

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Tuesday, 10 October 2017.*

*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 Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Tuesday, **October 10, 2017** at 7:33 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

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

Also Present: David E. Hollod, Business Administrator
Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., Borough Attorney
Patrick DeBlasio, Chief Financial Officer
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk
Stephanie Sherwood, RMC, CMR, Deputy Clerk

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. Merrill.

Council President La Ronde requested a moment of silence for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

The Council President read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This is an Agenda Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, scheduled by resolution of the Council adopted on November 28, 2016. 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 November 29, 2016, by publication of the announcement in the *Courier News* on December 1, 2016 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

Mr. Hollod read the following Mayoral Proclamation:

I, Michael Giordano, Jr., Mayor of the Borough of North Plainfield, New Jersey, do hereby proclaim that Halloween will be celebrated in the Borough of North Plainfield on Tuesday, October 31, 2017. Door-to-door Trick or Treating shall begin no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on this date and end no later than 8:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank D'Amore, Sr., 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield voiced his concerns with illegal parking and pedestrian safety around the schools during drop-off and pick-up times.

Donna Comby, 198 Willow Avenue Extension, North Plainfield, explained that she and several neighbors had met with Mayor Giordano regarding their concerns with the field usage at Green Brook Park. Over-usage has led to the deterioration of the field and illegal parking in the neighborhood is a major safety concern. She said that they had been made to feel like they must leave their homes on the weekends.

Bob Lippencott, 403 Tappan Avenue, North Plainfield, voiced his displeasure with the complete over-use of the soccer fields in Green Brook Park, stressing that the grass has been destroyed. Permits issued for field usage are in violation of the current 99-year lease, he remarked.

Alex Rodriguez, 57 West End Avenue, North Plainfield, concurred with the others and voiced his displeasure with those that illegally park blocking his driveway. Park attendees cut through his property and have even used his garden hose to wash off their soccer cleats, he exclaimed.

Jim Smiling, 73 West End Avenue, North Plainfield, shared his annoyance with the volume of illegally parked cars and called for stricter enforcement of same.

Florence Ward, 65 West End Avenue, North Plainfield, reported that park attendees allow their children to urinate on their lawns and they litter. The whistles and air horns can be heard from morning until dark. People are making food and selling it illegally. Illegal alcohol consumption encourages fights, she concluded.

Ray Hobson, 151 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, reported that he had requested that the town erect a fence in 1979, which was denied. Two hundred to five hundred people may be in the park for these soccer games and there just are not enough bathroom facilities to accommodate them adequately.

Susan Springer, 192 Willow Avenue Extension, North Plainfield, shared her displeasure with the park-related safety and health concerns, specifically litter, public urination, and illegal parking. She called for resident parking permits on the weekends which would alleviate the issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **2017 Best Practices Checklist** – D.E.H. Patrick DeBlasio, Chief Financial Officer, was present. Mr. Hollod explained that the Borough must complete an annual worksheet to ensure one hundred percent of its state aid is received. No official action is required other than certification from the Clerk that the topic was discussed, he advised.
2. **Superintendent of Schools Dr. James McLaughlin** – E.J.M. Mr. Merrill introduced Dr. James McLaughlin, Superintendent of Schools. Dr. McLaughlin then provided his power point presentation on Charter Schools.
3. **2017 Capital Road Improvements Program – Various Roads** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution authorizes the award of the bid for the 2017 Capital Road Improvement Program to CCM Contracting, Inc.
4. **2017-2018 On-Call Services – Emergency Repair** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution authorizes the award of the bid for the 2017-2018 on-call services for emergency repairs to Messercola Excavating Co., Inc.
5. **Application to NJ Dept. of Transportation re: Clinton Avenue Road Improvement Project** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod advised that this resolution authorizes the submission of a grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Clinton Avenue road improvement project.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS:

Mr. Merrill thanked Dr. McLaughlin for his presentation.

Mr. Singleterry thanked the Girl Scouts, the Lions Club and the Mayor's Special Events Committee for their efforts with the Mayor's Senior Picnic.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President