

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 23 September 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 Council's actual approval of same. If changes are necessary, revised minutes will be posted to the website.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **September 23, 2019** at 7:38 p.m. at the North Plainfield Borough Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

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

Also Present: Michael Giordano, Jr., Mayor
David 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 Gabrielle Righetti Fitzgerald.

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

The Council President then read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This is a Regular 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."

The Clerk had submitted copies of the minutes of the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting of September 9, 2019.

The Council President called for a Roll Call on the minutes: All in favor.

Council President Stabile announced the following appointments:

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:

Roger Graubard	Four-year unexpired term
Edgar Marino	Four-year unexpired term
Steve McIntyre, Alternate 1	Two-year unexpired term

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

RESOLUTION NO. 09-23-19-01 REMEMBERING COUNCILMAN FRANK RIGHETTI FOR HIS YEARS OF SELFLESS SERVICE TO THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS, FRANK RIGHETTI, served in a variety of capacities in the municipal government of the Borough of North Plainfield since 1995; and

WHEREAS, FRANK RIGHETTI was initially a member of the North Plainfield Planning Board beginning 1995. He was also a functional historian of the Borough of North Plainfield; and

WHEREAS, FRANK RIGHETTI also served on the Property Maintenance Committee where he also served a term as Chairman; and

WHEREAS, FRANK RIGHETTI was appointed by the Borough Council in September 2000 to fill the vacancy for the remainder of an unexpired term, and was subsequently re-elected to multiple terms on Council by the voters; and

WHEREAS, COUNCILMAN RIGHETTI, in his time on the Governing Body continued serving the Borough in multiple capacities – on the Sewer Usage Charge Board of Appeals; with multi-year terms on the Green Brook Flood Control Commission; on the Environmental Commission; the Somerset County Solid Waste Advisory Committee; on the Parking Authority; on the Krausche Field Turf Committee and on the body convened for the expansion/renovation of the North Plainfield Borough Hall and on the Local Assistance Board; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished years in service to the Borough of North Plainfield, FRANK remained a steadfast fount of information, significant Borough history and guiding source of intuitive good sense.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of North Plainfield does hereby honor the memory of our friend COUNCILMAN FRANK RIGHETTI for his selfless dedication to the Borough and its residents in countless capacities over the years of service to this, his “hometown.” On behalf of all the people of this community, this Governing Body does spread upon its permanent records the deepest of sympathies to his wife, JoAnne, their children and grandchildren for the gift of Frank and his many years of dedicated service to the Borough of North Plainfield. We loved Frank, but you loved him best!

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

HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 19-08 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, MOST NOTABLY CHAPTER XVI, ENTITLED “ELECTION DISTRICTS”

The Clerk read the Ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Motion to close public comment by Mr. La Ronde, seconded by Ms. Miller and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

Mr. La Ronde presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-23-19-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 19-08 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

CONSENT AGENDA

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.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 09-23-19-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

09-23-19-03 a, b, c, d, e

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

Seconded by Ms. Miller and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-23-19-03a BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that the Treasurer is authorized to cancel the following outstanding checks:

	<u>Ck#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
Unity # 770002392	19962	2018	\$ 1440.74	Current
	20276	2018	72.00	
	21466	2018	780.00	
	22287	2018	49.92	
	22542	2018	24.20	
	22767	2018	600.00	
	22788	2018	1979.68	
	22818	2018	50.00	
	22842	2018	169.99	
	22879	2018	50.63	
	23003	2018	6.00	
	23126	2018	3768.50	
	23484	2018	3768.50	
	23960	2018	102.38	
	24000	2018	70.00	
	24644	2018	263.07	
	24888	2018	96.10	
	25049	2018	3777.96	
	25066	2018	30.99	
	25144	2018	52.69	
	25157	2018	21.44	
	25604	2018	180.00	
	25654	2018	.50	
	25656	2018	625.89	
	25655	2018	<u>1179.31</u>	
			\$19,160.49	
Unity # 770002283	114793	2018	2045.36	Payroll

9/23/19

115013	2018	326.04
115109	2018	514.77
115163	2018	12.18
115291	2018	792.51
115327	2018	126.49
115377	2018	36.14
115540	2018	14.45
115500	2018	63.25
115912	2018	283.63
116470	2018	16.26
116471	2018	16.26
116607	2018	16.25
116676	2018	32.53
116677	2018	48.78
116738	2018	16.51
116801	2018	32.51
116861	2018	16.26
117261	2018	38.17
117262	2018	38.15
117706	2018	89.17
117721	2018	303.10
11738	2018	16.25
117739	2018	16.25
117788	2018	89.18
117829	2018	<u>333.34</u>

\$ 4,333.79

Unity # 770002848 5304 2018 \$ 2124.00 Agency

RESOLUTION NO. 09-23-19-03b BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to create duplicate tax sale certificate(s) as follows:

Block 199.04 Lot 16 686 Warfield Rd. # 09-00366 issued 10/01/09

RESOLUTION NO. 09-23-19-03c BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that ROGER GRAUBARD is hereby appointed Member to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the balance of an unexpired term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2023 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that EDGAR MARINO is hereby appointed Member to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the balance of an unexpired term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that STEVE MC INTYRE is hereby appointed Alternate Member to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the balance of an unexpired term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-23-19-03d RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL ACCEPTING CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE, BONDS AND ESCROW POSTED BY THE DEVELOPER OF BLOCK 203.01, LOT 1, NORTH PLAINFIELD UE, LLC, DOING BUSINESS AS PETCO

WHEREAS, the Municipal Land Use Law (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-53) permits the Borough of North Plainfield to accept certain improvements and to release performance guarantees, bonds and/or escrow posted by developers when said improvements have been certified as complete by the Borough Engineer; and,

WHEREAS, North Plainfield UE, LLC, the developer of Petco, with a main business address of 1200 U.S. Route 22 East, North Plainfield, New Jersey 07060, has deposited with the Borough of North Plainfield a performance guarantee, bonds and escrow, which were to guarantee the completion of certain improvements on the premises located at 1200 U.S. Route 22 East, North Plainfield, New Jersey 07060, also known as Block 203.01, Lot 1, as show on the Tax Map of the Borough of North Plainfield; and,

WHEREAS, David J. Testa, P.E., C.M.E., C.P.W.M. of Grotto Engineering Associates, LLC, representing the Borough, has advised the Borough's Business Administrator, by letter dated September 12, 2019, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk and made a part of this Resolution hereof, that the improvements have been completed and that the Borough Engineer recommends the acceptance of same and the release of the aforementioned performance guarantee, bonds and escrow; and,

WHEREAS, any remaining escrow fees shall not be released until such time that all outstanding professional invoices have been satisfied.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the improvements referred to above are hereby accepted as per the aforesaid correspondence of David J. Testa, P.E., C.M.E., C.P.W.M. and the full release of the performance guarantee, bonds and escrow for North Plainfield UE, LLC are hereby released, canceled and/or discharged.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-23-19-03e 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 23rd day of

September, 2019 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Somerset County Office of Public Information, Somerville, NJ	Various Communications, Advisories and News Releases
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC – Borough Clerk/Chief Operator, WPQJ970–1630-AM Radio	Calendar Updates and Advisories; Time-Sensitive Radio Scripts
NJ State League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ	Newsletters & Advisories
Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ	Invoice and Report
Somerset County Business Partnership Somerville, NJ	Newsletters
Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority, Middlesex, NJ	Agenda and Minutes
Dept. of Environmental Protection Trenton, NJ	Weekly Updates/Newsletters
Hodulik & Morrison, Highland Park, NJ	Report of Audit – 2018
Public Service Electric & Gas	Energy Insights
NJ Dept. of Labor Trenton, NJ	Grants, Growing Apprenticeships
NJDEP, Trenton, NJ	Public Access Rules

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank D’Amore, 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, called to attention a violation at 22 Mountain Avenue originally reported on May 20. The violation has yet to be corrected as trash containers are now kept at the head of the driveway.

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: None.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mayor Giordano commented on the violation at 22 Mountain Avenue which had been addressed by Property Maintenance. There seems to be an issue with a tenant and Code Enforcement Office will follow up, he assured. Commenting on Mr. Righetti, he noted that Frank was a gentleman who always did as asked and would be missed. He reported on the success of the Fall Clean Community Day which saw over two hundred volunteers. The first ever North Plainfield Fall Festival will be held Saturday, September 28. Please visit the Borough’s website for further details regarding all events.

Mr. Hollod thanked the Righetti family, recalling what a pleasure it was when Frank would visit Borough Hall. He announced that the preliminary draft of the Best Practices questionnaire is complete and may be added to the second meeting in October.

Mr. Merrill announced that the North Plainfield Education Association has invited the council members to a meet and greet at Arooga's scheduled for September 24 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Rich Norz and his wife were grateful for the success of the Farmers Market here in town, he reported, continuing that they were impressed with the welcoming attitude of their North Plainfield customers. He assured that the Norz family would be interested in participating in another series of Thursday markets next year.

Ms. Miller fondly recalled her time spent sitting beside Frank during meetings, noting that he would be sorely missed.

Ms. Corzo reported on the recent Planning Board discussion of a proposed subdivision of 177 Maple Avenue; the matter was tabled.

Ms. Schaefer fondly recalled the good times spent sitting beside Frank at meetings and thanked his family members for sharing him.

Mr. La Ronde reported on the success of the Fall Clean Community Day as the volunteers exhibited fabulous energy. He thanked Ms. Miller in the Mayor's office for her tireless efforts with the event. He asked that residents consider making donations to offset the shortages at the food bank. Commenting on Frank, the Councilman recalled missing the element of surprise as you never knew what would come out of his mouth. We enjoyed his humor and he will be sorely missed in the community, he concluded.

Mr. Singleterry also recalled having the privilege of sitting beside Frank during Council meetings and experiencing his humor and wit. He was elected to five Council terms and contributed so much to the Borough, he remarked.

Council President Stabile touched on the topic of 22 Mountain Avenue. Advising that he had personally walked by the property, he agreed with Mr. D'Amore about the misplaced trash cans, but took exception to the idea that certain residents had received "preferential treatment" by the code enforcement office. The Council President then reported on his attendance at the Grand Opening of Studio 15 Productions in Vitelli Village. The business owner wished to acknowledge the ease of working with the various Borough officials throughout the process. Mr. Stabile then spoke of learning a tremendous amount while seated next to Frank over the years. Frank always provided moments of levity and comedic relief, which will be dearly missed.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President