

# ***DRAFT MINUTES***

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of North Plainfield, New Jersey held on Monday, 22 February 2016.*

*Every attempt has been made to make these as comprehensive and conclusive as possible. However, as it is a draft document, it is not to be construed as a formal depiction of the official conduct of business and is subject to revision up to and following the Governing Body's actual approval of same. If changes are necessary, revised minutes will be posted to the website.*

**MINUTES** of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **February 22, 2016** at 9:02 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

## **PRESENT:**

Council Members: Everett Merrill (absent – excused)  
Keiona R. Miller (absent – excused)  
Frank Righetti (absent – excused)  
Wendy Schaefer  
Douglas M. Singleterry  
Frank “Skip” Stabile  
Lawrence La Ronde, Council President

Also Present: Michael Giordano, Jr., Mayor  
David E. Hollod, Business Administrator  
Dominic DiYanni, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney  
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk

Council President La Ronde read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This is a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, scheduled by resolution of the Council adopted on December 14, 2015. Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.* by transmitting said notice to the *Courier News*, *The Star-Ledger*, *The Alternative Press* and *WKMB* Radio on December 15, 2015 by publication of the announcement in the *Courier News* of December 17, 2015 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

The Clerk had submitted copies of the minutes of the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting of February 8, 2016.

Council President La Ronde called for a Roll Call on the minutes:

Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting of February 8, 2016: All in favor.

Council President La Ronde recognized the following appointments:

**APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:**

Lee W. Gallman

Two-year unexpired term

**APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:**

**YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION:**

Samantha C. Smith

Three-year term

**HEARING:**

The Council President opened the floor to public comment on the following:

2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

Motion to close public comment by Mr. Stabile, seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on Roll Call carried all four voting aye.

Mr. Stabile presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-22-16-01** BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 16-07 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing March 14, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as the time and the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey as the place for hearing and final adoption.

Seconded by Mr. Singleterry and on Roll Call carried all four voting aye.

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 16-07** CALENDAR YEAR 2016 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Mr. Singleterry presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-22-16-02** MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD COUNTY OF SOMERSET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2016

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2016;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Budget be published in The Courier News in the issue of March 15, 2016.

The Governing Body of the Borough of North Plainfield does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the year 2016:

Notice is hereby being given that the Budget and Tax Resolution were approved by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, on February 22, 2016.

A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, on March 28, 2016 at 7:30 O'clock (p.m.) at which time and place objections to said budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2016 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Seconded by Mr. Stabile and on Roll Call carried all four voting aye.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Council President La Ronde stated that all matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by Council, that particular item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Ms. Schaefer presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-22-16-03** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

02-22-16-03a, b and c

having been placed on the Consent Agenda and there having been no objection thereto, the same are hereby approved.

Seconded by Mr. Singleterry and on Roll Call carried all four voting aye.

#### **APPROVED RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-22-16-03a** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that, pursuant to N.P.R.G.O. 4-1 et seq., it does hereby authorize the issuance of licenses for the owner/operation of limousines/taxicabs to the following for two years in accordance with the applications heretofore submitted:

Scot Prokocimer, t/a  
 Adolph's Limousine Service  
 53 Jennings Lane  
 North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-22-16-03b** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, SAMANTHA C. SMITH is hereby appointed to the YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2019 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-22-16-03c** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the attached bills of the accounts named and for the amounts stated, having been duly audited and found to be correct as of this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2016 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Somerset County Office of Public Information Somerville, NJ Richard K. Phoenix, RMC – Borough Clerk & Chief Operator, WPQJ970 – 1630-AM Radio Tri-County Chamber of Commerce South Plainfield, NJ NJ State League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ PSE&G Newark, NJ NJ Highlands Coalition Boonton, NJ Frank N. D’Amore Sr. North Plainfield, NJ Somerset-Union Soil Conservation District Bridgewater, NJ Verizon/FIOS San Angelo, TX Ken Wedeen, Somerset Co. Planning Board Somerville, NJ Betsy Ramos, Esq. Capehart/Scatchard, P.A. Mount Laurel, NJ Comcast Union, NJ Cindy Randazzo, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection, Trenton, NJ Sustainable Raritan River Initiative	Various Communications / Newsletters  Time-Sensitive Radio Scripts  Newsletters  Various Communications / Newsletters  Communications & Newsletters  Newsletters  Property Maintenance memos  Communication re: Approval, Building Addition, Metro Storage, LLC 2015 Franchise Fee  Raritan Valley Rail Coalition activities  NJ Public Interest Law Monthly  2015 Franchise Fee  Various communications & Newsletters  Newsletters
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New Brunswick, NJ	
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**REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:**

Ms. Schaefer requested discussion of the Property Maintenance Ordinance at the next meeting.

Mr. Stabile announced that Mr. George had proposed the formation of a subcommittee for further discussion of the noise ordinance.

Mr. Singleterry requested further discussion of the re-zoning ordinance at the next meeting

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Francine Gargano, 57 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, urged the council to review the paperwork she provided regarding the library. Stressing that the library was not meant to be used as a community center, she called for the re-purchase of those books which had been removed.

Michael Kovalchick, 1735 Warfield Road, Bridgewater, explained that as a history student, books are vital for research. Reminding that some people are not comfortable using on-line sources, he urged for all library branches to house print dictionaries and encyclopedias.

Frank D'Amore, Sr., 40 Willow Avenue, commented on his December report of a violation at 86 Park Place, explaining that he had been told the owner was cited for same. After further inquiry, he discovered that the owner of the property had received a notice of violation in January. The speaker shared his concerns with the amount of misinformation delivered to residents.

Carol Senff, 3 Edmund Drive, Warren, commented on the drastic changes to the Warren Library, most notably the addition of artwork in place of book shelves. The speaker continued that donated bookshelves with memorial plaques had been relegated to that library's basement. She expressed her dissatisfaction with Mr. Auger's priorities, emphasizing that print reference materials needed to be retained for the use of library patrons.

**COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Mayor Giordano thanked the representatives of the Somerset County Library and advised that Administration will meet with them. Addressing earlier comments made by Mr. Cobo, the Mayor confirmed that the Police Department contracts with at least three towing companies.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Stabile, seconded by Ms. Schaefer and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Borough Clerk

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Council President