

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 25 February 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 Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **February 25, 2019** at 7:33 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

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

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

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

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

Council President Stabile 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 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 20, 2018 by publication of the announcement in the *Courier News* of November 24, 2018 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

In the absence of Mayor Giordano, Mr. Hollod presented the following Mayoral Proclamation:

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK

WHEREAS, the National School Breakfast Program has served our nation since it was permanently established in 1975; and

WHEREAS, the School Breakfast Program is dedicated to the health and well-being of our children; and

WHEREAS, research shows that school aged children who experience hunger have higher levels of absenteeism, nurse's visits, and have more challenges than children receiving a well-balanced diet; and

WHEREAS, frequent studies have shown that meals provided at school significantly increase and enhance their ability to learn; and

WHEREAS, as parents, teachers, and school food personnel, we are endowed with the responsibility of providing the children of our communities with their basic resources needed to grow, learn, discover their own potential, and live happy fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS: Offering breakfast as part of the school day improves children's diets, builds healthy, lifelong eating habits and allows students to begin their days focused and ready to learn; and

WHEREAS: the campaign for this year's theme, "Start Your Engines With School Breakfast" is about fueling up for the day with a healthy school breakfast.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Michael Giordano Jr., Mayor of the Borough of North Plainfield, do hereby proclaim the week of March 4th through March 8th, 2019, as

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK

and encourage all our residents and schools to know the importance of starting the day with a healthy breakfast.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank D'Amore, 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, recalling his comments from the December 17, 2018 Council meeting, inquired as to how two houses had sold without rebuilding the garages as mandated in the construction permit. Mr. Hollod advised that the garages would be replaced.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion of the 2019 Budget** – D.E.H. (Patrick DeBlasio, C.F.O. to be present). Mr. DeBlasio explained that the Budget would be adopted within the State established timeframe. The municipal tax rate would increase to 1.325, amounting to approximately \$99 more per homeowner. The 2018 surplus was \$3,215,383, approximately \$1,150,000 of which would be used to offset even

higher tax increases. Although State aid is expected to remain stable, our salary, pension, insurance and debt services costs have all increased. The public hearing will be held March 25, 2019 contingent upon introduction tonight, he concluded.

2. **Garage Sale Ordinance** – L.L.R. Mr. La Ronde reported on the negative feedback he had received from residents concerning the most recent garage sale fee increase and the restrictions on posting signs. Ms. Schaefer suggested that residents be allowed to post signs on several properties with the owner’s permission, conditioned upon the removal of those signs within twenty-four (24) hours of the sale. Mr. Stabile proposed to revisit the ordinance with further discussion of same.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President