

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 7, 2020**

At 7:01pm 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 30, 2019.

The flag salute was led by Councilman Perri.

Municipal Clerk Mary Canesi took attendance as follows: Mr. Dewees- yes; Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Utts - yes.

Mayor Chau was absent.

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced the Ceremonial Oath of Office for Councilman Utts to be administered by Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo.

Assemblyman Mazzeo administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Utts, who was joined by his wife Helen.

Councilman Utts thanked Assemblyman Mazzeo for administering the oath, and for asking him ten years ago to run for Council. Councilman Utts ran for Council At Large, and while he did not prevail, he did get a chance to walk with Frank Perri, who was also running that year. No one knows more than Frank Perri about Northfield. He also thanked his wife Helen; he entered the race with her full support. He thanked his daughter Julia as well as friends and neighbors for coming out this evening and for support during his campaign. He loved that about this town. He thanked the Atlantic County Democrats for their leadership, and thanked Northfield democrats for their support. He thanked fellow council people, from both sides, who were very supportive. He thanked Jeff Lischin for being a gentleman. He thanked Municipal Clerk Canesi for introductory assistance. He thanked residents and asked them to keep him informed.

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

Clerk Canesi opened the floor for nominations for Council President for the year 2020.

Councilwoman Korngut spoke of someone on Council who she said reminded her of her father; she had the pleasure of meeting this person during what she can only assume was the worst time in his life. His door was always open and his door was always open to her. He was always helpful, gracious, patient and willing to be there. She wanted voters to know that despite losing his daughter, this man did not miss a

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 7, 2020**

meeting. Councilwoman Korngut nominated Frank Perri.

Clerk Canesi asked if there were any other nominations.

Councilman Smith nominated Councilman Dewees.

Clerk Canesi explained the process of the plurality vote and called roll: Mr. Dewees- Dewees; Ms. Korngut – Perri, Mrs. Madden – Perri, Mr. O’Neill - Dewees, Mr. Perri – Perri; Mr. Smith – Dewees; Mr. Utts - Perri.

Municipal Clerk Canesi announced the nomination goes to Councilman Perri.

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilman Utts seconded, to elect Councilman Perri as Council President for 2020.

Roll call: Mr. Dewees- yes; Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Utts – yes; Motion carries.

Clerk Canesi congratulated Council President Perri.

Council President Perri thanked Councilwoman Korngut. He said he was on Council in 1990, and he was Mayor for 12 years. He had been Council 1st Ward, Mayor, and then Council At Large. He had come full circle. He congratulated people who won and those who lost for becoming part of the process. The political process today is abrasive, but the rewards are many. Northfield has good team here. Good employees; he was looking forward to another year, and looking to improve on the amenities we already have. He thanked all who supported him. Between the elected officials and the employees, there is a great team.

Council President Perri opened the floor for nominations for Council President Pro Tempore for the year 2020. Councilman Smith nominated Councilman Dewees; Councilman Utts nominated Councilwoman Korngut. Seeing no other nominations Council President Perri closed the floor.

Clerk Canesi called roll in the form of a plurality vote: Mr. Dewees- Dewees; Ms. Korngut – Korngut, Mrs. Madden – Korngut, Mr. O’Neill - Dewees, Mr. Perri – Korngut; Mr. Smith – Dewees; Mr. Utts - Korngut.

Clerk Canesi announced the nomination goes to Councilwoman Korngut.

Councilman Utts motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded, to elect Councilwoman Korngut as Council President Pro Tempore for 2020.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 7, 2020**

Roll call: Mr. Dewees- no; Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - yes, Mr. Perri – yes; Mr. Smith – yes; Mr. Utts – yes; Motion carries.

Council President Perri congratulated Councilwoman Korngut.

Council President Perri recognized Assemblyman Mazzeo, and Freeholder Fitzpatrick in the audience, and thanked them for coming.

*At 7:15pm Council President Perri called for recess. On motion of Councilwoman Korngut, seconded by Councilman Smith all members were in favor.*

*At 7:25pm Council President Perri resumed meeting.*

*\*It was discovered at the conclusion of this meeting that audio recording equipment had not been reactivated when the meeting resumed after the recess; no audio recording exists for this meeting for the period between 7:15pm and adjournment.*

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Council President Perri stated 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 at the request of any Council Member and if so removed, will be treated as a separate matter. Any items requiring expenditure of funds are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds. He asked if any Council member would like any resolution voted on separately.

There were numerous requests, as follows:

Councilwoman Korngut, Resolution 17-2020.

Councilman Dewees, Resolution 23-2020.

Councilman Smith, Resolution 20-2020.

Councilman Utts, Resolution 10-2020.

