

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION
JANUARY 7, 2014**

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.

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced Councilman Frank Perri, Jr.'s resignation from his Ward 1 seat to accept the Council-at-Large seat.

Councilman Chau motioned, seconded by Councilman Travagline to adopt Resolution 1-2014.

1-2014 Accepting the Letter of Resignation of Councilman 1st Ward Frank Perri, Jr.

Roll call: Mr. Chau - yes, Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries.

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced that Frank Perri, Jr. will take his Oath for the Council-at-Large seat.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilman at Large Frank Perri by Mayor Vincent Mazzeo. He was accompanied by his wife, Lynn, son Frank III and fiancée Michelle, and daughter Donna and son-in-law Anthony. Perri thanked Mayor Mazzeo, the public and his family and said he will work just as hard for those who did not vote for him. He noted his family's support over the last 21 years and thanked the public again.

The ceremonial Oath of Office was administered to Councilman 1st Ward Erland Chau by Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson. Councilman Chau was accompanied by his mother Betty Chau. Councilman Chau thanked his constituency, friends and family for support.

The ceremonial Oath of Office was administered to Councilman 2nd Ward Gregory Dewees by Assemblyman Chris Brown. Councilman Dewees was accompanied by his wife Jackie, daughter Kelsey and son Christopher.

Assemblyman Brown stated that he was flattered to have been asked to administer the oath for Greg Dewees. He congratulated Mayor Mazzeo on his election to the Assembly.

Councilman Dewees thanked Assemblyman Brown and his family for support over the last three years and for the next three years. He thanked his constituency who

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voted for him and stated he is looking forward to working for all the residents.

The ceremonial Oath of Office was administered to Councilman 1st Ward Nick Piergiovanni by Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson. Councilman Piergiovanni was accompanied by his wife Nicole. Councilman Piergiovanni stated his favorite numbers are 632 and 633. He reiterated that his win was by only one vote and he stated that his opponent is a good man. He thanked his wife, his 4 and 5 year old sons and the public. He said he will work hard for the people of Northfield.

Municipal Clerk Canesi took Roll Call as follows:

Present: Chau, Dewees, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Municipal Clerk Canesi opened the floor for nominations for Council President for the year 2014. Councilman O'Neill nominated Councilman Travagline. Canesi called for other nominations. Council at Large Perri nominated himself. Canesi again called for other nominations; seeing none the floor was closed.

Municipal Clerk Canesi called for a plurality vote: Mr. Chau - Travagline, Mr. Dewees - Travagline, Mr. O'Neill - Travagline, Mr. Perri - Perri, Mr. Piergiovanni - Travagline, Mr. Travagline - Travagline

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced the nomination goes to Councilman Travagline.

Councilman O'Neill motioned, seconded by Councilman Dewees to elect Councilman Travagline as Council President for 2014.

Roll call: Mr. Chau - yes, Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries.

Council President Travagline stated he was looking forward to 2014; we have an excellent Council. He shared that he will miss working with the Mayor. He noted that he was an excellent mentor and always a fair and balanced man. He thanked the residents.

Council President Travagline opened the floor for nominations for Council President Pro Tem for the year 2014. Councilman Piergiovanni nominated Councilman O'Neill. Travagline called for other nominations.

Councilman Perri asked if there can be an Acting Mayor due to the pending resignation of the Mayor.

Solicitor Facenda explained the vacancy procedure.

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Councilman Perri reiterated that he feels the Pro Tem should be a democrat; therefore, he nominated himself for Council President Pro Tem.

Councilman Dewees nominated himself for Council President Pro Tem.

Council President Travagline called for any other nominations; seeing none the floor was closed.

Municipal Clerk Canesi called for a plurality vote: Mr. Chau – O’Neill, Mr. Dewees - Dewees, Mr. O’Neill – O’Neill, Mr. Perri - Perri, Mr. Piergiovanni – O’Neill, Mr. Travagline – O’Neill

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced the nomination goes to Councilman O’Neill.

Council President Travagline motioned, seconded by Councilman Chau to elect Councilman O’Neill as Council President Pro Tem for 2014.

Roll call: Mr. Chau - yes, Mr. Dewees - no, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri - no, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries.

Council President Travagline announced Mayor Mazzeo’s State of the City Address.

MAYOR VINCENT MAZZEO’S 2014 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Members of City Council, honored guests, friends, family and residents of Northfield; in 2013 the City of Northfield tax rate remained stable with a one cent increase to the municipal tax levy. The revenues from the library and liquor license sale have been used wisely in many budget cycles which helps stabilize our tax rate. The overall revenue in our construction department was down slightly from 2012. The municipal court revenue remained the same.

The library expansion was completed in 2013 providing a 1,200 square foot meeting room. Also updates to the HVAC system were completed. The new library director, Aubrey Gephardt is adding enthusiasm to our library and many groups will be meeting there. Our library will continue to be Northfield's community center for years to come.

The housing market in Northfield was a little brighter in 2013 but record tax appeals once again strangled our tax revenue. The total valuation of our city is \$946 million and 94.82 percent of 2013 taxes were collected. That has been a continuing downward trend for the last few years. The lost revenue from tax appeals and taxes collected will affect the 2014 budget negatively. The city paid down \$1,000,000 in debt and our total debt is \$9.6 million.

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In 2013 City Council passed 217 resolutions and 13 ordinances. A major decision by council was to establish a personnel coordinator. The personnel coordinator is responsible for the maintenance of employee time records, will review all recorded sick and vacation time. This will give the city better control of employee records and adheres to audit recommendations.

Another ordinance that council passed is the energy aggregation program. This will benefit our resident by lowering their electric and gas bills.

Other highlights on decisions that were made by council include the completion of the long awaited new bathrooms at the football building. With the help of many volunteers and city funding, it was gratifying to see the bathrooms finally come to fruition.

The Roosevelt drainage project was completed in 2013 providing relief for many residents in this area of town who have been facing drainage problems for year. In 2014 further investigation and evaluation on drainage issues will be examined including Second and Davis, Davis and Broad and Cresson and Burton avenues. These types of projects lead to capital funding and should be prioritized.

The funding for the second phase of Broad Street south to Roosevelt Avenue will be completed in 2014. That will be the second portion of a three-phase project. We received \$185,000 from the Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Grant. Hopefully, we will receive the final funding to complete Broad Street in the 2014 grant application. The remaining paving projects of 2013 were Burton Ave. from Evergreen to Cresson, Aster, Dahlia and Elder from Burton to Walnut and also Spruce Ave. from New Road to Maple and North on Maple to Walnut. Birch Grove Park Rd behind the Northfield Public Works Garage was completed. The paving projects for 2014 are East Revere, East Oakcrest, Oxford Circle, Amherst and Steelman avenues.

The second phase of Northfield Veterans Park was completed. This past Veteran's Day the city, with the help of the Veteran's Park Committee had a ceremony and the large attendance showed how supportive the community is of the park. We are hoping for the completion of the park in 2014. Of course a special thanks to those who donated funding for this project. The veterans of our community need to see the completion of the park. It is for those individuals who answered the call for duty so we can enjoy the freedoms of this great country. The Northfield Veterans Park is a great way to thank a veteran every day.

We saw a change in Northfield All Sports. The new group is FAN; Family Association of Northfield. I would like to thank those who volunteer for our children. Northfield All Sports volunteers, thank you for your service. It seems the new volunteers have passion and put a lot of effort and care to upgrade our youth programs. I want to thank the volunteers and wish the best for this association.

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City government saw an update to its telephone system with cost savings result. City Hall will have a new generator installed in 2014. This new generator will be able to supply electric to all of City Hall. It will also be placed outside for a safer and more efficient atmosphere.

Our website is continually being updated with valuable information that serves the community well. Email blasts continue to be an effective way to get municipal information out to our residents. There was a discussion in 2013 about sharing IT services with the Northfield Community School. These discussions are good and all should be reminded that shared services work when there is a cost savings and the service remains the same.

We need to make sure government runs efficiently. In 2014 there needs to be a focus on our aging server as it needs to be addressed. The police will be adding three license plate readers to our vehicles in 2014. This will allow officers to check unlawful vehicles and possible criminals going through our community more quickly. The Northfield Police Department once again did an outstanding job with National Night Out held in August. National Night Out is a great way to bring the community together and get to know our public safety personnel. It is one of the best in the entire area.

The city has many events throughout the year many enjoy and participate in. The Family Funfest in the fall continues to attract large crowds with good family fun and local vendors add favorite foods for everyone to enjoy. These events are made possible through our many volunteers and city employees. I would like to thank all of our volunteers who continue to serve our community year after year.

The planning board saw an increase in application with a few major improvements in our business districts. The former Camden Flooring Building on New Road was updated and is now a beautiful building that accommodates various commerce including an upscale coffee shop. In the spring of 2014 the aging Superior Window and Siding Building on New Road will be demolished to make room for a modern office building. This is a positive sign that the economy is getting better.

