The 2012 organizational meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: John Cusick, President; Margaret L. Ferraro, Vice President; Thomas H. Dietrich; Bruce A. Gilbert; Kenneth M. Kraft; Lamont G. McClure, Jr.; Scott Parsons; Barbara A. Thierry; Robert F. Werner; Frank E. Flisser, Clerk to Council, and Philip D. Lauer, Solicitor to Council.

Prayer

Reverend Mario Martinez led County Council in prayer to open the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Cusick led County Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Cusick asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to offer comments. There were no respondents.

Selection of County Council Officers

A. President of County Council

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any nominations for President of County Council.

Mrs. Ferraro nominated Mr. Cusick for the position of President.

Mrs. Thierry seconded the nomination.

Mr. Kraft nominated Mr. McClure for the position of President.

Mr. Werner seconded the nomination.
As there were no further nominations, Mr. Cusick asked for a motion to close the nominations.

Mr. Parsons made a motion to close the nominations.

Mr. Dietrich seconded the motion.

Mr. Cusick called for the vote on the nominations.


As the vote was 4-4, the members of County Council decided they would allow some time to see if Mr. Gilbert would arrive to select the President.

B. Vice President of County Council

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any nominations for Vice President of County Council.

Mr. Dietrich nominated Mrs. Ferraro for the position of Vice President.

Mr. Cusick seconded the nomination.

As there were no further nominations, Mr. Cusick asked for a motion to close the nominations.

Mrs. Thierry made a motion to close the nominations.

Mr. Dietrich seconded the motion.

Mr. Cusick called for the vote on the nomination.


Based on a vote of 7-0, the following resolution was adopted:
R. 1-2012  RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that Margaret L. Ferraro shall serve as Vice-President of County Council for the year 2012.

Mrs. Ferraro thanked everyone for their votes because she really enjoyed serving in this position last year.

Mrs. Ferraro wanted to congratulate the new members of County Council, noting County government was more expansive than they could ever imagine, but very interesting. She stated the most important thing to remember was that their party affiliations should be put aside for the sake of good government. She further stated they would be serving some of the neediest people in the County and the employees involved did a wonderful job.

Mrs. Ferraro advised she was looking forward to working with everyone and for a year of civility and respect for the benefit of the taxpayers who honored them with their votes.

In response to Mr. Cusick’s question as to whether Mrs. Ferraro would now run the meeting as no President was selected, Mr. Lauer stated County Council annually selected their officers at this time and since no President had been selected, he would assume that until such time, Mrs. Ferraro would be in charge.

Mrs. Ferraro made a motion for a 15 minute recess to allow Mr. Gilbert time to arrive at the meeting.

Mr. Parsons seconded the motion.

During the recess, Mr. Gilbert arrived at the meeting.

Mrs. Ferraro reconvened the organizational meeting.

C.  President of County Council

Mrs. Ferraro asked if there were any nominations for President of County Council.
Mrs. Ferraro nominated Mr. Cusick for the position of President.

Mr. Dietrich seconded the nomination.

Mr. Kraft nominated Mr. McClure for the position of President.

Mr. Werner seconded the nomination.

As there were no further nominations, Mrs. Ferraro asked for a motion to close the nominations.

Mr. Cusick made a motion to close the nominations.

Mr. Dietrich seconded the motion.
The motion was passed by voice acclamation.

Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote on the nominations.


Based on a vote of 5-4, the following resolution was adopted:

R. 2-2012 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that John Cusick shall serve as President of County Council for the year 2012.

Mr. Cusick thanked everyone for their votes and he hoped everyone would work together over the course of the next year to get some things done.

Mr. Cusick advised he received a telephone call a few days ago from a reporter asking him what were his priorities and what he thought were those of the County. He further advised he hoped the Administration agreed with his priorities, noting the most important challenge the County was facing was the Swaption issue.
Mr. Cusick stated the second item was having the lease presented to County Council for the treatment center in West Easton so a decision could be made on how it should be operated. He further stated the third was the creation of an advisory board for Gracedale. He noted Mr. Ross Marcus, Director of Human Services, had been working on this for some time and he had also spoken to Mr. Dietrich about it and felt it was something that could be done quickly as he already heard from some members of the community who were interested in serving.

Mr. Cusick advised the fourth item was the establishment of an Archives Building, which had been something that had been previously discussed, because right now the County was using a storage facility that charged every time something had to be brought to the Courthouse.

Mr. Cusick stated the last item was the consolidation of the divisions of the Department of Human Services into one building. He further stated this was something Mr. John Stoffa, County Executive, had wanted for some time and he hoped Mr. Stoffa would continue on this quest.

Mr. Cusick advised he looked forward to working with everyone, including the Administration, and hoped that regardless of their party affiliation, everyone would join together to make things happen in Northampton County.

Mr. Cusick stated he appreciated everyone’s vote and support. He further stated he wanted to welcome the new members of County Council and his advice to them was not to be afraid to ask questions.

Mr. McClure congratulated Mr. Cusick on his becoming President of County Council and looked forward to helping move the County forward. He further congratulated Mrs. Ferraro on her appointment as Vice President and based on her past experience, he felt she would do an excellent job.

Adjournment

Mr. Cusick asked if there was a motion to adjourn.
Mr. Kraft made a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Thierry seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

Frank E. Flisser
Clerk to Council