

NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING  
January 1, 2018 – 12PM  
MINUTES

The North Brunswick Township Council held its Re-Organization meeting on Monday January 1, 2018 at 12pm at the Municipal Building located at 710 Hermann Road, North Brunswick-Middlesex County, NJ.

Mayor Womack welcomed everyone and asked if everyone would make sure their cell phones were turned off during the meeting.

Invocation was done by Rabbi Carlbach. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dylan & Parker Davis, Alessandra & Gianna Socio, Samantha & Joseph Guadagnino, Stella Mae & Lucy Ann Lopez and Richie Zangara.

Ms. Tangie Cobb sang the Star Spangled Banner.

Ms. Russo certified the election.

Mayor Womack administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Bob Corbin. As I look around & it doesn't seem like the 6<sup>th</sup> time and that we've been involved with the council, so although I wasn't born and raised in North Brunswick I've been around a longtime. It's been my pleasure to work with the people who are up there now and we now have Will, looking forward to that. North Brunswick has grown & hopefully will continue to grow. We are very fortunate to have the freeholders we have, I see Freeholder Director Rios is here today, I thank them for all the assistance that they give not only to North Brunswick but to the surrounding communities. This is your town, this is your family, it's my town and it's also my family. Thank you very much!

Mayor Womack administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Bob Davis. Welcome everybody; I want to wish everybody a happy, healthy, peaceful, prosperous New Year. It's hard to believe that I'm starting, along with Bob Corbin, my 6<sup>th</sup> term in office, the first 15 years went by quickly, I want to thank all the residents of North Brunswick who felt that Bob and I deserved to be re-elected. I appreciate the fact that you voted on the issues, not just along party lines. I could not be more proud to be serving with Mac as our mayor and my fellow councilmen; these are 6 people who like myself put the residents of our township's well being first and foremost. I would like to thank my family; they have continuously supported me and stood by me personally and politically through thick and thin. It is great to have the backing of my sons Adam and Brett, daughters Carly and Amy, and if you've been here before, there's no in-laws in my family, people get confused sometimes when I say this is my daughter, this is my son and as a lot of you know Brett & Amy live in Salt Lake City that's why they could not be here today. The last time I ran for council Dylan was 3 years old, now she is 6 going on 16, Parker was 2 and now he turned 5. I want to thank the North Brunswick Democratic Organization, along with all of our committee people and especially our chairman Rich Zangara, his wife Colleen, and our Vice-Chair Ro Tucker and our campaign coordinator Gary Hirsch, without whose guidance Bob & I could not run the campaign that we do. Last but not least, I want to congratulate our newest councilman. Lovingly know as Dr. Will, I know that he will be a great addition to our council same way that Amanda has since her election last year. I look forward to serving the township of North Brunswick for the next 3 years and beyond. Thank you and may God bless us all!

Mayor Womack administered the Oath of Office to Councilman William Lopez. So I woke up this morning and I really didn't know what I was going to say and it didn't help matters that I had to cut grapes for my two year daughter and she didn't necessarily care what I was doing today besides that I was having a party and if there was going to be cake at this party. So it always brings it back into perspective cause in reality what we all do up here is for our families and for the future of the town, and a while ago when Rich Zangara approached me just if I would be interested in running for town council, and I started to think a lot of it; 1) that I really was interested and 2) that it wasn't just for me it was for the people of the town and also my children who are now also growing up in the town, with that being said I hope that I am able to perform all of the duties for the town and their people to the best of my abilities, I am honored and humbled by the results of the election and I am just thankful to have everyone here. Thank you for all your support and God bless America and God bless North Brunswick.

Mayor Womack invited Freeholder Director Ron Rios to speak. Good afternoon everyone and happy New Year to everyone in North Brunswick. I appreciate the time that the Mayor asked me to come here and say a few words. I want to congratulate Bob, Bob and Dr. Will and wish all the council and Mayor the best in 2018. This is kind of special, as the Mayor said, Dr. Will is the first Hispanic; well I was the first Hispanic in my town, Carteret. I remember a man telling me, when I first ran, probably before Dr. Will was born, and he said Ron you'll never get elected in this town. And I said why? He said they'll never elect a Puerto Rican in Carteret. Of course that got my Puerto Rican up and I was successful and the people had faith in me to do the best I can for the town. So there is a lot to be thankful for, I've have a great life, I always say there are three things that made me get my life and have a great life 1) thankful for my parents, 2) I thank my parents for coming to this country, this great country of ours from Puerto Rico and 3) I thank my veterans who protect us everyday cause without

NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING

January 1, 2018

Minutes

page 2

those three things I would have nothing. I want to thank North Brunswick for giving us Shanti Narra, one of our newest freeholders. So in closing, I know you didn't come here to listen to me of course but one thing I'm very strong advocate for is our veterans so I ask all of you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers that they come home safe because right now we're celebrating January 1<sup>st</sup> and some of our veterans are in dangerous places protecting us, so keep them in your thoughts and prayers, our law enforcement and our emergency responders because without them they do a tremendous job for the right reasons. So again thank you and have a happy new year.

Mayor Womack called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

Present: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Andrews, Corbin, Davis, Socio and Lopez

Absent: None

Ms. Russo announced that the notice requirements of the Sunshine Law have been satisfied. Notices were sent to the following newspapers on December 26, 2017: The Home News & Tribune, the Star Ledger and the North Brunswick Sentinel. Also notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filed in the Clerk's office on December 26, 2017.

Councilman Socio welcomed everyone and acknowledged the presence of local dignitaries: Former Mayors Paul Matacera and Sal Paladino, First Lady Carol Womack, Board of Education members Connie Corbin and Gail Di Pane, President of Democratic Club Rich Zangara and Vice-Chair Ro Tucker, Freeholders Ron Rios and Shanti Narra, Chairman of the Planning Board Dan Di Stefano, Business Administrator Kathryn Monzo, Assistant Business Administrator Justine Progebin, Township Planner Tom Vigna, Chief Financial Officer Kala Sriranganathan, Director of Community Development Michael Hritz, Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services Lou Ann Benson, Director of Public Works Eric Chaszar, OEM Director Mark Cafferty, Director of Public Safety Ken McCormick, PBA President Jason Vallese, Police Sergeant Michael Sauvigne, Middlesex County Democratic Organization Vice Chair Beatrice Moskowitz, Assemblyman Joseph Danielsen and Rob Zuckerman, Confidential Secretary Janice Larkin, Municipal Clerk Lisa Russo and Clerks Janet Maer and Loren Ventrice.

Mayor Womack called for a motion for election of Council President. So moved by Mr. Corbin to nominate Mr. Bob Davis, second by Mr. Andrews.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Andrews, Corbin, Davis, Socio and Lopez

Nays: None

Mayor Womack administered the Oath of Office to Council President Bob Davis; I want to thank my fellow council people for nominating me and electing me to be Council President, this is my fourth time in fifteen years. I really appreciate it. I love working with the Mayor and council, and I will do all I can while I am council president and I promise you that I am not reading any of this.

Assemblyman Joe Danielsen spoke to residents of North Brunswick encouraging them to sign up for the newsletter his office puts out to his constituents. Please contact Rob Zuckerman in his office to get your name on the list.

Mayor Womack called for a motion to approve Resolution # 1-1.18 – Professional Service Contract/Township Attorney ; DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP. So moved by Mr. Andrews, second by Mr. Davis.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Andrews, Corbin, Davis, Socio and Lopez

Nays: None

Mayor Womack administered the Oath of Office to Township Attorney, Ronald Gordon, Esq.

Mayor Womack asked if any council member wanted any item removed from the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Mr. Davis to approve items a-pp on the consent agenda, second by Mr. Andrews.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Andrews, Corbin, Davis, Socio and Lopez

Nays: None

**Resolutions on Consent Agenda:****Professional Services:**

Public Defender	<u>Michael Policastro, Esq.</u>	2-1.18
Labor Attorney	<u>Ronald H. Gordon of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick &amp; Cole, LLP</u>	3-1.18
Engineer	<u>CME Associates</u>	4-1.18
Bond Counsel	<u>McCarter &amp; English &amp; McManimon, Scotland &amp; Baumann, LLC</u>	5-1.18
Legal Services / Tax Appeals	<u>Harry Haushalter, Esq.</u>	6-1.18
Conflict Tax Appeal Counsel	<u>Shamy, Shippers &amp; Lonski, PC</u>	7-1.18
Appraisal Services E.U.S	<u>BRB Valuation &amp; Consulting</u>	8-1.18
Appraisal Services E.U.S	<u>Sockler Realty Services Group, Inc.</u>	9-1.18
Municipal Prosecutor	<u>David P. Lonski of Shamy, Shippers &amp; Lonski, PC</u>	10-1.18
Financial Advisor E.U.S	<u>ACACIA Financial Group Inc.</u>	11-1.18
Water / Wastewater Consultant EUS	<u>T&amp;M Associates</u>	12-1.18
Wastewater Collection System Oversight	<u>Stantec</u>	13-1.18
Environmental Engineer Services	<u>CME Associates / JM Sorge &amp; T&amp;M Associates</u>	14-1.18
Municipal Architect Services	<u>Tokarski and Millemann Architects, LLC and Arcari and Iovino Architects, LLC</u>	15-1.18
Municipal Auditor	<u>Hodulick and Morrison, PA</u>	16-1.18
Risk Management Consulting Services	<u>Arthur J. Gallagher</u>	17-1.18
Traffic Engineering Services	<u>Maser Consulting</u>	18-1.18
Mechanical Engineer	<u>Remington, Vernick &amp; Vena</u>	19-1.18
Environmental Legal Services	<u>Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst &amp; Doukas, LLP</u>	20-1.18
Landscape Architecture Service	<u>Maser Consulting, PA</u>	21-1.18
Financial Advisory Services	<u>Phoenix Advisors</u>	22-1.18

