

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 26 April 2021.*

*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 Regular (virtual) Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **April 26, 2021** at 7:33 p.m. via Zoom. The evening's previously announced Agenda Conference had been cancelled.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo
Suzette Given
Steven McIntyre
Everett Merrill
Keiona R. Miller
Wendy Schaefer
Frank "Skip" Stabile, Council President

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor
David Hollod, Business Administrator
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., Borough Attorney (8:15 p.m.)
Patrick DeBlasio, Chief Financial Officer
Kathleen Intravartolo, CTC, QPA, Treasurer
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk
Stephanie Sherwood, RMC, CMR, Deputy Clerk

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

A moment of silence was observed for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

Ms. Sherwood 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 December 28, 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."

The Clerk had submitted copies of the minutes of the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting of April 12, 2021.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 04-26-21-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 21-02 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing May 10, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as the time and the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey as the place for hearing and final adoption.

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

Ms. Sherwood read the ordinance by its title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-02 CALENDAR YEAR 2021 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

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

RESOLUTION NO. 04-26-21-02 MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD COUNTY OF SOMERSET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2021;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Budget be published in The Courier News in the issue of May 10, 2021;

The Governing Body of the Borough of North Plainfield does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the year 2021:

2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of
Somerset for the Calendar Year 2021

Revenue and Appropriation Summaries

Summary of Revenues	2021	Anticipated	2020
1. Surplus	2,000,000.00		1,500,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	4,411,883.48		3,884,821.02
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	315,000.00		740,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	21,790,639.79		21,187,789.2
b) Addition to Local District School Tax			
Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget	21,790,639.79		21,187,789.27
Total General Revenues	28,517,523.27		27,312,610.29
Summary of Appropriations	2021		Final 2020
	Budget		Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	13,451,900.00		13,084,900.00
Other Expenses	6,932,500.48		6,960,265.34
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	3,818,358.00		3,476,026.00
3. Capital Improvements	228,600.00		228,600.00
4. Debt Service	2,436,164.79		1,912,818.95
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	1,650,000.00		1,650,000.00
Total General Appropriations	28,517,523.27		27,312,610.29
Total Number of Employees	118		118
2021 Dedicated Sewer Utility Budget			
Summary of Revenues	2021	Anticipated	2020
1. Surplus	275,000.00		300,000.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues	2,358,804.47		2,342,595.94
3. Deficit (General Budget)	0		0
Total Revenues	2,633,804.47		2,642,595.94
Summary of Appropriations	2021		Final 2020
	Budget		Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	205,000.00		205,000.00
Other Expenses	2,273,402.23		2,118,000.0
2. Capital Improvements	0.00		0.00
3. Debt Service	155,402.24		319,595.9
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	0.00		0.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)	0		0
Total Appropriations	2,633,804.47		2,642,595.94
Total Number of Employees	4		4
Balance of Outstanding Debt at December 31, 2020			
*(Includes Debt Service Appropriation Listed Above)			
	General	Water Utility	Sewer Utility
	Other Utility		
Bond Interest - 2021	416,164.79	n/a	225,000.00
Bond Principal - 2021	2,020,000.00	n/a	85,804.47
*Outstanding Bond Principal Balance	19,572,000.00	n/a	5,108,000.00
			n/a

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was approved by the Governing Body of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset on April 26, 2021. A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at Borough Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, on May 24, 2021 at 7:30 o'clock P.M., at which time and place objections to said budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2021 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons. Copies of the budget are available in the office of Richard Phoenix, Borough Clerk, Office of the Borough Clerk, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey, (908) 769-2900, during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. each weekday.

.Notice is hereby being given that the Budget and Tax Resolution were approved by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, on April 26, 2021.

A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, on May 24, 2021 at 7:30 O'clock (p.m.) at which time and place objections to said budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2021 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Seconded by Ms. Corzo 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. 04-26-21-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

04-26-21-03 a, b, c, d, e, f

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

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

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 04-26-21-03a BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following:

Refund of Dumpster Permit:

Geoffrey Grow \$ 200.00
8 Cornell Drive
Clark, New Jersey 07066

Property at:

59 Rockview Avenue
North Plainfield. New Jersey 07060

RESOLUTION NO. 04-26-21-03b WHEREAS, both, the homeowner, and Corelogic paid \$2,300.26 on Block 2.03 Lot 7, 149 Barbara Drive, the homeowner has requested refund of that payment.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to make the following refunds:

Refund Real Estate Duplicate Tax Payment:

Abdul Rana \$ 2,300.26
149 Barbara Drive
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

RESOLUTION NO. 04-26-21-03c BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that it does hereby authorize the issuance of a license to drive a taxicab for two years, pursuant to N.P.R.G.O. 4-1 et seq., to the following in accordance with the applications heretofore submitted:

Pablo C. Montero-Montalvo
114 Lowden Avenue, Apt. 6
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

RESOLUTION NO. 04-26-21-03d BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that, pursuant to N.P.R.G.O. 4-1 et seq., it does hereby authorize the issuance of licenses for the owner/operation of taxicabs to the following for two years in accordance with the applications heretofore submitted:

Jhon A. Jacome-Lopez, t/a
Xpressito Taxi LLC
1100 US Highway 22
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

RESOLUTION NO. 04-26-21-03e AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE 2021 TEMPORARY BUDGET

WHEREAS, The Revised Statutes of New Jersey 40A:4-20 provide for the adoption of temporary appropriations in addition to temporary appropriations necessary for the period between the beginning of the current fiscal year and the date of the adoption of the Local Budget for the Year 2021;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that the following amendments to the temporary appropriations be made in the amounts and for the purposes herein set forth for the period between January 1st, 2021 and the adoption of the Local Budget

for the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset and State of New Jersey for the fiscal Year 2021:

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
20-100	Department of Administration	\$ 55,500.00	\$ 3,575.00
20-110	Borough Council		1,000.00
20-120	Borough Clerk	36,250.00	5,375.00
20-130	Department of Finance	73,750.00	3,500.00
20-135	Annual Audit		10,000.00
20-145	Tax Collection		3,250.00
20-150	Division of Assessments	25,000.00	1,550.00
20-151	Tax Appeals		8,750.00
20-155	Department of Law		72,500.00
20-165	Engineering		12,500.00
20-175	Historical Commission	750.00	250.00
21-180	Planning Board	300.00	1,250.00
21-185	Board of Adjustment	300.00	1,500.00
22-195	Uniform Construction Code	37,500.00	2,375.00
23-210	Liability Insurance		400,000.00
23-220	Group Insurance		525,000.00
23-225	Unemployment Compensation		5,000.00
25-240	Police	1,486,250.00	5,000.00
25-241	Crossing Guards	43,750.00	0.00
25-252	Emergency Management	3,500.00	2,750.00
25-265	Fire Protection	972,250.00	16,000.00
25-266	Fire Hydrant		49,502.50
25-267	Uniform Fire Code	3,000.00	5,003.58
25-268	LOSAP		1,250.00
25-269	Emergency Medical Services		10,500.00
25-275	Borough Prosecutor	6,750.00	0.00
26-290	Street & Roads	300,000.00	200,000.00
26-310	Building & Grounds		25,000.00
26-315	Vehicle Maintenance		57,750.00
27-330	Health	43,750.00	35,000.00
27-340	Dog Regulation		15,000.00
28-370	Recreation	54,875.00	8,362.50
28-375	Maintenance of Parks		1,625.00
28-380	Shade Tree Advisory Board		2,500.00
30-415	Retirement Benefits		75,000.00
30-420	Celebration of Public Events		3,750.00
31-201	Contingent		2,500.00
31-430	Electricity		100,000.00
31-440	Telephone		20,000.00
31-445	Water		6,750.00
31-446	Natural Gas		20,000.00
31-460	Gasoline		43,750.00

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
31-461	Technology		50,000.00
31-462	Postage		10,000.00
31-471	Employees Retirement System		363,889.25
36-472	Social Security		112,500.00
36-474	Consolidated Police/Fire Retirement		0.00
36-475	Police/Fireman Retirement		2,237,962.25
41-899	Matching Funds for Grants		1,250.00
42-300	COAH Housing		2,500.00
42-305	Somerset County Recycling		50,000.00
42-405	Parking Meters	21,000.00	0.00
42-520	NJDEP Permit Fee		1,312.50
43-490	Municipal Court	84,250.00	5,462.50
43-495	Public Defender		1,000.00
62-405	Capital Equipment		17,150.00
	Totals	\$3,248,725.00	\$4,617,395.08

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>SEWER UTILITY FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
55-501	Sewer Operating	\$ 51,250.00	\$ 25,000.00
55-502	Plainfield Area Regional Sewer		750,000.00
55-541	Social Security		4,250.00
55-542	Unemployment Comp Insurance		250.00
	Totals Sewer Utility	<u>\$ 51,250.00</u>	<u>\$ 779,500.00</u>

RESOLUTION NO. 04-26-21-03f 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 26th day of April, 2021 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 04-26-21-04 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that prior to the adjournment of this meeting it shall convene in executive session from which the public will be excluded for the purpose of discussion on:

Attorney/Client Privilege (Recreational Marijuana Ordinance)

Exclusion of the public for this purpose is specifically permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. The contents of this discussion will not be disclosed until such time as the disclosure of same will not adversely affect the public interest and upon resolution of the Council. Formal action may be taken following end of executive session.

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

Council President Stabile called for a recess at 7:48 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to come out of Executive Session by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Given and carried unanimously.

Council President Stabile reconvened the meeting at 9:35 p.m. with all seven council members present.

Mr. George explained that the evening's Executive Session dealt with details of the recent State legislation legalizing recreational marijuana. Mr. Bernstein indicated that no formal action would be taken.

COMMUNICATIONS:

NJ State League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ	Newsletters & Advisories
County of Somerset, Somerville, NJ	Newsletters & Communications
Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ	Report and Invoicing
Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority Middlesex, NJ	Minutes and Agenda
Frank N. D'Amore Sr., North Plainfield	Property Maintenance Report
NJ Transit, Newark, NJ	Federal Finance Assistance Request
Association of NJ Environmental Comms. Mendham, NJ	Virtual Earth Day Celebration
Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity Somerville	Newsletter
Somerset County Commissioners, Somerville	Newsletter

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor La Ronde announced that the County would hold a Covid-19 vaccination clinic at the firehouse on Thursday, April 29 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Reminding that Clean Community Day would be held May 1 from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., Mayor La Ronde thanked those that offered to help with the event. The Dennis Passe Field Dedication will be held May 2 at 12pm. The 50th Annual North Plainfield Fishing Derby held on April 24 enjoyed a good turnout. Advising that the Police Department is looking to hire more Crossing Guards, he asked that anyone interested please call Sergeant Kardos in the Traffic Division.

Recognizing April 29 as Poem in Your Pocket Day, Ms. Given encouraged her colleagues to select a favorite poem and share it with others throughout the day. Mr. Merrill suggested an update on the Covid-19 pandemic at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Miller seconded by Ms. Corzo and on voice vote carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President