Council President Perri asked if there were any questions, seeing none he made assignments for the meeting.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilman Smith, second of Councilwoman Madden, all members were in favor of approving the minutes of the meetings of December 17, 2019,

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 7, 2020**

without formal reading. They have been posted, distributed to Council, and are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Carol Goloff, 2216 Shore Road, stated that she visits a lot of municipalities for her job for various reasons. She was proud as a Northfield resident; she saw the division in the earlier nominations and was proud of how it was handled. She encouraged Council to keep it up. It's not that way in every town.

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

**RESOLUTIONS / CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion of Councilwoman Korngut, seconded by Councilwoman Madden seconded all members present were in favor of voting on Resolutions 1-2020 through 9-2020, 11-2020 through 16-2020, 18-2020, 19-2020, 21-2020, 22-2020 and 24-2020 through 35-2020, by Consent Agenda.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>1-2020</b>  | Annual Schedule of Meetings   |
| <b>2-2020</b>  | Temporary Appropriations  |
| <b>3-2020</b>  | Designation of Official Newspapers for the Publication of Legal Notices for the City of Northfield                            |
| <b>4-2020</b>  | Annual Appointments   |
| <b>5-2020</b>  | To Authorize the Tax Assessor to File a Petition of Appeal or Appeals for the Tax Year 2020                                   |
| <b>6-2020</b>  | Safety and Health Committee Appointments  |
| <b>7-2020</b>  | Establishing Charges for Municipal Public Records   |
| <b>8-2020</b>  | Appointing Fund Commissioner and Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund           |
| <b>9-2020</b>  | Appointing Public Agency Compliance Officer   |
| <b>11-2020</b> | A Resolution Authorizing the Contact Persons to Access the Employment Practices Liability Consultation Service (EPL) / ACMJIF |
| <b>12-2020</b> | A Resolution Adopting Robert's Rules of Order   |
| <b>13-2020</b> | Hazardous Materials Emergency Management Advisory Council Appointments  |
| <b>14-2020</b> | A Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan  |
| <b>15-2020</b> | To Establish the Rate of Interest for Nonpayment of Taxes or Assessments  |

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 7, 2020**

- 16-2020** Authorize Delinquent Tax Penalty Charges
- 18-2020** 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.
- 19-2020** 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.
- 21-2020** 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.
- 22-2020** 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.
- 24-2020** Authoring the Tax Collector to Conduct a Tax Lien Sale
- 25-2020** Cultural Committee Appointments
- 26-2020** Resolution Recognizing Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company
- 27-2020** Resolution Recognizing Members of the Northfield Volunteer Company Ladies' Auxiliary
- 28-2020** Resolution Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved State Contract Vendors for Contracting Units Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a
- 29-2020** Resolution Authorizing the Public Auction of Abandoned / Unclaimed Vehicles
- 30-2020** Acceptance of the LOSAP Point System and Qualifiers for Members of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Co. #1
- 31-2020** Authorizing Award of Professional Services Contract for Continuing Disclosure Agent Services and Independent Registered Municipal Advisor of Record
- 32-2020** Northfield Senior Committee Appointments
- 33-2020** Reappointment of Timothy Joo to the Position of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
- 34-2020** A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of Paul J Gallagher, Sr. as the Municipal Prosecutor for the City of Northfield for Calendar Year 2020
- 35-2020** A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of James P. Grimley as Municipal Public Defender for the City of Northfield for Calendar Year 2020

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda.

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

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded to adopt Resolution 10-2020.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 7, 2020**

**10-2020** Appointment of Risk Management Consultant in Accordance with the Bylaws of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

Councilman O'Neill asked where the firm was from.

Council President Perri replied Marlton.

Councilman O'Neill noted there have been issues, he wanted to make sure they were here one to two times a year; he also wanted to make sure the person was here to walk the fields.

Councilman Utts added that a local person had put in a bid; he wanted Council to consider them. We have not had this service in the past.

Councilman Smith knew Mr. Gerber as a professional, he liked the idea. He wanted the person to be here, on site.

Councilwoman Korngut had no reason to believe the firm would not do what we asked of them.

Councilman O'Neill asked if there was a representative here.

Councilman Perri announced that he was just advised that this was the incumbent firm.

Councilman O'Neill noted there were serious issues with the bridges; the previous person would have pointed these things out. There had been issues with gas tanks with holes.

Clerk Canesi identified herself as the Fund Commissioner, and stated that we have had no issues with service provided by this firm.

Councilman O'Neill wanted to postpone the vote.

Councilman Utts asked what did this person do.

Clerk Canesi responded that the Risk Management Consultant is administrative; they assist with identifying, scheduling and tracking necessary employee training, management and tracking of insured property, etc. She further advised that a representative from AJ Gallagher, another firm appointed and paid for by our insurance company, walks the fields etc. with the Superintendent of Public Works to do safety inspections.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 7, 2020**

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

Councilman Smith motioned, Councilman Dewees seconded to adopt Resolution 17-2020.

