

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Biennial Organizational Meeting of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 1 January 2019.

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 Biennial Organization Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Tuesday, **January 1, 2019** at 12:07 p.m. at the North Plainfield Borough Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Borough Attorney, Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., who then read the following Statement of Compliance:

"This is a Biennial Organization Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield scheduled by resolution of the Council adopted on November 19, 2018. 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* of December 26, 2018 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Ms. Corzo.

Moment of Silence for the Men and Women Serving in Our Armed Forces

Mr. Phoenix read the following:

"A statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers of Somerset County, New Jersey, relative to an election held in the County of Somerset on November 6, 2018 for the election of the following mentioned offices in the Borough of North Plainfield.

Four (4) Four-Year Borough Council Seats
The said Board does determine that

LAWRENCE LA RONDE

EVERETT MERRILL

WENDY SCHAEFER

DOUGLAS SINGLETERRY

were duly elected to the Borough Council

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true, full and correct statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers of Somerset County, New Jersey.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of November 2018.”

Mayor Michael Giordano Jr. administered the Oath of Office to Council Members-Elect:

LAWRENCE LA RONDE

EVERETT MERRILL

WENDY SCHAEFER

DOUGLAS SINGLETERRY

PRESENT:

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

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the “Rules of Order” annexed hereto and made a part hereof are adopted as the Rules of Order for this Council for the years 2019 – 2020.

Seconded by Mr. La Ronde and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

Mr. Bernstein called for nominations for President of the Council for the years 2019 and 2020.

Mr. Merrill nominated Frank “Skip” Stabile for President of the Council, seconded by Ms. Miller.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that FRANK “SKIP” STABILE be and is hereby elected PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL for the years 2019 – 2020.

Seconded by Ms. Miller with Roll Call as follows:

Ayes: Corzo, La Ronde, Merrill, Miller, Schaefer, Singleterry
Abstain: Stabile

Resolution carried 6-0-1.

Mr. Stabile assumed the Chair.

Mr. Singleterry nominated Everett Merrill for Vice President of the Council, seconded by Ms. Corzo.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that EVERETT MERRILL be and is hereby elected VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL for the years 2019 – 2020.

Seconded by Mr. Singleterry with Roll Call as follows:

Ayes: Corzo, La Ronde, Miller, Schaefer, Singleterry, Stabile
Abstain: Merrill

Resolution carried 6-0-1.

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:

Jack Fowler	Four-year term
Maria Paola Castro	Four-year term
Roger Graubard, Alternate 1	Two-year term
Edgar Marino, Alternate 2	Two-year term

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER TO THE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE:

Lawrence La Ronde One-year term

COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Frank "Skip" Stabile One-year term

COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Wendy Schaefer One-year term

COUNCIL MEMBER AS CLASS III MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Aimee Corzo One-year term

COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION:

Keiona R. Miller One-year term

COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Frank "Skip" Stabile One-year term

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL LIAISONS FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS:

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Everett Merrill

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE: Everett Merrill

RENT STABILIZATION BOARD: Wendy Schaefer

SHADE TREE ADVISORY BOARD: Lawrence La Ronde

APPOINTMENT BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER:

SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS:

Aimee Corzo One-year term

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

BOROUGH TREASURER:

Kathleen Intravartolo One-year term

MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR:

Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC	One-year term
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PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (P.A.C.O.):

David E. Hollod	One-year term
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MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON:

David E. Hollod	One-year term
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BOROUGH HOUSING OFFICER:

Mark Tighe	One-year term
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GARDEN STATE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND – One-year terms:

William Speck	Fund Commissioner
David E. Hollod	Alternate Commissioner

LICENSED SEWER OPERATOR:

Joseph Aidukas	One-year term
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RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Cynthia Danois	One-year term
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APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:**GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION:**

William F. Crosby III	One-year term
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LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Jane Thoner	Three-year term
Barbara Kreder	Three-year term

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE:

John Richardson	Three-year term
Albert Domizi	Three-year term
Samantha C. Smith	Three-year term

Joan Graham
Rev. Kevin Henry

Three-year term
Three-year term

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE – One-year terms:

Michael Giordano Jr.
Angelo Bufaino, P.E.
David E. Hollod
William F. Crosby III

Elected Official
Consultant Engineer
Planning Board Member
Utility Authority Representative

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

One-year terms:

Michael Ceccato
Chief William G. Parenti
Chief William F. Eaton
Chief William F. Eaton

Deputy Coordinator
Police Department
Fire Department
Emergency Medical Services

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL:

One-year terms:

David E. Hollod
Lawrence La Ronde
Milton Mathis
Joann Righetti
Himanshi Bhatt
Richard Phoenix
Angelo Costello
Dr. Harry L. Allen
Elizabeth B. Dente

Mayor's Representative
Council Member
North Plainfield Public Schools
Citizen-at-Large
Health
Media
Public Works
Hazardous Materials
Emergency Animal Shelter

PLAINFIELD AREA REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY:

William Crosby
Basil D'Armiento

Five-year term
Five-year term

RENT STABILIZATION BOARD:

Leonard Lange
Michael Dellipoali, Alternate

Three-year term
Two-year term

SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS:

Tom Fagan	One-year term
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YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION:

John Richardson	Three-year term
Albert Domizi	Three-year term
Samantha C. Smith	Three-year term
Joan Graham	Three-year term
Rev. Kevin Henry	Three-year term

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW BOARD – *One-year terms*

Michael Giordano Jr., Mayor	
David E. Hollod, Business Administrator (<i>requires confirming resolution</i>)	
Leonard W. Lange, Economic Development Committee	
Daniel Battista, Alternate	
Aimee Corzo, Alternate	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Janice Allen	Two-year term
Steve McIntyre	Two-year term
Bruce Heyman	Two-year term

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION:

Shawn Grabko	Three-year term
Aimee Corzo	Three-year term

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

Scott Lamperti	Four-year term
Steve McIntyre, Alternate	Two-year term

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Evan Dickerson	Three-year term
Thomas Allen	Three-year term
Elizabeth Brumbaugh	Three-year term

PLANNING BOARD:

David E. Hollod	One-year term
Patrick Ciarlariello	Four-year term

SHADE TREE ADVISORY BOARD:

Richard Benson Four-year term

SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Michael Giordano Jr. One-year term

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE MAYOR FOR APPOINTMENTS BY THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS:

SOMERSET COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Keiona R. Miller One-year term

SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Henry R. Stoner One-year term

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COUNCIL FOR APPOINTMENTS BY THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS:

SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Aimee Corzo One-year term

CONSENT AGENDA NO. 1

Council President Stabile 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.

Mr. Bernstein requested that item “g” be removed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-01-19-04a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z

having been placed on Consent Agenda No. 1 and there having been no objection thereto, the same are hereby approved as amended.

Seconded by Mr. La Ronde and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA NO. 1 RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04a BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that LAWRENCE LA RONDE be and hereby is appointed as Board of Health Member to the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring on January 1, 2020, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04b BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that FRANK "SKIP" STABILE be and hereby is appointed to the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04c BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that WENDY SCHAEFER be and hereby is appointed to the LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04d BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that AIMEE CORZO be and hereby is appointed as Class III member to the PLANNING BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04e BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that KEIONA R. MILLER be and hereby is appointed to the YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring on January 1, 2020, and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04f BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that FRANK "SKIP" STABILE be and hereby is appointed to the SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04h WHEREAS, the State Legislature has mandated that each municipality provide for a Municipal Prosecutor; and,

WHEREAS, Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC has experience in this area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC is hereby appointed Municipal Prosecutor for the Borough of North Plainfield for calendar year 2019. Said appointment is as an employee of the Borough in which he shall receive the allotted salary, but waives all other benefits available to an employee of the Borough.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04i BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, DAVID E. HOLLOD be and hereby is appointed as PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (P.A.C.O.) for the Borough of North Plainfield for the year 2019 in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04j BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, DAVID E. HOLLOD be and hereby is appointed as MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing on January 1, 2019 and expiring on January 1, 2020, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04k BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, MARK TIGHE be and hereby is appointed BOROUGH HOUSING OFFICER of this Borough for calendar year 2019.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04l BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that WILLIAM SPECK be named as Fund Commissioner and DAVID E. HOLLOD be named as Alternate Commissioner to the Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund for calendar year 2019.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04m RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD APPOINTING A LICENSED SEWER OPERATOR

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of a professional to act as the Borough's C-3 Sanitary Sewer Operator for the 2019 calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to retain the services of Joseph Aidukas of Mott MacDonald to act as the Borough's C-3 Sanitary Sewer Operator and believes that Joseph Aidukas is eminently qualified to perform such engineering services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that Joseph Aidukas of Mott MacDonald is hereby appointed as the Borough's C-3 Sanitary Sewer Operator for the 2019 calendar year.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04n BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that CYNTHIA DANOIS be and hereby is appointed as RECYCLING COORDINATOR for this Borough for calendar year 2019.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04o BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, DAVID E. HOLLOD be and hereby is appointed as a member of the Borough Administration to the ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW BOARD of this Borough to effectuate Architectural Design Standards pursuant to Chapter XXII, Subsection 22-138 of the Revised General Ordinances

of the Borough of North Plainfield to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04p BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that JACK FOWLER and MARIA PAOLA CASTRO are hereby appointed Members to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2023 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that ROGER GRAUBARD and EDGAR MARINO are hereby appointed Alternate Members to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04q 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, WILLIAM F. CROSBY III be and hereby is appointed to the GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION as the alternate representative of the Borough of North Plainfield to serve for the legal term commencing on January 1, 2019 and expiring on January 1, 2020, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04r BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice of consent of this Council, JANE THONER and BARBARA KREDER be and hereby are appointed to the LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2022 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04s 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 the Council, JOHN RICHARDSON, ESQ. be and hereby is appointed Municipal Court Representative to the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2022 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ALBERT DOMIZI, JOAN L. GRAHAM, and SAMANTHA C. SMITH be and hereby are appointed Members of the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2022 and until their successors are appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that REV. KEVIN HENRY be and hereby is appointed as Religious Community representative to the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2022 and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04t BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that, by nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, the following are hereby appointed to the Municipal Wastewater Management Plan Committee for terms expiring December 31, 2019:

Michael Giordano Jr. – Elected Official
Angelo Bufaino, P.E. – Consultant Engineer
David E. Hollod – Planning Board Member
William F. Crosby III – Utility Authority Representative; and

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that by nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, WILLIAM F. CROSBY III is hereby appointed Chair of the Municipal Wastewater Management Plan Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM F. CROSBY III be appointed to the Somerset County Wastewater Advisory Committee and David E. Hollod, as alternate, for terms expiring December 31, 2019.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04u 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, MICHAEL CECCATO be and hereby is appointed as Deputy Coordinator to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM G. PARENTI be and hereby is appointed as Police Department representative to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM F. EATON be and hereby is appointed as Fire Department representative to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAVID E. HOLLLOD be and hereby is appointed as the Mayor's representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LAWRENCE LA RONDE be and hereby is appointed as Council Member representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM F. EATON be and hereby is appointed as Emergency Medical Services representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MILTON MATHIS be and hereby is appointed as Public Schools representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that JOANN RIGHETTI be and hereby is appointed as Citizen-at-Large representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until her successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that HIMANSHI BHATT be and hereby is appointed as Health representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until her successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that RICHARD PHOENIX be and hereby is appointed as Media representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANGELO COSTELLO be and hereby is appointed as Public Works representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DR. HARRY L. ALLEN be and hereby is appointed as Hazardous Materials representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ELIZABETH B. DENTE be and hereby is appointed as Emergency Animal Shelter Manager representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until her successor is appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04v BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that WILLIAM F. CROSBY III be and hereby is appointed as Member to represent the Borough of North Plainfield at all meetings of the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority (PARSA) and to serve for the term commencing on February 1, 2019 and expiring on January 31, 2024 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that BASIL D'ARMIENTO be and hereby is appointed as Alternate No. 1 to represent the Borough of North Plainfield at all meetings of the PARSA in the absence of member William F. Crosby III and to serve for the term commencing on February 1, 2019 and expiring on January 31, 2024 and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04w 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, LEONARD LANGE, homeowner, be and hereby is appointed as Member to the RENT STABILIZATION BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2022 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED than upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, MICHAEL DELLIPOALI, homeowner, be and hereby is appointed as Alternate Member to the RENT STABILIZATION BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04x 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, TOM FAGAN be and hereby is appointed citizen member to the SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04y 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 the Council, JOHN RICHARDSON, ESQ. be and hereby is appointed Municipal Court Representative to the YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2022 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ALBERT DOMIZI, JOAN L. GRAHAM, and SAMANTHA C. SMITH be and hereby are appointed Members of the YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2022 and until their successors are appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that REV. KEVIN HENRY be and hereby is appointed as Religious Community representative to the YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2022 and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-04z BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that it does hereby recommend the appointment of AIMEE CORZO by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders to the SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE as representative of the Borough of North Plainfield for the year 2019.

CONSENT AGENDA NO. 2

Council President Stabile read the Consent Agenda Statement.

Mr. Bernstein requested that item “g” from Consent Agenda No. 1 be added as item “k” on Consent Agenda No. 2.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-05 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-01-19-05a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k

having been placed on Consent Agenda No. 2 and there having been no objection thereto, the same are hereby approved as amended.

Seconded by Mr. Merrill and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA NO. 2 RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-05a BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the *COURIER NEWS* be named the official newspaper of the Borough of North Plainfield for the publication of legal notices for calendar year 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meeting notices of the Borough of North Plainfield shall be transmitted to the *COURIER NEWS* and *THE STAR-LEDGER, THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS, WKMB Radio* and posted on the official bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and the North Plainfield Memorial Library for calendar year 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tap into North Plainfield be and hereby is designated as the electronic news source for which notices and other matters are to be provided under the Open Public Meetings Act.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-05b BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the following are hereby designated as depositories for Borough funds for calendar year 2019:

Unity Bank
Valley National Bank
United Roosevelt Savings Bank

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-05c BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the following are hereby authorized to sign checks for the Borough of North Plainfield for calendar year 2019:

Michael Giordano Jr. – Mayor

Patrick J. DeBlasio - Chief Financial Officer

Kathleen Intravartolo - Treasurer

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-05d BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to charge interest on delinquent tax, assessment, and sewer user accounts for calendar year 2019, as follows:

Eight percent (8%) on the first one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) which is delinquent for a period in excess of ten (10) calendar days, which said percentage shall be chargeable from the due date of the payment; and

Eighteen percent (18%) on any amount in excess of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) which is delinquent for a period in excess of ten (10) calendar days, which said percentage shall be chargeable from the due date of the payment; and

Six percent (6%) yearly penalty on any tax delinquency, as defined by N.J.S.A. 54:4-67, which exceeds ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), provided said delinquency has not been paid prior to the end of the calendar year.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-05e BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that Borough Tax Assessor BARBARA A. FLAHERTY is hereby authorized to file corrective appeals for errors in assessments or counterclaims to increase assessments, defend tax appeals filed by taxpayers, and agree to the terms of any stipulations of settlement of tax appeals as she deems necessary and in the best interest of the Borough for calendar year 2019.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-05f BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of North Plainfield is hereby authorized to establish change funds for calendar year 2019 for the following departments in the amounts designated:

Borough Clerk	\$100.00
Construction Office	50.00
Health Office	50.00
Municipal Court	300.00
Police	50.00
Public Works	50.00

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-05g WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17 allows for the cancellation of property tax overpayments or delinquent amounts of less than \$10.00.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to cancel all property tax overpayments and/or delinquencies in the amounts of less than \$10.00, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-05h PROVIDING FOR A TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2019 PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-19

WHEREAS, the Revised Statutes of New Jersey 40A:4-19 provides for the adoption of temporary appropriations for the period between the beginning of the Budget Year and the date of the

adoption of the Local Budget for the Year 2019 for the purposes and amounts required;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that the following temporary appropriations be made in the amounts and for the purposes herein set forth for the period between January 1st, 2019 and the adoption of the Local Budget for the Borough of North Plainfield, Somerset County and State of New Jersey for the Year of 2019:

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
20-100	Department of Administration	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 3,575.00
20-110	Borough Council		1,000.00
20-120	Borough Clerk	36,250.00	5,375.00
<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
20-130	Department of Finance	68,750.00	3,500.00
20-135	Annual Audit		10,000.00
20-145	Tax Collection		3,000.00
20-150	Division of Assessments	24,500.00	1,675.00
20-151	Tax Appeals		8,750.00
20-155	Department of Law		70,000.00
20-165	Engineering		12,500.00
20-175	Historical Commission	500.00	250.00
21-180	Planning Board	300.00	1,475.00
21-185	Board of Adjustment	250.00	1,625.00
22-195	Uniform Construction Code	44,000.00	2,250.00
23-210	Liability Insurance		400,000.00
23-220	Group Insurance		525,000.00
23-225	Unemployment Compensation		8,750.00
25-240	Police	1,412,500.00	25,000.00
25-241	Crossing Guards	42,750.00	0.00
25-252	Emergency Management	3,000.00	2,600.00
25-265	Fire Protection	924,500.00	15,625.00
25-266	Fire Hydrant		48,750.00
25-267	Uniform Fire Code	3,000.00	4,395.00
25-268	LOSAP		1,600.00
25-269	Emergency Medical Services		11,500.00
25-275	Borough Prosecutor	6,750.00	0.00
26-290	Street & Roads	260,000.00	113,000.00
26-310	Building & Grounds		24,000.00
26-315	Vehicle Maintenance		53,550.00
27-330	Health	47,750.00	33,750.00
27-340	Dog Regulation		13,750.00
28-370	Recreation	52,875.00	8,862.50
28-375	Maintenance of Parks		1,625.00
28-380	Shade Tree Advisory Board		2,500.00
30-415	Retirement Benefits		56,250.00

30-420	Celebration of Public Events	2,500.00
31-201	Contingent	2,500.00
31-430	Electricity	90,000.00
31-440	Telephone	19,000.00
31-445	Water	6,500.00
31-446	Natural Gas	15,000.00
31-460	Gasoline	43,750.00
31-461	Technology	30,000.00
31-462	Postage	10,000.00
31-471	Employees Retirement System	88,593.25
36-472	Social Security	106,250.00
36-474	Consolidated Police/Fire Retirement	0.00
36-475	Police/Fireman Retirement	549,476.25

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
41-899	Matching Funds for Grants		1,250.00
42-300	COAH Housing		2,500.00
42-305	Somerset County Recycling		48,750.00
42-405	Parking Meters	19,500.00	0.00
42-520	NJDEP Permit Fee		1,312.50
43-490	Municipal Court	79,000.00	5,650.00
43-495	Public Defender		1,000.00
62-405	Capital Equipment		16,950.00
	Totals	\$3,081,175.00	\$2,516,464.50

45-920	Payment of Bond Principle	\$	\$1,270,000.00
45-925	Note Principle		100,000.00
45-930	Interest on Bonds		324,827.23
45-935	Interest on Notes	0.00	213,429.00
	Totals	\$ 0.00	\$1,908,256.23

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>SEWER UTILITY FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
55-501	Sewer Operating	\$ 51,750.00	\$ 61,250.00
55-502	Plainfield Area Regional Sewer		500,000.00
55-541	Social Security		4,000.00
55-542	Unemployment Comp Insurance		250.00
	Totals Sewer Utility	\$ 51,750.00	\$ 565,500.00

55-520	Payment of Bond Principal		\$ 115,000.00
55-522	Interest on Bonds	0.00	28,665.27

55-523	Principal/Interest-Notes	_____	45,882.75
Totals		\$ _____	\$ 189,548.02

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-05i 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 1st day of January, 2019 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-05j RESOLUTION DECLARING JANUARY 2019 RADON ACTION AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, radon is a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that threatens the health of our citizens;

WHEREAS, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the United States and the number one cause among non-smokers;

WHEREAS, one in fifteen homes across the U.S. has an elevated radon level;

WHEREAS, any home in the Borough of North Plainfield may have an elevated level of radon, even if other homes in the same neighborhood do not;

WHEREAS, testing for radon is simple and inexpensive;

WHEREAS, elevated radon levels can be fixed;

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are supporting efforts to encourage Americans to test their homes for radon, mitigate elevated levels of radon, and build new homes with radon-resistant materials and features.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that January 2019 is hereby declared as

OFFICIAL RADON ACTION AWARENESS MONTH

in the Borough of North Plainfield, and all residents who have not yet tested their homes are called upon to conduct such tests and to reduce radon levels if they are found to be elevated, to protect their families from the serious health risks of radon.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-19-05k BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that, by nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, KATHLEEN INTRAVARTOLO be and hereby is appointed TREASURER of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 1, 2019 and expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

COMMUNICATIONS:

NJ State League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ	Newsletters & Advisories
Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ	Invoices and Reports
Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority, Middlesex, NJ	Agenda and Minutes
Frank N. D'Amore Sr. North Plainfield	Property Maintenance Reports
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Trenton, NJ	Weekly Updates
Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority Middlesex, NJ	Minutes and Agenda
Information Station Specialists Zeeland, Michigan	The Source Newsletter
Somerset County Recycling Somerville, NJ	Pickup Delays
Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control Trenton, NJ	Special Conditions Advisory
NPEA, Trenton, NJ	Personal ID Protection
FEMA, Washington, DC	NIMS Alert
NJ Cannabis Media, Monroe, NJ	Newsletter
NJ Local Technical Assistance Program New Brunswick, NJ	Newsletter
Office of Township Clerk, Bernards, NJ	Invitation to Re-Org. Meeting
Office of Township Clerk, Green Brook, NJ	Amended Zoning Ord. Hearing

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank D'Amore, 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, congratulated the re-elected Council members and wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE:

Mayor Giordano read his State of the Borough address as follows:

Happy New Year and welcome to North Plainfield's first Borough Council meeting of the year. I'd like to wish the Borough Council and everybody a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019.

I'm proud to say that redevelopment activity, investment, and progress in North Plainfield continued to be strong in 2018 and I believe this trend will continue through the New Year.

Highlights of this past year include the opening of many key businesses in the Route 22 Corridor, including Raymour & Flannigan, Metro Storage, Greenbrook Electronics, Quick Chek and Pizza Fire. Now under construction is the Wawa Convenience Store and Gas Station complex at Wilson Avenue. A Royal Farms Convenience Store and gasoline station is now in the planning stages.

These developments serve to strengthen the Route 22 Corridor and all of North Plainfield Borough as a place to do business, shop and dine. All of them bring jobs to our community and add to the convenience of living here.

New businesses were not limited to Route 22 however. We had numerous small businesses open this year including World Market, You The Best Barber Shop and Style, and Sugar Joy Bakery, among others. Growing Tree Child Care will be moving into the former Rescue Squad building, and The North Plainfield Fight Club has expanded. These small businesses have an outsized impact, giving North Plainfield a unique quality and help to sustain our business community.

Change however, sometimes causes loss and this year we bid farewell to Fabricland. This family owned business has been here since the early '60s and we wish Bruce Heyman and his family best wishes in their new location down the highway. However, Bruce remains a North Plainfield resident and will continue to be a key member of the newly energized North Plainfield Business Association.

Recreation – Dennis Passe, Director

The Department of Parks and Recreation continued to focus on the entire community in 2018. In addition to the annual Easter egg hunt, fishing derby and Halloween parade, the department increased its number of outdoor concerts and extended Community Day. This yearly event was capped off with the best fireworks display in the history of North Plainfield. We plan on even a larger display in 2019.

Holiday decorations at the Community Center were expanded on the outside and the inside was given a new look as well. A new handicapped accessible outdoor fitness center was opened at Vermeule Park for the wellness of our adult residents. The handicap ramp leading to the fitness center, and four new park benches will be installed soon.

New security cameras were installed at Green Acres Park as well as the recreation office on Greenbrook Road. Baseball and Softball equipment has been upgraded for the 2019 Spring season and our archery program will have a new look featuring 200 new arrows and 13 new targets and target stands.

Summer camp continued to thrive as we experienced our highest enrollment yet for our very affordable, full day program. The additional enrollment numbers enabled Recreation to employ additional local North Plainfield high school and college students.

As soon as the weather breaks, our residents will enjoy two new grills at Green Acres Park. In the interest of enhancing child safety, new swing set components including all new hardware,

chains with a plastic coating, and heavy-duty matting have been purchased and installed at both parks.

The department is currently working on expanding the 4th of July parade and another event focused on Somerset Street so stay tuned for more exciting news in 2019.

Fire/EMS Department – Chief William Eaton

2018 was an eventful year for the Fire/EMS Department with its highest ever call volume, responding to over 3,500 Fire and EMS incidents. We were not only busy with emergencies, but with fire prevention activities, safety initiatives and training programs. In addition to routine fire prevention school visits and hosting educational tours of the firehouse, we also partnered with the local schools in numerous career day events with students from 5th grade through high school. The Fire/EMS Department works closely with our Police Department, especially on similar public safety events such as the full week Police Cadet program.

Besides educating the public and our local youth, we continue to keep our Firefighters and EMT's current with the latest high-level quality training programs. This is accomplished utilizing our Captains as instructors and through County, State and National level organizations and training conferences, such as the FDIC program in Indiana. All members are required to maintain their various fire and EMT certifications, which equates to hundreds of training hours. Last year we collectively logged over 1,000 hours of training as a department. Often this is done jointly with our mutual aid fire departments and JFK Hospital, which provides medical oversight.

Our EMS program had another successful year serving our neighboring communities, such as the Township of Green Brook. The professional relationship that we continue to share has worked very well and remains beneficial to both towns. Another change in 2018 was our switch to a new EMS billing company. For 2018 we anticipate a final year-end revenue of approximately \$500,000.

A recent local initiative is the relationship we have established over the past year with our local St. Vincent DePaul food bank. The members of our fire department regularly assist with bulk food deliveries and organizing their storage facility.

As we quickly move into 2019, we expect to continue building upon our strong community relations to meet the goals we've established in the past year.

Police Department – Chief William Parenti

In 2018, our Police Department continued our popular youth programs, such as our Summer Teen Evening Program (STEP), and our fourth Youth Police Academy which is open to children in the 5th through 8th grades. These two programs are very successful and were featured on WPIX Channel 11 News during First Responders week.

We graduated 273 students in our DARE program and provided Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T) to all of our 7th grade students. In addition, our National Night Out keeps

growing each year. Although we had rain showers at the start of this year's event, the crowds then came out with an estimated 750 residents in attendance.

The Police Department continued participating in "Project Medicine Drop" and "Operation Take Back." The collection box is located in the lobby of police headquarters and accessible 24 hours a day. These programs make it convenient for residents to dispose of their unwanted or expired prescription medications and reduce the chance that they end up on the street or in children's hands.

The Good Morning program made over 500 calls checking in on the welfare of our residents. This program is designed for shut-ins and senior citizens who live alone and have no one to look in on them. A member of the police department calls subscribing residents each day and asks if all is OK. If there is no answer to the first call, a second call is made about 5 minutes later. If there is still no answer, a police officer is dispatched to the house to make sure all is well. This program is offered to our residents at no cost.

Our Traffic Safety Bureau again participated in the "Street Smart Program" in conjunction with Ridewise of Somerset County to help educate the public about pedestrian safety.

We are collaborating with Prosecutor Michael Robertson's office on the STOPit mobile reporting app. People using the app can have real time anonymous dialogue with county law enforcement, who then pass the information on to North Plainfield police or other agencies as appropriate. The STOPit app is available at itunes or Google Play Store with the access code SOMERSETNJ.

The Body Worn Camera program has been active for over two years and all signs show the program has been successful. Assaults on police have fallen, along with the use of force used by the police. We have also seen a steady decline in internal affairs complaints by citizens against the police.

Public Works – David Testa, Director

This past year we completed roadway/pedestrian safety improvements on Norwood Avenue as well as the milling and resurfacing of fifteen other streets in the Borough.

We also saw the construction of a new state of the art fueling facility at the Public Works Yard. After some final testing and permitting, this facility should be in operation in early 2019.

A new ADA compliant access ramp and railings were constructed at the entrance to the Memorial Library.

This year, we anticipate the completion of roadway/pedestrian safety improvements on Sandford and Clinton Avenues, both partially funded by NJDOT Local Aid Grants which are funded by the State Gasoline Tax.

Also planned for 2019 is the resurfacing of approximately fifteen streets in the Borough, as well as some minor drainage improvements.

We also anticipate the replacement of aging sanitary sewers on West End Avenue, Harmony Street, and North Drive at US Route 22. These projects are partially funded by Federal Community Development Block Grants.

Infrastructure Projects and Community Facilities

I'd like to thank the Borough Council for being supportive of funding the initiatives brought forth in our Capital Budgets, typically over \$2 million a year. I will be presenting additional projects for consideration in the spring as part of the annual budgetary process.

This year we are researching a State program, NJ Direct Install, which will partially fund energy efficiency upgrades at Borough Hall and the Vermeule Community Center. This program will help in three distinct ways – replace aging lighting and HVAC equipment, save energy costs, and reduce our carbon footprint.

