

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 17 November 2020.

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 Agenda Conference (virtual) of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Tuesday, **November 17, 2020** at 7:45 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)
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
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk
Stephanie Sherwood, RMC, CMR, Deputy Clerk

The Council President read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This virtual meeting is being held in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. Adequate notice of this meeting was provided by transmitting notice to the official newspapers of the Borough, The Courier News, WKMB Radio, WJLP-TV, the Alternative Press and also to the Star Ledger on October 9, 2020 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and the Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank D'Amore, 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, congratulated the officials on their Election successes. He inquired after 31-33 Myrtle Avenue and 60 Willow Avenue, specifically why there are no Municipal Code Compliance Certificates on file. Mr. Bernstein indicated that

he would provide guidance to the Code Enforcement Officer as to how to proceed regarding 31-33 Myrtle Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion of 2020 State Best Practices Questionnaire** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod reported that the Borough had scored twenty-three and a half out of a possible twenty-four and a half survey points which confirmed our ability to follow protocol. The questionnaire has been submitted in a timely fashion and we expect to receive our full state aid.
2. **Discussion of Proposed Ordinance Licensing Public and Quasi-Public Swimming Pools** – W.S. Ms. Schaefer indicated that the Somerset County Health Officer had requested this change which would apply to the swimming pools in the apartment complexes.
3. **Discussion of Proposed Ordinance Creating the Positions of Special Law Enforcement Officers** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod asked that Captain Alan McKay provide some background information on the topic. Captain McKay explained that the ordinance would allow for the creation of Special Law Enforcement Officers. The positions would be filled by police officers who have retired in good standing within three years. A psychological exam and full background check would be conducted. These sworn officers would carry weapons and have full arrest powers. They would be assigned to the schools to protect the students and staff.
4. **Discussion of Proposed Resolutions (2) to Establish Salaries for Exempt Employees** – M.G. Mayor Giordano explained that the two resolutions would provide approximately two percent increases which would be retro to January 1. Council President Stabile added that although these are difficult financial times, this shows our gratitude to these employees for their hard work throughout a most challenging year.
5. **Discussion of Proposed Award of Bid to Messercola Excavating, Inc. for the Grove Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution authorizes the execution of an agreement with Messercola Excavating, Inc. for the Grove Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project.
6. **Discussion of Proposal for the Extension of Mott MacDonald's Annual Contract to Provide Engineering Services for the Operation and Improvement of the Borough's Sanitary Sewer System** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution authorizes the execution of an extension of the General Engineering Services Agreement with Mott MacDonald for the period between January 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021.
7. **Discussion of Proposals Engaging Grotto Engineering Associates, LLC to Provide Various Engineering Services to the Borough** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that there are four separate resolutions for Grotto Engineering Associates, LLC. The resolutions will provide general engineering services for 2021, 2021 – 2022 emergency on-call repair contract bid documents, 2020 stormwater reporting, and 2021 DPW management and Zoning Officer.

8. **Discussion of Proposed Ordinance (1) and Resolutions (3) Related to Affordable Housing Compliance Obligations** – E.M.B. Mr. Bernstein explained the necessity of tonight’s proposed ordinance along with the three resolutions which would support the Borough’s Affordable Housing commitment.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS:

Mr. Merrill reported that schools had begun their hybrid schedules. The Parks and Recreation Committee plans to display the Hometown Heroes banners again in the spring. We are also in the planning stages of the Santa Comes to Town and Tree Lighting event.

Recognized by the Council President, Mr. Phoenix reminded of the stellar undefeated season compiled by the NPHS Football Canucks, including their recent win over South Plainfield.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President