**Directors / Other appointments:**

Appointing Mark Cafferty Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator	23-1.18
Twp. Fire Chief / 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chiefs / Chief: Bureau of Fire Prevention	24-1.18
Council representative – Planning Board	<u>Ralph Andrews</u> 25-1.18
Zoning Board of Adjustment (council appt.)	26-1.18
Middlesex County Housing Community Development Committee	<u>Bill Nelson</u> 27-1.18
Tax Search Officer	<u>Fran Cipot</u> 28-1.18
Public Agency Compliance Officer	<u>Justine Progebin</u> 29-1.18
Protected Tenancy Act Agency	<u>Michael Proietti</u> 30-1.18

**Consent Agenda cont.**

**Authorize:**

dd.	Fixing interest rate on delinquent taxes	31-1.18
ee.	Collection of interest for delinquent payment of utility charges	32-1.18
ff.	Fee for returned checks	33-1.18
gg.	Tax Assessor to file tax appeals on behalf of Twp.	34-1.18
hh.	Cancel property Tax Refund or Delinquency less than \$10.00	35-1.18
ii.	Special Rules of Order	36-1.18
jj.	Mayor / Council to hold <i>Executive Session</i>	37-1.18
kk.	Establishing a cash management plan and naming official cash depositories	38-1.18
ll.	Purchases from State Contract Vendors	39-1.18
mm.	Authorizing an Agreement with The Rodgers Group, LLC to assist the Police Department in the Accreditation Process	40-1.18

**Designate:**

nn.	Date, Place and Time for Township Council Meetings	41-1.18
oo.	Official Newspaper	42-1.18
pp.	Sunshine Notice Annual Meetings	43-1.18

Mayor Womack and Council presented Sal Paladino with a clock as a thank you for his service as Councilman.

Mayor Womack opened the Public hearing. No discussion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Andrews, Corbin, Davis, Socio and Lopez

Nays: None

Mayor Womack presented his State of North Brunswick address-thanked his wife Carol and his daughter Carol Leigh, along with his confidential secretary Janice Larkin. He welcomed Council President Davis, members of the council, Freeholder Director Rios, Freeholder Narra, esteemed dignitaries, Administrator Monzo, and valued Directors. He stated that it was again his privilege to fulfill his obligation under our township code to deliver a State of the Township address. This has been a tumultuous, and for some of us a disconcerting year. Actions taken by Congress have reduced the benefit of the local property tax and have increased the federal tax liability borne by many residents. This imposes on our local government the obligation to further find ways to ease the property tax burden on residents and businesses. Only this Friday, the federal government employing ominous terms of past centuries, declared "null and void" the agreement for federal funding of the desperately needed rail tunnel between New York & New Jersey. Our state officials have indicated that they believe things "can be worked out" but experiences of the last year offer little solace to those of us who know how crucial the tunnel is for the entire region and how essential to our transit village-North Brunswick's showplace contribution to responsible planning-is for our township. North Brunswick is not just an area of land, a place on a map. We are 42,000 people living our lives and dreams with one another. We are diverse. We are inclusive. We are neighbors and friends. We care for, and we take care of one another. In uncertain times, a person must be certain that their community is there for them. This is not to say that we have to all smile at each other at Shoprite, but I am saying that we should acknowledge and cherish that we have a home, a home called North Brunswick, a home where our care and concern for one another is reflected in our actions and by the choices we make. It is an important role of our municipal government to have programs and opportunities in place for us to come together as a community and to strengthen our bonds as neighbors. North Brunswick, New Jersey, stands today, and will stand forever, for openness in government, transparency in how we operate, honesty in all that is conveyed to our residents, encouraging, embracing and respecting our diversity and making ours a true American hometown community, exhibiting the finest American values.

Mayor Womack administered the Oath of Office to Coordinator of Emergency Management, Mark Cafferty.

Mayor Womack called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, so moved by Mr. Andrews, second by Mr. Davis.

NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING

January 1, 2018

Minutes

page 5

Roll Call:

Ayes: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Andrews, Corbin, Davis, Socio and Lopez

Nays: None

Benediction was done by Rabbi Carlbach.

Councilman Socio invited everyone to the Adams AC for a luncheon following the meeting.

Adjourned: 1:20pm

Municipal Clerk

Lisa Russo