Councilwoman Korngut announced that with this selection we were going against the recommendation of the CFO Stollenwerk; the firm had had been doing a good job. We have had no complaints, for that reason she would be voting no to bring someone new in.

Councilman Dewees also advised that this firm was not the cheapest; he asked about the thought process.

Councilwoman Madden felt it was not a bad idea to have fresh ideas; this vendor was very hands on; they have offered to work with us. They have seminars and are very involved with municipal government.

Councilman Dewees questioned the does the current firm not do those things?

Councilwoman Madden replied that she did not say that, she just thinks fresh eyes are good.

Councilman O’Neill agreed with Councilwoman Korngut.

Council President Perri replied that statutorily they all do a good job; this firm had offered to work with us on the budget and to find new ways for the employees.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - no, Ms. Korngut – no, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O’Neill - no, Mr. Smith - no; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion failed.

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded to adopt Resolution 20-2020.

**20-2020** 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.

Councilman Smith advised that we have had Gruccio Pepper for years and they have been very effective; he was curious as to the reason for a switch. This past, year Labor Counsel Curio was very informative to the entire City and City Council.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 7, 2020**

Councilman Dewees added that this firm is not the lowest price; they had quite a few attorneys on their list; will we get the same attorney each time, with the meter running? He felt this could get very expensive.

Councilman O'Neill had been very happy with the previous Labor Counsel. He did not know them personally, but respected them, they do a great job. He wondered why we were switching. He asked if there were less than this firm.

Council President Perri replied that Grace Marmero was \$10 per hour more.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - no, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O'Neill - no, Mr. Smith - no; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

Councilwoman Korngut motioned, Councilwoman Madden seconded to adopt Resolution 23-2020.

**23-2020** 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.

Councilman Dewees advised that this individual did not have recent solicitor experience; he wondered about the thought process.

Council President Perri stated that he had worked with Mr. Stein on the Planning Board; he had known him for years. He was also the Planning Board Solicitor for Ocean City.

Councilman O'Neill, to Mr. Stein in the audience, asked what towns had he represented.

Mr. Stein replied that he had worked in Little Egg Harbor for several years and Buena Vista Township for five, six, or seven years. He worked in Galloway with Mr. Bloom. He had experience in land use and planning, had been prosecutor and public defender. He had been a Solicitor for one large town, and one large town in terms of geographic area.

Councilman O'Neill asked if Mr. Stein would have to step down as Planning Board Solicitor.

Mr. Stein replied, yes.

Councilman Dewees asked why he did not have a retainer.

Council President Perri replied that only one firm had a retainer.



**CITY OF NORTHFIELD ANNUAL REORGANIZATION  
JANUARY 7, 2020**

Councilman Smith stated that he did not know Mr. Stein; his resume was long and distinguished. Councilman Smith advised that he did reach out to one recent employer, Buena Vista Township, who advised that it did not end well, and they were still dealing with that. It was alluded to by Buena Vista Township that Mr. Stein was let go.

Mr. Stein offered explanation; there was some sort of political disagreement. Mr. Stein wanted to do things fair and above-board. Mr. Stein said there was some sort of vendetta against him.

Councilman Smith noted originally he was Googling people; that led him to place a call to Buena Vista Township. Councilman Smith noted there was also a concern with green acres issues, and land that was sold erroneously when Mr. Stein was Solicitor. It came out after Mr. Stein left that there was some sort of problem.

Council President Perri replied if land was sold, it was by the municipality, not Mr. Stein.

Councilman Smith replied, with Mr. Stein as solicitor.

Mr. Stein explained there were issues with title; the Township Council did this, it was not his decision. The lots were not foreclosed properly.

Councilman Smith thanked Mr. Stein. Smith had been on Council for a year, he found Mr. Facenda to be extremely knowledgeable and diligent in doing his job. Mr. Facenda recently saved the City significant money during Shared Court. He did not see any savings by not reappointing Mr. Facenda.

Councilman O'Neill thought that Mr. Facenda had done a phenomenal job; he was impressed with how he handled the court situation. He was very accessible, and O'Neill felt Mr. Facenda's fees were very reasonable.

Roll Call: Mr. Dewees - no, Ms. Korngut – yes, Mrs. Madden – yes, Mr. O'Neill - no, Mr. Smith - no; Mr. Utts – yes; Mr. Perri – yes; Motion carried.

Council President Perri announced that Mayor Chau would give his State of the City Address at the next meeting.

Council President Perri read the meeting notices.

At approximately 8:00pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk