

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 6, 2015**

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 Chau, after which a moment of silence was observed.

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced that official oaths were previously administered.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. Lischin – yes, Mr. Murray – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries.

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced that the ceremonial oath for Mr. Piergiovanni will be administered by County Executive Dennis Levinson.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilman Piergiovanni by County Executive Dennis Levinson.

Municipal Clerk Canesi took Roll Call as follows:

Present: Dewees, Lischin, Murray, O’Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline

Mayor Chau, Solicitor Kris Facenda and Engineer Dan Kwapinski were also in attendance.

Municipal Clerk Canesi opened the floor for nominations for Council President for the year 2015. Councilman O’Neill nominated Councilman Travagline, seconded by Councilman Murray. Clerk Canesi called for other nominations; seeing none were the floor was closed.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. Lischin – yes, Mr. Murray – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries.

Council President Travagline opened the floor for nominations for Council President Pro Tem for the year 2014. Councilman O’Neill nominated Councilman Dewees. Travagline called for other nominations, seeing none the floor was closed.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. Lischin – yes, Mr. Murray – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries.

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

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**MAYOR ERLAND CHAU'S 2015 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

“To the members of the Northfield City Council, to those attending this meeting of the City Council and to those who are viewing this presentation on the Mainland Regional telecast. I welcome you to this 2015 State of the City Address.

First, to all our members of City Council, our City employees, of our residents, our many City volunteers, non-profits and businesses that define our great City... on behalf of the people of this great City, thank you for your dedication and exemplary services. As I look back over the past year and as I focus particular attention on this New Year, I believe it is appropriate for this year's State of the City address theme to be "accomplishments, achievements and expectations."

Today, I stand before you to say that the state of our City is strong, but it needs fundamental work. The challenges we face are not new. Since my first day as your Mayor, I have been focused on a sensible approach to governing. I strongly believe that we must build a City government that focuses on four cornerstones: a well-run government, a strong economy, a high quality of life for its citizens, and public safety. My goal is nothing less than making Northfield a safe, prosperous, most livable and best-run City here in Atlantic County.

At this time I would like to highlight some of the achievements from various City departments.

**Budget**

Affordability is also about having a City Government that the taxpayers can afford. In the past several years, City Council has made good progress towards reducing our annual shortfalls and eliminating our structural deficit. We must not be tempted to stray from the path of fiscal discipline and as we craft our next budget, we must be sure we are only investing in services and staffing that we can afford over the long term.

**Housing**

Housing in Northfield in 2015 is not just a concern for those already living here. As many of you are aware, last spring a local developer proposed a 216 unit luxury apartment complex. This plan included no "affordable" units as defined by the Council on Affordable Housing, also known as COAH. Many of our residents, especially those living in close proximity to this project came to City Council and the Planning Board to voice their opposition based on many reasons. In response, the developer withdrew his application before the Planning Board and threatened a "Builder's Remedy lawsuit." Northfield had at that time no formalized approved Affordable Housing plan. This left the City vulnerable to other potential Builders Remedy lawsuits. Almost immediately, Council President Jim Travagline created a

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joint committee of City Council and the Planning Board, and negotiated a settlement with the developer that permitted a complex of 265 units, 40 of which would be affordable. I commend Council President Travagline for his immediate action, which in my opinion gave Northfield a stronger foothold in the final negotiation process. Many individuals are not happy with the results of this negotiation. However, if such a lawsuit did proceed it could have cost taxpayers of this City millions of dollars in legal fees. The end result would more than likely not have favored the City. The courts mandated that Northfield would have to develop a COAH-compliant plan to designate areas for affordable housing for working people and middle income families. It was determined by our hired Professional Planner and attorney that we would have to zone between 116 and 190 units. Currently, there is very little undeveloped land to fulfill our obligation. Our goal is to finalize an acceptable plan by end of this month. Not everyone will be happy and as our Planning Board Chairman, Dr. Richard Levitt stated, ‘Some compromises must be made, and we ask the public's understanding.’

**Otto Bruyns Library**

In 2014 the library worked hard to offer to the Northfield community new materials, classes and programs in addition to their classic library events like the Book & Bake Sales. In the coming year the Library Board hopes to improve on some of the educational and entertainment opportunities as well as to offer more cutting edge library experiences. We are proud that our library has become the place to bring the neighborhood together and to broaden our cultural perspectives. In 2015, the library will continue to offer unparalleled educational and entertainment experiences to the public for free. They will continue with weekly low tech clubs such as Mahjong, Yoga, Bring Your Own Baby Time and Knitting, Sewing and Crafty gatherings. Monthly adult events will include hosting the Senior Luncheon, Poetry for Seniors as well as Players and Playwrights. The library looks forward to breaking reading records for the 2015 Summer Reading Program and come October participating again in 24 Hour Comics Day. The library looks forward to coordinating efforts with the Northfield Police Department to bring a Bike Safety event this summer. And finally the Otto Bruyns Public Library is proud to serve the City of Northfield by providing essential services to the public as well as a multitude of creative, cooperative and community sustaining programs within the neighborhood.

**New Jersey Department of Transportation Route 9/Northfield Sidewalk Project**

This project is planned to go to construction in the Spring 2015. The project planning started back in 2005. The Northfield Council supported the project in 2006 by approving a jurisdiction agreement with the NJDOT for the maintenance of this proposed sidewalk. The NJDOT FY 2015 Capital Program is providing funding that is estimated to be at \$1,825 M. This project is at the final stages of acquiring the right-of-way easements needed to install the sidewalk. The funding for this project is

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from the federal funding program for Congestion Management Air Quality. The project will include completing sidewalks on both sides of Route 9 from Linwood border to just before Banning Avenue. The NJDOT plans to schedule a public information session next month in February to answer questions from the public.

**Northfield Fire Department**

During the 2014 year, there were a total of 764 calls for fire service; there were 22 Structure fires and property loss of over \$8,200; we had 447 Emergency Medical calls. We also received a grant from the NJ American Water Company to update radio communications.

The City replaced an aging 31 year-old fire apparatus with a 2015 Pierce Saber pumper that has a greater pump capacity at 1,500 gallons per minute. It is also designed to safely transport 6 firefighters in an enclosed cab with up to date safety technology. Additional storage compartments on the new pumper will enable our firefighters to respond with additional tools at the fire scene. This unit provides more capabilities for our firefighters to help those in need, and it will help in their safety as they serve and protect our community.

**Northfield Community School**

We want our families to stay and grow here and it is important that we strive for the best public school system. Many of us have chosen to live in this City because of the quality of education we have in our community school system.

During the 2014 year, we saw:

The development and passing of the Bond Referendum to enhance security, replace HVAC systems and repair/replace parts of the building roofing. This was a major initiative that was passed through the efforts of the Board, Community Organizations and parents.

Enhanced technology for students and parents. Our school was able to outreach our communications to families and community members through advanced technology tools. Through their web site, podcasts, face book and other vehicles they were able to get information out faster and with greater content.

The Board of Education has moved towards greater articulation with surrounding school districts on security, curriculum, assessment, shared services and program development.

Their goals are to prepare our students for the new PARCC assessments, to expand programs and initiative for students, such as their TV Media studio and production,

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STEM programs, Social skills and Social Media safety, and to continue to have our children involved in community based projects that offer a learning experience beyond the classroom

### **Emergency Management**

A few of this past year's accomplishments were planning and organizing searches for missing children/people in the community. This would involve into looking to improve our responses to reports of missing people, primarily Birch Grove Park and missing children, and the creation of a Mainland CERT Team, a Shelter Management Team to include Faith Based Organizations, and Promote Community Disaster Resiliency to better prepare the City for disasters.

Goals for 2015 and beyond include updating of our Emergency Operations Plans, a Shelter Management Team, and updating the Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### **Shared Services**

A visible sign of our achievement in the area of shared services includes our interlocal agreements with the City of Linwood for Sewerage and Municipal Court. These successful programs have provided a more efficient and cost saving benefit to both communities.

### **Public Safety**

Over a period of several years, a shared service Chief of Police agreement between the City of Linwood and Northfield was made. It is my belief that the concept and intent of this shared service has merit. It was an innovative idea, it had a potential of creating a cost savings benefit between two municipalities. However, last year, members of our Police department and other area local Police Department members spoke out against continuing this shared service program. Members of our Police department feel that this share service has created low morale, a deterioration of the department management, and diminished leadership. A stable, strong and appropriately valued police department is at the core of any City. Therefore, at this time, I am not fully convinced that this shared service is a program that we would want to continue. Therefore, at this time I am suggesting that this is a matter that City Council and Mayor will need to further investigate as we develop our 2015 City budget.

It is always hard to decide how to conclude an annual State of the City address. There always seems more to report than time permits. The wheels of government always seem to turn slower than you anticipate, but in review, we have accomplished many things and in this upcoming year it is my hope and desire that we continue on a path

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of new accomplishments and goals. Thank you all for listening to my report. Together we can create a prosperous City that other cities recognize as a community that does it right.”

**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 Perri motioned to approve the minutes from December 16, 2014, Councilman O’Neill seconded.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. Lischin – yes, Mr. Murray – 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. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak the public session was closed.

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to vote by consent agenda on Resolutions 1-2015 through 30-2015.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. Lischin – yes, Mr. Murray – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries.

Councilman O’Neill motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt the consent agenda for Resolutions 1-2015 through 30-2015.

