The organizational meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: Ronald R. Heckman, Vice President; John Cusick; Matthew H. Dietz; Margaret L. Ferraro (via telephone); Kevin Lott; William B. McGee; Lori Vargo Heffner; Robert F. Werner; Tara M. Zrinski; Linda M. Zembo, Clerk to Council and Christopher T. Spadoni, Solicitor to Council.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of the Minutes - December 13, 2018

Mr. Cusick made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of December 13, 2018 meeting shall be approved.

Mr. McGee seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Courtesy of the Floor

As no one signed up for Courtesy of the Floor, Mr. Heckman asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

There were no respondents.

County Executive Report

Mr. Lamont McClure, County Executive, stated Lehigh County extended an invitation to their Election Fair being held on January 10, 2019, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., where several different voting machines would be demonstrated.

Mr. McClure advised the generators at Gracedale were up and operational.
Mr. McClure stated Krieger had proposed to provide a credit of $2.6 million for the removal of seven bridges from the P3 Bridge Project. He further stated the General Purpose Authority indicated this amount was insufficient so negotiations would be held.

Mr. McClure advised the original contract left the Administration no legal rights unless it was breached. He further advised the third party engineers who reported to the General Purpose Authority did not have the requisite information to advise them at this time as to what the credit should be for those seven bridges.

Mr. McClure stated bonds were down 30-38 basis points so it would be cheaper for the County to borrow the money than originally anticipated. He further stated they were planning to go out to market this Wednesday and should close next Wednesday.

Mr. McClure advised the officers of the NAACP Easton Branch requested to be sworn in before County Council. He then swore in Mr. Lance Wheeler, President; Mr. David Rose, Secretary; Mr. Marvin Boyer, Political Action Chair; Ms. Kendra Durrah, Youth Council Director; Mr. John Moses Robinson, Director of Labor and Industry; Ms. Suzanne Fredericks, Treasurer; Ms. Teresa Wright-Johnson, Health and Wellness; Mr. Chuck Dickerson, Veterans Affairs Committee and Financial Director and Ms. Lillian Robinson, Press and Publicity.

In answer to Mr. Cusick’s question as to the County’s bond rating, Mr. McClure replied it was AA1.

In response to Ms. Zrinski’s request for information regarding the Meadows Bridge and the pipeline, Mr. McClure stated he would have to get back to her with that information.

Selection of County Council Officers:

President of County Council

Mr. Heckman asked if there were any nominations for the office of President of County Council.

Mr. McGee made a motion to nominate Mr. Heckman.

Ms. Vargo Heffner seconded the motion.
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As there were no other nominations, Mr. Heckman closed the nominations and called for the vote.

The vote: Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes" and Dietz, "yes".

Mr. Heckman was elected President by a vote of 9-0.

Vice-President of County Council

Mr. Heckman asked if there were any nominations for the office of Vice-President.

Mr. McGee made a motion to nominate Ms. Vargo Heffner.

Ms. Zrinski seconded the motion.

Mr. Cusick made a motion to nominate Mr. McGee.

Mr. McGee thanked Mr. Cusick for his nomination, but declined.

As there were no other nominations, Mr. Heckman closed the nominations and called for the vote.

The vote: Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes" and Ferraro, "yes".

Ms. Vargo Heffner was elected Vice-President by a vote of 9-0.

Selection of County Council Solicitor:

Consideration of the Position of Solicitor to the Northampton County Council

Mr. Heckman asked if there were any nominations for the position of Solicitor to the Northampton County Council.

Mr. Heckman made a motion to nominate Mr. Spadoni for the position of Solicitor to the Northampton County Council.

Mr. Lott seconded the motion.
As there were no other nominations, Mr. Heckman closed the nominations and called for the vote.


Mr. Spadoni was elected as Solicitor to the Northampton County Council by a vote of 9-0.

Introduction of Magisterial District Justice Temporary Lease Ordinance (Matos Gonzalez)

Ms. Vargo Heffner and Ms. Zrinski introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO TEMPORARILY LEASE OFFICE SPACE IDENTIFIED AS 301 BROADWAY, SUITE MEZ 101 AND ROOMS IN MEZ 100, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA FROM SYCAMORE HILL FARM DEVELOPMENT LP, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII, Section 13.14 Purchase, Sale and Lease of Real Estate Section b. Sealed Appraisals, provides, "The County shall not purchase, sell, or lease real estate without first obtaining sealed appraisals from two (2) professional real estate appraisers."; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII, Section 13.14 Purchase, Sale and Lease of Real Estate Section c. (1) Purchase/Sale/Lease of Real Estate, provides, "The County Executive, or his designee, may negotiate a contract for the purchase, sale or lease (with the County as lessor or lessee) of real estate. Any such purchase/sale/lease shall be approved by County Council, and no such contract shall bind the County nor shall any conveyance be lawful, until County Council approves of the terms of the purchase/sale/lease."; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County Home Rule Charter Article 602 (a)(6) provides that the Northampton County Council shall enact an ordinance for any act which "purchase, conveys, leases or authorizes the purchase, conveyance or lease of any real property of the County".
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by Northampton County Council that it does hereby authorize the County of Northampton, Easton, Pennsylvania, to enter into an interim or temporary lease, from Sycamore Hill Farm Development LP, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, office space identified as 301 Broadway, Suite MEZ 101 and rooms in MEZ 100, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for an initial rent of $3,000.00 per month. The terms and conditions of the lease shall be in accordance with the lease agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "A".

Effective Date - This ordinance shall become effective thirty days after the date of enactment.

Mr. Heckman advised the public hearing, debate and possible vote would be held at the January 24, 2019 meeting.

Consideration of a Resolution to Amend Resolution No. 149-2018

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 1-2019 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that resolution No. 149-2018 shall be amended as indicated hereafter (sections marked with strikeout have been deleted and sections marked with bold underline have been added):

Number 149-2018

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Agricultural Technician Agricultural Conservation Specialist, pay grade CS-22-01-A, salary $45,723, shall be created in the Department of Administration - Conservation District, effective January 1, 2019.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.

The vote: McGee, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes" and Lott, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.
Consideration of an Amendment to the Elected (EL) Pay Scale Attached to Resolution No. 164-2018 Resolution

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 2-2019 WHEREAS, Northampton County Council adopted resolution No. 164-2018 on December 6, 2018; and

WHEREAS, this resolution adopted the 2019 salaries of Career Service and Exempt employees, not within Collective Bargaining Units, whose job classifications are within the parameters of the Northampton County Career Service and Exempt Pay Scales, respectively as indicated on attached pay scales; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County Council was notified on December 28, 2018, that a change was made to the Elected (EL) pay scale, Grade 2 from Annual $182,168 Biweekly $7006.46, Hourly $87.5808 to Annual $182,184, Biweekly $7007.08 and Hourly $87.5885.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council adopts the attached Elected (EL) pay scale and a copy shall be attached to resolution 164-2018.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.


The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Committee Structure

Mr. Heckman requested members of County Council let him know if they wish to change their committee or liaison positions no later than close of business on January 15, 2019.
Adjournment

Ms. Vargo Heffner made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Zrinski seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

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Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council