

# ***DRAFT MINUTES***

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 24 January 2022. 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 (virtual) Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **January 24, 2022** at 7:32 p.m. via Zoom.

**PRESENT:**

Council Members: Aimee Corzo  
Suzette Given  
Steven McIntyre  
Everett Merrill, Council Vice President  
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  
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough 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.

Council President Stabile 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 January 21, 2022 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 Regular Meeting of January 10, 2022.

The Council President called for a roll call on the minutes: All in favor.

**APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Desmond Battiste

Two-year term

**APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:**

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

Peter Beckman

Unexpired four-year term

**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. Given presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-24-22-01** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-24-22-01a, b, c, d

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

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on roll call carried all seven voting aye.

**APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-24-22-01a** 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, PETER BECKMAN be and hereby is appointed to the HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the balance of an unexpired term expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-24-22-01b** RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A RECYCLING AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE PICKUP OF REYCLABLE MATERIALS

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield (“Borough”) is in need of a mode and manner by which it can collect its residential recyclable material; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield, by ordinance, has enacted a recycling plan for all recyclable materials as designated by the Somerset County Solid Waste Management Plan and amendments thereto; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Somerset Department of Public Works is authorized to provide recycling collection and disposal services; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is desirous of retaining the services of the County of Somerset for said recycling program; and,

WHEREAS, by letter dated January 12, 2022, Melissa D. Harvey, Manager of the Somerset County Solid Waste Management has submitted to the Borough of North Plainfield a recycling agreement for the period commencing January 1, 2022 through and including December 31, 2022 engaging the County of Somerset to be responsible for residential curbside pick-up for all recyclable materials from each residential household within the Borough; and,

WHEREAS, the award of this contract to the County, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.14, is an exception to the bidding requirements as set forth in the Local Public Contracts Law, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(2) and the Board of Public Utilities as to Somerset Waste Franchise for Somerset County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Borough Clerk, on behalf of the Borough, to sign and/or execute the Agreement received from the County of Somerset Department of Public Works, via letter dated January 12, 2022, for a period commencing January 1, 2022 through and including December 31, 2022. Said Agreement is incorporated herein by reference as if same was fully set forth, without the need for any further action of this Borough Council. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are further authorized to execute any and all additional documents necessary to effectuate the recycling collection and disposal by the County.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-24-22-01c RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD TO ACCEPT A SUBGRANT AWARD OF THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2021 OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE**

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield Office of Emergency Management has been awarded State Homeland Security Grant Program Sub-grant AFN #97.042, Subgrant Award #FY21-EMPG-EMAA-1814 from the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General. The subgrant, consisting of \$10,000.00 Federal Award is for the purpose of enhancing the Borough's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other catastrophic events and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield will use these funds to enhance its Emergency Management Program and that the funds will be used for Emergency Management purposes; and

WHEREAS, the award period is from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the subgrant award incorporates all conditions and representations contained or made in application and notice of award; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield Office Emergency Management, designated by the New Jersey State Police, Office of Emergency Management, has submitted an Application for Subgrant Award that has been required by the said New Jersey State Office of Emergency Management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey:

1. That the Council accepts the award of the FFY21 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG), Emergency Management Agency Assistance Subgrant (EMAA) in the amount of up to \$10,000.00 Federal Funds from the New Jersey State Police, Office of Emergency Management.
2. That the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Emergency Management are authorized to sign the appropriate subgrant award documents.
3. That copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the New Jersey State Police, Office of Emergency Management, the Borough Business Administrator, the Chief Financial Officer and the County Division of Emergency Management and Office of Treasury.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-24-22-01d** 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

NJ League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ	Various Newsletters and Communications
Somerset County Bd. of Commissioners Somerville	Various Newsletters and Communications
Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ	Invoice and Report
Alcoholic Beverage Control Trenton	Notice of Fine: L Penaloza LLC t/a The Bridge
Somerset Co. Dept. of Human Services Somerville	Grant Approval – Municipal Youth Services Commission
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Trenton	Weekly Updates
Jerry Midgett, Somerset Co. Election Bd.	Confirmation of Early Voting Sites

Somerville	
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**REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:**

Ms. Miller requested a ceremonial resolution at the first February Council Meeting to denote the celebration of Black History Month.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Frank D’Amore, Sr., 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, commented on responses he had received to a recent OPRA request referencing a private property with potential overcrowding.

Desmond Battiste, 145 Mali Drive, expressed his enthusiasm for serving on the Economic Development Committee.

**COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mayor La Ronde advised of the Covid-19 testing mega-site established by Somerset County at Bridgewater Commons in the former Lord & Taylor Department Store, adding that he hoped that everyone had signed up for the test kits being offered through the U.S. Postal Service. He extended a warm welcome to Mr. Battiste who had been appointed to Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Merrill advised that Recreation is launching its own new website. Repairs are in progress to the children’s playground at Vermeule, and a junior recreation committee is under development.

Ms. Given remarked on how pleased she was to see the full Council in attendance at tonight’s Zoom meeting, while Mr. McIntyre extended warm welcomes to Messrs. Beckman and Battiste. The Councilman articulated how Covid-19 is a real thing impacting everyone, and extended his thanks for Zoom meetings which allow the governing body to continue its timely work.

The Council President rejoined that Zoom is, indeed, a good thing for these times, and what a great asset it would be to continue meetings even during severely inclement weather.

Ms. Miller reminded all to continue observing mask protocol to stay safe, and joined in wishing good health to one and all.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Borough Clerk

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Council President