We are also pursuing State grant money with the assistance of the Somerset County Library System to continue with the next phases of interior improvements to Memorial Library.

As I previously announced we will be taking steps, in partnership with the Somerset County Open Space Program and the Somerset County Improvement Authority, to acquire the tract of land on our northern border that previously housed the Villa Maria facility. Negotiations are continuing with the current property owner but I see many positive aspects of this acquisition.

1. The acquisition would follow through on a very strongly expressed public opinion that the land be acquired by the town and not be allowed to develop.
2. The acquisition would be funded in part by the use of County Open Space funds to which Borough taxpayers contribute over \$600,000 each year with limited direct return on this investment in North Plainfield.
3. There is virtually no other opportunity in our nearly fully developed community to acquire open space of this size for our residents.
4. There would be an immediate credit to the Borough of tax dollars owed on this property.
5. The property would be acquired in a cleaned-up state with all buildings taken down and a certification that no contamination exists on the property.
6. The acquisition of the property will remove an eyesore and hazard to the town.
7. The acquisition of property will allow North Plainfield to begin meeting a large portion of our affordable housing obligation on a small portion of the tract and protect the town from additional affordable housing obligations if the site were developed.
8. The acquisition of the property will give the Borough additional recreational use options immediately, and in the future.

Public Outreach

We continue to improve our website and will improve our Emergency Alert System in 2019. Our official Facebook page is updated almost daily and will include emergency notifications during bad weather and power outages. Our radio station remains in operation and is now accessible

through the website providing weather information, community event information, and emergency alerts.

All community events and meetings are listed on our borough calendar so all residents can be in the know, participate in programs, take advantage of services and seek out ways to be involved in improving our community.

2019 Annual Budget

We began the process of preparing the 2019 annual budget in November. The budget being proposed will maintain all essential services and be formally presented to the Council next month. As usual, the main upward pressures on the budget are costs that we cannot control. We will be actively monitoring factors which will impact our local budget. We will seek opportunities for additional aid and efficiencies in the delivery of our services.

One new Federal program that we are monitoring is the Opportunity Zone program. Our downtown area has been designated as such and, while the regulations are still being written, we are hopeful that it will mean additional investment, jobs and economic activity. We will do whatever we can as a Borough to help ensure maximum benefit accrues to this area.

I am proud to announce that once again we received our full complement of State Aid due to achieving the highest possible category once again in the State's annual Best Practices Survey. Similar evidence that we are a well-run town comes in the fact that we received only one minor audit recommendation in our Annual Audit.

Administration

The responsibility of the day-to-day operations of this Borough falls to our Business Administrator, Dave Hollod and our Administrative Assistant Katherine Miller. No two days are ever alike for them and no day is without its many challenges, whether it be helping one of our residents with a problem, coordinating with Federal, State and County officials, addressing personnel issues or overseeing our many services. So I'd like to give them credit for helping me, and all of us, do our best for our community.

I'd like to thank all of our volunteers who have served and continue to serve as members of our committees, commissions, and advisory boards. Congratulations are offered to all the newly appointed members who are needed for their fresh ideas and experience.

I also would like to congratulate Councilmembers Singleterry, La Ronde, Merrill, Schafer, and Corzo for their successful election this November and I look forward to working with all of you. I also look forward to working with the Board of Education, the Somerset County Freeholders, our state agencies, neighboring communities, community groups, and our many volunteers, to continue the progress we have made in North Plainfield. Every day we benefit from the value of strong partnerships with these groups.

If you have any questions, please contact me or any member of our Borough staff at any time. I always look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you for being with us today and best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019!

Wishing everyone a happy New Year, Mr. Merrill thanked those in attendance and encouraged residents to attend meetings. He offered a special thanks to Mr. La Ronde for his years as Council President.

Ms. Miller thanked those in attendance and offered her wishes to all for a blessed, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Congratulating Messrs. Merrill and Stabile, Mr. La Ronde thanked his fellow Council members for their support during his tenure as Council President.

Offering her congratulations to all of the re-elected officials and appointees, Ms. Schaefer expressed her wishes to all for a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Ms. Corzo wished everyone a happy New Year and thanked her colleagues for their support.

Mr. Singleterry wished everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Council President Stabile echoed his colleagues' sentiments.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. La Ronde, seconded by Ms. Miller and on voice vote carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President