield
- 4-2019** Annual Appointments
- 5-2019** To Authorize the Tax Assessor to File a Petition of Appeal or Appeals for the Tax Year 2019
- 6-2019** Safety and Health Committee Appointments
- 7-2019** Establishing Charges for Municipal Public Records
- 8-2019** Appointing Fund Commissioner and Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 9-2019** Appointing Public Agency Compliance Officer
- 10-2019** Appointment of Risk Management Consultant in Accordance with the Bylaws of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 11-2019** A Resolution Authorizing the Contact Persons to Access the Employment Practices Liability Consultation Service (EPL) / ACMJIF
- 12-2019** A Resolution Adopting Robert's Rules of Order
- 13-2019** Hazardous Materials Emergency Management Advisory Council Appointments
- 14-2019** A Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan
- 15-2019** To Establish the Rate of Interest for Nonpayment of Taxes or Assessments
- 16-2019** Authorize Delinquent Tax Penalty Charges
- 17-2019** Authorizing Award of Contract for Registered Municipal Accountant through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.5, Et Seq.
- 18-2019** Authorizing Award of Contract for Licensed Land Surveyor through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.5, Et Seq.

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- 19-2019** Authorizing Award of Contract for Bond Counsel through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.5, Et Seq.
- 20-2019** Authorizing Award of Contract for Labor Relations Attorney through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to N.J.S.A 40A:11-5 and N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.5, Et Seq.
- 21-2019** Authorizing Award of Contract for Tax Appeal Attorney through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to N.J.S.A 40A:11-5 and N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.5, Et Seq.
- 22-2019** Authorizing Award of Contract for Municipal Engineer through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.5, Et Seq.
- 23-2019** Authorizing Award of Contract for Municipal Solicitor through a Fair and Open Process Pursuant to N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.5, Et Seq.
- 24-2019** To Appoint Certified Municipal Registrar
- 25-2019** Cultural Committee Appointments
- 26-2019** To Confirm the Reappointment of Harold L. Bogie as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II
- 27-2019** To Confirm the Reappointment of Kevin Sundstrom as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II
- 28-2019** Resolution Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved State Contract Vendors for Contracting Units Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a
- 29-2019** Resolution Authorizing the Public Auction of Abandoned / Unclaimed Vehicles
- 30-2019** Resolution Recognizing Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company
- 31-2019** Resolution Recognizing Members of the Northfield Volunteer Company Ladies' Auxiliary

Solicitor Facenda announced a correction to Resolution 22-2019 as follows: the hourly rate in the 5<sup>th</sup> WHEREAS should be \$110.00 per hour.

In regard to insurance, Councilman Perri asked if the percentage was the same.

Council President Lischin advised that the chosen vendor was the lowest provider.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – yes Motion carried.

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 1-2019 through 31-2019.

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Mayor Chau, regarding resolution 10-2019, stated that Council President Lischin said there were issues with the service; he did not recall the committee bringing it up throughout the year. He felt there should be open discussion if there were issues with any professionals.

Councilman Lischin agreed, and said we have a new insurance chair.

Clerk Canesi reminded everyone that last year the Council did not award at the reorganization meeting in order to try to get another provider; when we went back out for RFP, the former risk management consultant was still the lowest and the contract was awarded to him.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – yes. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE**

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman O’Neill seconded to introduce Ordinance 1-2019, to be read by title only.

**1-2019**            An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 11-2018 of the City of Northfield Authorizing the Sale of City Owned Land  
*Introduction / No Public Input / Published in the Press of AC 01/06/2019*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Public Hearing / Final Consideration 01/22/2019*

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title, stated that this is the first reading, and announced the publication and public hearing dates. The full Ordinance has been posted in the lobby of City Hall and on the City website, and copies are available at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday to any member of the public who requests same.

Solicitor Facenda reviewed the history of the land sale ordinance and explained the purpose of the amendment as adjusting the price of one parcel downward due to an error.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - yes; Mr. Lischin – yes. Motion carried.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS** \$18,543.66

Councilman Perri motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded, for payment of bills.

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Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - absent, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – abstain, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Smith - abstain; Mr. Lischin – yes. Motion carried.

Council President Lischin read the meeting notices.

At 7:53pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk