

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION
JANUARY 3, 2012**

This meeting was called to order by 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 Mazzeo, after which a moment of silence was observed.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilwoman 1st Ward Lisa Brown by her husband, attorney Arthur Brown. Brown was accompanied by her children, Michael and Becky.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilman 2nd Ward Jim O'Neill by Mayor Vince Mazzeo. O'Neill was accompanied by his wife April, and his children, Brittany, Jake, and Corinne. O'Neill thanked Mazzeo for administering the Oath. He thanked his family for their support in the time it took during the election, and he thanked his opponent, Ben Podolnick. He thanked his campaign team and the citizens of Northfield for the faith they placed in him.

The ceremonial Oath of Office was administered to Mayor Vince Mazzeo by Senator Jim Whelan. Mazzeo was accompanied by his wife Gerri, his children Ted and Amanda, his mother Eleanor, and his father, former Northfield City Council President Ben Mazzeo. Mazzeo thanked Senator Whelan for taking the time to be here this evening. He thanked his family, his wife, children, parents, and in-laws. Mazzeo said we need to become more creative in government in order to continue to deliver service in these economic times. He thanked the citizens of Northfield for their support, adding that he will continue to work hard for them.

Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi took Roll Call as follows:

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

Canesi called for a motion to elect a Council President for the year 2012. Motion by Councilman Dewees, second by Councilman Vain to elect Council-at-Large Tim Carew 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. Vain – yes; Motion carries.

Council President Carew thanked Council for the re-nomination and for their support. The coming year will continue to bring tough economic times, and there is a lot of hard work ahead in the next few years. He offered congratulations to Mayor Mazzeo, and to newly elected members of Council Jim O'Neill and Lisa Brown. He thanked the many local dignitaries in attendance.

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MAYOR VINCENT MAZZEO'S 2012 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

“Members of City Council, honored guests, friends, family and residents of Northfield, in 2011, I am proud to announce that the City of Northfield started to see a stabilized tax rate, and perhaps a turnaround in the economy will see a brighter future for our revenue sources. This budget cycle resulted in \$363,000 under the state 2 percent mandated tax levy. The overall revenue in the construction department was up do to commercial development. Court revenue was down and interest on our investments was up. The sale of liquor distribution license of \$604,000 in 2010 benefitted us in 2011, helping with road projects and replenishing some lost revenue. The ability to be creative on revenues and appropriations is what we face with every budget. The Northfield Public Library will be expanding in 2012 with updates to the current facility and the addition of a 1200 square foot meeting room. The project will be fully funded by the library with no debt incurred by the City. This will be a library/ community center which will be great amenity to our residents for years to come. The Library Board of Trustees also agreed to return \$245,000 to the City to reduce the tax burden to our residents. This new revenue will be used in 2012 budget and future budgets. Since 2008 the library has returned \$410,000 to the City. The City's total debt is \$7,660,000.

The housing market is still trying to rebound. Northfield was faced with 160 tax appeals. The total valuation of our great community is \$998 million and 96.81 % of 2011 taxes were collected.

In 2011 City Council passed 170 resolutions and 6 ordinances. One historical decision was to share our Chief of Police with Linwood. This shared service decision was the first of its kind in the state and will be examined by other communities throughout the state. With public safety, shared services should only be considered if the safety our community isn't compromised. I can assure all residents that your community is safe and sound and our Police Department is working to serve and protect all who live and work in Northfield. The cost savings for this shared service will be recognized in 2012.

The 2011 paving projects completed were: Hollywood Drive, from Pasadena to Burton Avenue; the reconstruction of Pasadena Drive and Philmar circle; Franklin Avenue from Shore to Broad Street; Adele Drive; Rick Lane; and First Street from Franklin to Fairbanks Avenue.

The added bonus to paving projects is the Municipal Aid Grant. While Northfield has been fortunate in receiving this grant in years past no grant is guaranteed. We received a \$210,000 grant for the Willow and Locust Avenue Paving project in 2011. We are looking to pave Broad Street, from Dolphin to Putting Green, with the 2012 Municipal Aid Grant. The remainder of the 2012 paving projects will come down to the allocation of capital dollars. The plan is in place to address the worst streets, and

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if finances are available, other paving projects would be addressed throughout the City in 2012.

I am proud of Council's decisions to improve drainage problems in the last few years. These decisions can be very costly and hopefully they work and resolve the drainage issues. The drainage dollars spent in 2010 and 2011 have benefitted Hollywood and Pasadena Drive, both suffered for years with major flooding. Also Madison Avenue has seen major improvements. This is good news. Storm water improvements for 2012 will focus on Marita Ann Drive and Leeds Avenue by adding inlets and perforated pipes to this area. Also with many different scenarios on fixing Davis Avenue flooding issues, there may be help on the way in 2012. The scope of the project would be to install a new storm water pipe from the intersection of Second Street and Davis Avenue to tie into the County storm water basin on Maple Avenue.

The Birch Grove Park Center, funded totally by the Atlantic County Open Space trust fund, was completed in 2011. This beautiful building will be enjoyed for years to come. The Park Center played a major role at the annual Family Funfest in October. Many people enjoyed the food, music and events located at the Park Center. We are looking to extend the accessible walkway and handrail around the lakes enhancing the scenic view for all who visit to enjoy. This would be made possible through the 2011 Community Development Block Grant, to be implemented in 2012.

Advancements in technology are an ongoing process and the City of Northfield has made great upgrades in the past few years. Our website is a valuable tool for our residents. The added features in 2011 included adding the zoning map, trash route map, and community events. This will make for a more efficient government. Many residents have been signing up for our e-mail blasts which are used for municipal information and emergency information. When Hurricane Irene was approaching, e-mail blasts became an important instrument for emergency management. The City welcomes all residents to sign up for the email blasts.

The Police Department had various checkpoint initiatives throughout the year including driving under the influence, seatbelts, and cell phone enforcement. In 2012 we will be installing in-car video in eight 8 of our police cars to protect our officers and civilians from frivolous lawsuits. One of 2012's goals for the police department is to install Crime Stop software that maps continued trouble hotspots in town. This will allow interaction with residents, and the Northfield Neighborhood Watch to know where possible crime is occurring. Our Police Department was proactive in the Graduated Driver's License campaign. The Public Service announcement has gained many accolades. Our Police Department will continue to educate in 2012 for a safer community.

The long awaited flashing light at Oak Avenue and Zion Road was installed. This will make for a safer intersection where a history of accidents has occurred. This was

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made possible by an interlocal agreement with the County.

The City offers many events throughout the year that all can participate in and enjoy. The Cultural Committee has antique night, concerts in the park and flea market. New this year was a Mayor's Wellness Walk. In 2012 I will continue to try to promote a health initiative for our residents. After all, a healthy community is a happy community. A Senior Committee was formed and met for the first time at the end of 2011. They will continue to meet in 2012 to address concerns of our seniors and make recommendation to Council.

The Northfield Police department has established Northfield's Night out as one of the best in the area. Every year it continues to grow, and I want to thank the entire Police Department for their hard work on this event. The Municipal Alliance helps provide funding for this event each year. Also, this year, prior to the Family Funfest, the Municipal Alliance sponsored the 2nd annual Hooked on Fishing contest. All City events are made possible when volunteers and City employees work together. I would like to thank all volunteers from the Fire Department, the Ladies Auxiliary, the Planning Board, the Library Trustees, Birch Grove Advisory board, Northfield Neighborhood Watch, Northfield All Sports, and Northfield Little League. The volunteers continue to be the strength of our community.

For the Veterans of our community, we must always recognize those who served and gave the ultimate sacrifice. This past year City Council recognized many Veterans from our community and will continue to do so in the New Year. Thank you for your participation in the Memorial parade and Veteran's day events. In November we dedicated the Veteran's Park at Oak Avenue. We are hopeful this will become a place to honor our Veterans as well as be a place for residents to enjoy in a park setting.

I'd like to thank the 2011 City Council for their decisions, hard work and dedication. To all City employees, thank you for commitment and continued understanding during difficult times.

We are a community that supports each other. This past summer, a tragedy hit our community in a way that it was unimaginable. We all felt the pain, and to parents of those involved in this tragedy it will continue to be tough. If there is an upside to this tragedy, I believe the support from the community was remarkable. We have a great community, and the people who live in Northfield are what make it great. I want to wish everyone good health and prosperity in the New Year. Thank you and good night."

AGENDA REVIEW

President Carew reviewed the agenda.

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Councilman O'Neill requested discussion on Resolution 5-2012 and 6-2012; he said he wanted to discuss and table Resolution 14-2012. There were many bids and he does not understand why the resolution states that the judgment nature of the Risk Management Consultant renders comparative bidding impractical. Solicitor Bonchi responded that this is the JIF's language, but that it's not the lowest dollar amount that is most important.

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilwoman Brown seconded, to table Resolution 5-2012.

Council President Carew explained the professional services covered under Resolution 5-2012, and expressed concern that if the resolution is not adopted we won't have a Solicitor. How will we do business?

Mayor Mazzeo asked O'Neill to explain his concerns. O'Neill said he needs more time to make an intelligent decision. He wants CFO to review and make recommendations.

Discussion ensued. Mazzeo commented that some of the positions only had one bidder. Carew added that the chosen individuals are highly qualified and are competitive in terms of pricing. Councilman Perri requested that the resolution of appointment contain an amount of retainer, a not to exceed amount, and a cost per hour. Solicitor Bonchi stated that the contracts that are signed set forth the fees. Carew added that there are no rate increases year-over-year for chosen professionals.

Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – no; Mr. O'Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – no; Mr. Vain – no; Mr. Carew – no. Motion fails to table Resolution 5-2012.

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilwoman Brown seconded, to table Resolution 14-2012.

O'Neill stated that this is the largest expense, next to payroll. This resolution is not related to the Solicitor's appointment. He said Linwood's Risk Management Consultant is getting 3.4%; this is hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Municipal Clerk clarified that the fee is a percentage of the premium.

Councilman Vain stated that our policy is up for renewal and we need a consultant. Mazzeo suggested that the number be negotiated. Perri suggested negotiating the amount and giving the contract to a Northfield business. He asked who negotiated the 5%. Carew replied that it was kept the same as last year, when it went from 6 to 5%. Mazzeo reiterated that the amount can be negotiated, if the majority is in favor of Mr. Gerber, the number can still be knocked down.

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Roll call: Mrs. Brown – yes; Mr. Dewees – no; Mr. O’Neill – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Polistina – no; Mr. Vain –yes; Mr. Carew – yes. Motion carries to table Resolution 14-2012.

Councilwoman Brown asked if the cash management plan resolution is something new, or if it is done every year. CFO TC Kay replied that it is required by the DCA, and it structures how the CFO handles the City’s funds.

Council President Carew announced for the public that the dollar amount for payment of bills on this evening’s agenda is \$252,755.01.

RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilman Polistina seconded, to vote by consent agenda on Resolutions 1-2012 through 4-2012, 7-2012 through 13-2012, and 15-2012 through 23-2012, as follows:

- 1-2012** Annual Schedule of Meetings
- 2-2012** Temporary Appropriations
- 3-2012** 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
- 4-2012** Annual Appointments
- 7-2012** Safety and Health Committee Appointments
- 8-2012** Establishing Charges for Municipal Public Records
- 9-2012** Authorize Delinquent Tax Penalty Charges
- 10-2012** To Establish the Rate of Interest for Nonpayment of Taxes or Assessments
- 11-2012** To Authorize the Tax Assessor to File a Petition of Appeal or Appeals for the Tax Year 2012
- 12-2012** Appointing Fund Commissioner and Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 13-2012** Appointing Public Agency Compliance Officer

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- 15-2012** A Resolution Authorizing the Contact Persons to Access the Employment Practices Liability Consultation Service (EPL)/ ACMJIF
- 16-2012** A Resolution Appointing Jay Hurley of Morgan Stanley as the Approved Broker of Record for the City of Northfield's Deferred Compensation 457 Plan
- 17-2012** A Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan
- 18-2012** Hazardous Materials Emergency Management Advisory Council Appointments
- 19-2012** To Authorize Northfield-Linwood Shared Service Committee
- 20-2012** To Establish 2012 Rates for Birch Grove Park
- 21-2012** Cultural Committee Appointments
- 22-2012** Cancellation of a Tax Sale Certificate
- 23-2012** To Authorize a Raffle License for Congregation Beth Israel

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

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilman Polistina seconded, to adopt Resolutions 1-2012 through 4-2012, 7-2012 through 13-2012, and 15-2012 through 23-2012 by Consent agenda.

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

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilman Polistina seconded, to adopt Resolution 5-2012.

5-2012 Authorizing Awards of Contracts for 2012 Professional Services

Councilman Perri said he would like to see the dollar amount of the contract and a not to exceed amount in the resolution.

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

Councilman Vain motioned, Councilman Polistina seconded, to adopt Resolution 6-2012.

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6-2012 Authorizing Awards of Contract for Public Defender and Municipal Prosecutor

Councilman Perri said he would like to see the dollar amount of the contract and a not to exceed amount in the resolution. Councilwoman Brown suggested separate resolutions for the legal professionals next year.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES/ DECEMBER 13, 2011

Motion was made by Councilman Vain, second by Councilman Perri to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 13, 2011. They have been posted, distributed to Council and are on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Perri motioned, Polistina seconded for payment of bills in the amount of \$ 252,755.01. There were no abstentions noted for the record.

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

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Carew opened this meeting to the Public.

Tom Wolfe, 317 Davis Avenue, stated that vendors for professional services should be negotiated with. He said 2nd Street is not on the paving list. Council President Carew replied that this area is being focused on for drainage; once drainage has been addressed paving can be looked at. Wolfe said the sewer system is collapsing.

Seeing no others wishing to speak, Carew closed the public session.

Councilman Vain read the meeting notices.

Council President Carew announced that he would be distributing committee assignments, and thanked Kieran, our videographer from MRHS.

On motions properly made and seconded, at 8:03pm, this meeting was adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC
Municipal Clerk