

# ***DRAFT MINUTES***

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 28 February 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 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, **February 28, 2022** at 7:56 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  
Patrick DeBlasio, Chief Financial Officer  
Kathleen Intravartolo, Treasurer, CTC, QPA  
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk  
Stephanie Sherwood, RMC, CMR, Deputy Clerk

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 December 15, 2021 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 February 14, 2022.

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

**HEARING:**

Council President Stabile opened the floor to public comment on the following:

2022 Community Development Block Grant Project

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Corzo and on roll call carried unanimously.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-28-22-01** BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 22-01 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing March 14, 2022 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 or Zoom as the place for hearing and final adoption.

Seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried unanimously.

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title:

**ORDINANCE NO. 22-01** CALENDAR YEAR 2022 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-28-22-02** MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD COUNTY OF SOMERSET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2022;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Budget be published in The Courier News in the issue of March 14, 2022;

The Governing Body of the Borough of North Plainfield does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the year 2022:

\$29,109,833.89

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 February 28, 2022.

02/28/22

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 March 28 at 7:30 O'clock (p.m.) at which time and place objections to said budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2022 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Seconded by Ms. Corzo and on roll call carried unanimously.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-28-22-03** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

02-28-22-03a, 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. McIntyre and on roll call carried unanimously.

**APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-28-22-03a SELF-EXAMINATION OF BUDGET RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the Borough of North Plainfield has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2022 budget year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Borough of North Plainfield that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & 7.6b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
  - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
  - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
  - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
  - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
  - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
  - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes.
  
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law).
  
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
  
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
  - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated,
  - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
  - c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
  
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
  
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-28-22-03b** RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of a mode and manner to provide ambulatory and accessible transportation services to North Plainfield residents; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Somerset, Division of Transportation is authorized to provide ambulatory and accessible transportation services for the purposes of grocery shopping, chore services and recreation; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield and the County of Somerset, Division of Transportation desire to enter into an Agreement to provide ambulatory and accessible transportation services to North Plainfield residents; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Somerset, Division of Transportation will provide these services via an accessible bus, provided by the Division of Transportation. The Division of Transportation will also provide the driver, necessary driver training, vehicle maintenance, liability insurance, workers compensation, fuel and other necessary items to provide the transportation services; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield agrees to pay a cost for each day of provided service at the rate of One Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars and Fifty-Three Cents (\$178.53) per day; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Somerset, Division of Transportation shall provide a detailed report to the Borough of North Plainfield no later than the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of each month. The report shall include the number of users, the number of service days, the number of trips and a description of the nature of the trips taken by North Plainfield residents. With the report, the County of Somerset, Division of Transportation shall provide a voucher and invoice for the services provided. Monthly payments shall be submitted by the Borough to the County by the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) calendar day of the following month; and,

WHEREAS, the terms of the Agreement shall run from March 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield shall comply with the notice and cancellation requirements to the residents as set forth in the Agreement, which is attached hereto; and,

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 attached Agreement with the Somerset County Division of Transportation, for a period beginning March 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, for ambulatory and accessible transportation services, without the need for any further action of this Borough Council.

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-28-22-03c RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF UNION FOR THE USE OF GREEN BROOK PARK FOR ITS ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS DISPLAY IN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022**

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield desires to have a fireworks display in honor of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Green Brook Park (hereinafter referred to as the “Fireworks”) to be held on Saturday, July 9, 2022, with a proposed rain date of Sunday, July 10, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Union, a body politic of the State of New Jersey, with offices at the Union County Administration Building, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, New Jersey is the current lessee of Green Brook Park; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Union requires that the Borough of North Plainfield have a license agreement to use a portion of Green Brook Park for its Fireworks, a copy of said license agreement being maintained in the Office of the Borough Clerk and the contents of which are incorporated herein; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is desirous of using Green Brook Park for its Fireworks and entering into said license agreement with the County of Union for calendar year 2022.

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 does hereby authorize the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute a license agreement with the County of Union, without the need for any further action of this Borough Council, for the purposes cited above for calendar year 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Resolution is made pursuant to and consistent with the Local Public Contracts Laws of the State of New Jersey.

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-28-22-03d** WHEREAS, the following applicant has filed application for a coin-operated amusement devices license for calendar year 2022 and has submitted the required fee; and

WHEREAS, review of the application with accompanying sketch and investigations of the site by appropriate Borough officials disclosed that the granting of this application would be in order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a coin-operated amusement devices license be granted to the following applicant for calendar year 2021 in accordance with the filed application, subject to all conditions and requirements set forth in N.P.R.G.O. 4-2:

Mi Mundo Latino, LLC  
375 Somerset Street  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-28-22-03e** 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 limousines to the following for one year in accordance with the applications heretofore submitted:

Tanveer Akhtar

106 Jennings Lane  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-28-22-03f** 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

Ms. Given introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-28-22-04** 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 (Pending Litigation Involving  
the North Plainfield Police Department)

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 unanimously. Executive Session convened at 8:06 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Council President Stabile reconvened the meeting at 9:00 p.m. with all seven council members present. Mr. George advised that the executive session included the review of several pending litigation matters involving the police department. No action would be taken.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

NJ League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ	Various Newsletters and Communications, Cannabis Power Point
Somerset County Bd. of Commissioners Somerville	Various Newsletters and Communications
Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ	Invoice and Reports
Brian Liszka, Granicus.com	OPRA Software Quote
NJ Highlands Coalition, Boonton	Launch Party
NJ American Water Co., Voorhees Twp.	Newsdrop

NJ State Treasurer, Trenton  
 US Army Corps of Engineers  
 Baltimore, MD  
 Scarlet Doyle, PP, Planner  
 Bridgewater Township

Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax Distribution  
 Survey Work: Green Brook Flood Control  
 Project  
 Master Plan Re-Examination Report

### **REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:**

Ms. Miller requested a report or presentation from the police department regarding local community policing activities.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Frank D'Amore, 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, asked the Council to use their investigative authority to find out if the property at 31-33 Myrtle Avenue is being used as a boarding house.

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

Mayor La Ronde announced that the nineteenth annual St. Baldrick's Day Event would be held on Saturday, March 19 at the North Plainfield Fire House. He reported that in order to reduce the potential risks from lead in drinking water, New Jersey enacted a law in July 2021 that requires drinking water systems to inventory service lines, notify residents of the potential presence of lead in their service lines, and plan for the replacement of all lead service lines within 10 years.

Mr. Hollod reported that the owner of 158 Greenbrook Road had been cited and fined for no rental certificate of occupancy and the tenants would move out.

Ms. Miller requested that the Borough distribute radon kits again if they are still available.

Ms. Corzo thanked Messrs. Hollod, La Ronde, and DeBlasio for their thorough and prompt responses and answers to all of her questions about the Budget.

Ms. Schaefer noted that Rich's Tree Service had removed fallen tree branches and limbs from the brook by West End Avenue.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

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Borough Clerk



Council President