

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 13 November 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 Monday, **November 13, 2017** at 7:35 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

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

Also Present: David E. Hollod, Business Administrator
John Kaplan, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough 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."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank D'Amore, Sr., 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield recalled drawing attention to overgrown corner lots continuing to cause motoring hazards at various locations around town.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Borough Audit** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod introduced Borough C.F.O. Patrick DeBlasio who discussed the Borough audit, typifying it as “excellent,” consistently showing sound financial management. The auditors had come up with no recommendations, for which he praised Mr. Hollod and the Mayor for the purchasing and procurement process. The Borough is now \$90,000.00 ahead of last year’s surplus. He reminded that North Plainfield Borough can be considered a \$63-million corporation in business terms.

Councilman Merrill offered his congratulations, asking for the CFO to explain the surplus, and Mr. DeBlasio advised that this was the third highest surplus in the Borough’s history. Amongst other advantages, such a surplus can offset any tax increase. Council indicated its enthusiasm for the audit results.

2. **Continuation of the Government Energy Aggregation Program for Electricity** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod introduced Laurie Weigand Jackson who explained the process which had begun in 2014. She confirmed that municipalities throughout the state had been getting involved in the program. The contract expires in December 2017. Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) had provided 7,000 accounts. Of these, a little over 5,000 had enrolled. Residents opted in and out; at present, approximately 2,400 are enrolled with a possible \$160,000 savings for all enrolled as well as 5% renewable energy. PSE&G rates change over time, she explained. Most recently, there was an uptick due to weather. The relationship could continue with South Jersey Energy or it could go out to bid for the future. Customers could switch over to PSE&G from January through April 2018.

Mr. Singleterry asked about the effect of a lowering in rates by PSE&G in the month of June. Ms. Weigand-Jackson answered in the negative. There is a state-run auction, and the energy generation price could still be beat. Ms. Miller inquired about what could happen if the figure could not be beat and Ms. Weigand-Jackson explained that there would be an automatic switch back to PSE&G. Answering Mr. Merrill, she advised that it is minimally a 12-month contract with a smaller group of suppliers in the PSE&G territory. Ms. Schaefer asked about the Baker Generation Auction, which Ms. Weigand-Jackson described as taking place every June with all accounts being households. The lessening number of subscribers described above are partially the result of people moving and impacting the numbers.

3. **Shared Services Agreement for Resale of Commodities and other related services with Somerset County Dept. of Public Works** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution allows the County to sell to the Borough. A resolution is already in place running until 2012. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution corrects language in keeping with DCA regulations.

4. **Authorizing the Purchase of a 2017 or Newer Mack Tandem Roll-Off Truck** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that only one bid had come in, but that both Public Works and the Borough Attorney were satisfied.

5. Agreement with Grotto Engineering Associates for 2018 General Engineering Service
- D.E.H. This deals with monthly retainer services, reflecting a slight increase from last year's fees.

6. Agreement with Grotto Engineering Associates for the 2018 Department of Public Works Management and Zoning Officer – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod continued that this reflected a separate agreement with Grotto. Their engineer, David Testa is serving as the Borough's DPW Director and Zoning Officer. He is present in the Borough three days a week. The hourly rates were reduced. It provides for Mr. Testa's services and other Grotto employees as needed.

7. Affordable Housing Plan (Ordinance No. 17-21) – D.E.H. The Planner prepared the Plan as part of the Borough's Master Plan. The Planning Board will have a special meeting in a week to look at how this conforms to affordable housing. It must be referred to the Planning Board. John Kaplan, Esq. was instrumental in developing the plan.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS:

Mr. Merrill commented on results of balloting for Board of Education candidates in the recent general election, noting that Willie Vick had done particularly well. Further, he spoke on the reported enthusiasm of the various schools' PTO's and PTA's for the leadership and achievements of Schools Superintendent McLaughlin, saying that there would likely soon be a vote by the School Board regarding his contract renewal.

Ms. Miller wished a pleasant Thanksgiving to one and all, while Mr. Singleterry reminded of the upcoming free rabies clinic for dogs and cats at the firehouse on November 18th, adding that the Santa arrival and tree lighting would take place at the Community Center on November 26th.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President