- 1-2015**      Annual Schedule of Meetings
- 2-2015**      Deleted
- 3-2015**      Temporary Appropriations

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- 4-2015** 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
- 5-2015** Annual Appointments
- 6-2015** To Authorize the Tax Assessor to File a Petition of Appeal or Appeals for the Tax Year 2015
- 7-2015** Safety and Health Committee Appointments
- 8-2015** Establishing Charges for Municipal Public Records
- 9-2015** Appointing Fund Commissioner and Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 10-2015** Appointing Public Agency Compliance Officer
- 11-2015** Appointment of Risk Management Consultant in Accordance with the Bylaws of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 12-2015** A Resolution Authorizing the Contact Persons to Access the Employment Practices Liability Consultation Service (EPL) / ACMJIF
- 13-2015** A Resolution Adopting Robert's Rules of Order
- 14-2015** Hazardous Materials Emergency Management Advisory Council Appointments
- 15-2015** To Authorize Northfield-Linwood Shared Service Committee
- 16-2015** To Establish 2015 Rates for Birch Grove Park
- 17-2015** A Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan
- 18-2015** To Establish the Rate of Interest for Nonpayment of Taxes or Assessments
- 19-2015** Authorize Delinquent Tax Penalty Charges
- 20-2015** 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.

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- 21-2015** 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.
- 22-2015** 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.
- 23-2015** 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.
- 24-2015** 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.
- 25-2015** 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.
- 26-2015** 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.
- 27-2015** Cultural Committee Appointments
- 28-2015** A Resolution Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved State Contract Vendors for Contracting Units Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a
- 29-2015** To Confirm the Reappointment of Harold L. Bogie as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II
- 30-2015** To Confirm the Reappointment of George R. Clark as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II

Roll call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. Lischin – yes, Mr. Murray – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries.

**ORDINANCES**

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned to introduce Ordinance 1-2015, seconded by Councilman Murray.



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Municipal Clerk Canesi read the ordinance by title, and announced the publication, public hearing, and final adoption dates. Full copies of the ordinance are posted on the City website, in the lobby of City Hall and can be obtained at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk, Monday through Friday, between 9am and 4pm, by anyone who requests same.

**1-2015**            An Ordinance Revising Sewer Rents and Charges Under Article X of Chapter 288 of the Northfield City Code  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press of AC 1/10/2015  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 1/28/2015*

Council President Travagline noted that the increase will be dedicated for the sole purpose of sewer infrastructure improvements.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. Lischin – yes, Mr. Murray – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 1-2015.

Councilman Piergiovanni motioned to introduce Ordinance 2-2015, seconded by Councilman Murray.

Municipal Clerk Canesi read the ordinance by title, and announced the publication, public hearing, and final adoption dates. Full copies of the ordinance are posted on the City website, in the lobby of City Hall and can be obtained at no cost in the office of the Municipal Clerk, Monday through Friday, between 9am and 4pm, by anyone who requests same.

**2-2015**            An Ordinance Amending the 1986 Land Use and Development Ordinance, as Amended, and Amending the City’s Zoning Map  
*Introduction/No Public Input/Published in the Press of AC 1/10/2015  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Public Hearing/Final Adoption 1/28/2015*

Council President Travagline deferred to Solicitor Facenda to explain the ordinance.

Solicitor Facenda stated in 2012 council adopted ordinance 9-2012 that changed the zoning in the country club district, one of the issues of contention was the increase in the minimum lot size from 10,000 to one acre. The previous owners filed suit against the City and the matter has proceeded through the normal process. There were pretrial settlement negotiations that resulted in this council agreeing to rezone 2 parcels in the country club zone, one will zoned as R1 and the other will be rezoned into R2. Solicitor Facenda noted that council has had the opportunity to review the maps, but these are two vacant pieces of property that fit very well within the new designation. In addition, there were 3 other properties dealt with in this ordinance.

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The judge's order allowed the council to rezone other similarly situated parcels. These additional parcels will also be rezoned as R1.

Councilman Perri asked about the large parcel.

Solicitor Facenda stated that parcel is already R and it is not changing.

Council President Travagline thanked the Solicitor Facenda and Engineer Kwapinski for their time. There were several options and this is the one that was chosen.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. Lischin – yes, Mr. Murray – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries for introduction of Ordinance 2, 2015.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Dewees motioned, Councilman Piergiovanni seconded for payment of bills in the amount of \$87,881.04.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees - yes, Mr. Lischin – yes, Mr. Murray – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes, Mr. Piergiovanni - yes, Mr. Travagline - yes; Motion carries.

Council President Travagline read the meeting notices, reminded everyone that the next meeting is a Wednesday. He thanked Sheriff Balles, County Executive Levinson and Assemblyman Chris Brown for attending the meeting.

At 7:41pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk