

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Tuesday, 9 October 2018.

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 9, 2018** at 7:35 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo
Everett Merrill
Keiona R. Miller
Wendy Schaefer
Douglas M. Singleterry
Frank "Skip" Stabile
Lawrence La Ronde, Council President

Also Present: Michael Giordano, Jr., Mayor
David E. Hollod, Business Administrator
Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., Borough Attorney
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk

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

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. 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 July 16, 2018 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

Mayor Giordano read the following Mayoral Proclamation:

WHEREAS, Frank Righetti has been a lifelong resident of North Plainfield; and

WHEREAS, Frank Righetti was appointed to the North Plainfield Borough Council in 2000 and has served continually until his resignation in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Frank Righetti has been a member of the North Plainfield Planning Board since 1995; and

WHEREAS, Frank Righetti served on the Property Maintenance Committee from 1997 through 2000 and the Parking Authority from 2003 through 2009; and

WHEREAS, Frank Righetti has served on the Sewer Usage Board of Appeals since 2009; and

WHEREAS, Frank Righetti has served on the Greenbrook Flood Control Commission multiple years; and

WHEREAS, Frank Righetti has served on the Somerset County Solid Waste Advisory Board since 2011; and

WHEREAS, Frank Righetti has served on the Environmental Commission since 2010; and

WHEREAS, Frank Righetti served on the Local Assistance Board, the Krausch Field Turf Committee and was involved with the planning of the Municipal Building expansion and renovations; and

WHEREAS, Frank Righetti has always supported bringing new businesses into North Plainfield; and

WHEREAS, Frank Righetti has been passionate in his efforts to create a community that everyone can enjoy and be proud of; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I Michael Giordano, Jr., Mayor of The Borough of North Plainfield do hereby honor and express my gratitude to Frank Righetti for his many years of service and dedication to our proud community.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank D'Amore, 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, commenting on the Borough owned parking lot at 80-90 Somerset Street, questioned its justification when

the Borough stands to lose approximately \$190,000 in property taxes.

Paul Alirangues, 112 Delacy Avenue, North Plainfield, voiced his opposition to Ordinance No. 18-15. Reminding that the State had not yet enacted legislation to legalize marijuana, the speaker declared the ordinance premature and urged the Council to consider postponement. He then detailed some of the benefits of medical marijuana, advising that it is used to treat post-traumatic stress disorder, cancer, and other neurological diseases.

Donna Barden, 584 Parkview Avenue, North Plainfield, voiced her opposition to Ordinance No. 18-15. While people continue to lose their battles with alcohol and opioid addictions, the speaker assured that no one had overdosed on cannabis. She urged the Council to reconsider their stance.

Larry Mallon, 229 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, shared his support of Ordinance No. 18-15. He favored waiting to see the impact of the State legislation and then consider a lift on the ban, if appropriate.

Nathan Rudy, 184 Sandford Avenue, North Plainfield, voiced his opposition to Ordinance No. 18-15. Nine states have legalized recreational use of marijuana and twenty-five states have legalized use of medical marijuana. There is no good reason to take action when so many patients stand to benefit, he concluded.

Annette Ramos, 715 Denninger Road, North Plainfield, urged for more public input so that both sides may be heard.

David Gonzalo, 201 Maple Avenue, North Plainfield, spoke on Ordinance No. 18-15, stating it remains a gray topic. He favored implementing regulations similar to those on tobacco and alcohol.

Alexandria Helck, 138 Delacy Avenue, North Plainfield, urged for the postponement of Ordinance No. 18-15 as many would like to be better informed on the topic.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Authorizing Municipal Aid Grant Application to NJDOT for Improvements to Grandview Avenue – D.E.H.** Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution authorizes the submittal of a grant application and the execution of a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Grandview Avenue Road Improvement Project.

2. **Authorizing FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant Application for Radios – D.E.H.** Mr. Hollod reported that this resolution authorizes the North Plainfield Fire

Department to file a joint application with the Plainfield Fire Division to upgrade their emergency radios by applying for FY 2018 Assistance to Firefighter Grants.

3. **Authorizing an Agreement between the Borough and Friends of the Carpenter to Provide Housing Rehabilitation Services** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution authorizes an agreement with the Friends of the Carpenter to provide housing rehabilitation services which will assist with our COAH housing obligations.

4. **Authorize Final Payment and Closeout of Professional Services Contract with Barton Ross & Partners LLC for Washington Park Historic District Survey** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution authorizes the final payment and closeout of the professional services contract with Barton Ross & Partners for the Washington Park Historic District Intensive Level Survey. He announced that the project was entirely grant funded.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Bicycle Ordinance** – W.S. The Council President requested the ordinance be added to the next Council agenda.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS:

Mr. Merrill reported that the annual football game with South Plainfield held on Thanksgiving had been cancelled due to the NJSIA.

Ms. Corzo reported that the Planning Board recently met and discussed the new daycare center which will take over the old Rescue Squad building on Somerset Street.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President

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