This is my last council meeting as the Mayor of the City of Northfield. To all of the city employees, thank you for your commitment and continued hard work for our residents. To the current city council, I wish you the best for 2014. It has been an honor to serve as councilman and then mayor for the past ten years.

We must all remember that Northfield is a great community that has a history of generations of families that made their home here. We must all work together to provide the best for all who live here.

I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Thank you.

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Council President Travagline thanked Mayor Mazzeo, and acknowledged the presence of Freeholder John Risley, Freeholder Alex Marino, Free Holder Frank Formica, Atlantic County Executive Denny Levinson and Assemblyman Chris Brown for coming this evening.

At 7:40pm Council President Travagline announced a short recess. The meeting resumed at 7:55pm.

AGENDA REVIEW

Council President Travagline reviewed the agenda. He 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.

Council President Travagline made the assignments for the evening and asked if Council had any questions.

Councilman Chau asked if Resolution 5-2013 was the professional services appointments.

Council President Travagline replied no.

RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded to vote by consent agenda on Resolutions 2-2014 through 32-2014.

Roll call: Mr. Chau - yes, Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries.

Councilman O'Neill motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded to adopt by consent agenda on Resolutions 2-2014 through 32-2014.

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| 2-2014 | Annual Schedule of Meetings |
| 3-2014 | Temporary Appropriations |
| 4-2014 | 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 |

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- 5-2014** Annual Appointments
- 6-2014** To Authorize the Tax Assessor to File a Petition of Appeal or Appeals for the Tax Year 2013
- 7-2014** Safety and Health Committee Appointments
- 8-2014** Establishing Charges for Municipal Public Records
- 9-2014** Appointing Fund Commissioner and Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 10-2014** Appointing Public Agency Compliance Officer
- 11-2014** Appointment of Risk Management Consultant in Accordance with the Bylaws of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 12-2014** A Resolution Authorizing the Contact Persons to Access the Employment Practices Liability Consultation Service (EPL) / ACMJIF
- 13-2014** A Resolution Adopting Robert's Rules of Order
- 14-2014** Hazardous Materials Emergency Management Advisory Council Appointments
- 15-2013** To Authorize Northfield-Linwood Shared Service Committee
- 16-2014** To Establish 2013 Rates for Birch Grove Park
- 17-2014** A Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan
- 18-2014** To Establish the Rate of Interest for Nonpayment of Taxes or Assessments
- 19-2014** Authorize Delinquent Tax Penalty Charges
- 20-2014** 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.
- 21-2014** 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.

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- 22-2014** 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.
- 23-2014** 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.
- 24-2014** 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.
- 25-2014** 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.
- 26-2014** 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.
- 27-2014** Cultural Committee Appointments
- 28-2014** A Resolution Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved State Contract Vendors for Contracting Units Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a
- 29-2014** Appoint Timothy Joo Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
- 30-2014** To Confirm the Reappointment of Harold L. Bogie as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II
- 31-2014** To Confirm the Reappointment of George R. Clark as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II
- 32-2014** A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of Frank J. Lentz, Esquire as Municipal Public Defender and Michele Verno as Municipal Prosecutor for the City of Northfield

Roll call: Mr. Chau - yes, Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries.

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PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Chau seconded for payment of bills in the amount of \$284.16.

Roll call: Mr. Chau - yes, Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. O'Neill - yes, Mr. Perri - yes, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries.

PUBLIC SESSION

Council President Travagline opened this meeting to the Public.

Robert Webb, 218 West Revere Avenue, congratulated the winners and losers of the Election and said he will continue to fight for what he believes in. He thanked everyone.

Councilman O'Neill congratulated Tim Joo on his reappointment as Emergency Management Coordinator.

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

Councilman Perri announced himself as Chairman of Democratic Committee of Northfield. He shared that names have been chosen for filing the Ward 1 seat and the 3 names submitted are Paul Utts, Dave Devine and Lynn Perri. He congratulated Mark Doherty on being elected as Commander of the American legion

Councilman O'Neill read the meeting notices.

Councilman Chau asked for an explanation of the vacancy procedure.

Solicitor Facenda stated that Council has 30 days from the vacancy to choose one of the names; if they fail to do so it will revert to the County Democratic Committee for selection.

Council President Travagline suggested doing interviews during the work session on January 28th.

At 8:06pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk