

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 14 March 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, **March 14, 2022** at 7:53 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
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 28, 2022.

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

HEARING:

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)

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

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. 03-14-22-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 22-01 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 03-14-22-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 22-02 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing March 28, 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 as the place for hearing and final adoption.

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

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title:

ORDINANCE NO. 22-02 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT ORDINANCE NO. 17-20, GOVERNING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

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.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 03-14-22-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

03-14-22-03 a, b, c

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

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

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-14-22-03a RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET FOR A CERTIFIED RECYCLING PROFESSIONAL TO SIGN ANNUAL RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield has duly enacted a recycling plan for all recyclable materials as designated by the Somerset County Solid Waste Management Plan and amendments thereto codified in the Borough Code under section 14-7, "Recycling Program" and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Recycling Enhancement Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1E-96.2 et seq., the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of a Certified Recycling Professional to approve and sign a mandatory Annual Recycling Tonnage Report to be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Somerset, a body politic having its offices located at 20 Grove Street, P.O. Box 3000, Somerville, New Jersey 08876 (hereinafter referred to as the "County"), has a Certified Recycling Professional on staff; and,

WHEREAS, while it is understood that the responsibility for the accuracy of all tonnage and materials reported lies with the Borough of North Plainfield, the Borough is desirous of retaining the services of the County's Certified Recycling Professional for the signing of said Annual Recycling Tonnage Report to be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection at a rate of Forty Three Dollars and Fifty-one Cents (\$43.51) per hour as needed, not to exceed an annual amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

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 Borough Clerk to enter into said contract with the County of Somerset, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, for the services of the County's Certified Recycling Professional to sign the Borough's Annual Recycling Tonnage Reports at a rate of Forty Three Dollars and Fifty-one Cents (\$43.51) per hour as needed, not to exceed an annual amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents on behalf of the Borough to effectuate this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the execution of this Contract shall be subject to the Certification of the Borough’s Chief Financial Officer as to the availability of funds for payment for same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award of this contract to Somerset 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 of the State of New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(2).

RESOLUTION NO. 03-14-22-03b RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH SALARIES AND WAGES FOR THE YEAR 2022 FOR EMPLOYEES NOT COVERED BY THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, certain employees of the Borough of North Plainfield are not covered by the terms and conditions of a collective bargaining agreement and thus need to have their compensation established 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 following titles will receive the following compensation for calendar year 2022 as follows:

| <u>TITLE</u> | <u>2022</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Administrative Assistant | \$ 55,203 |
| Business Administrator/Assistant Borough Engineer | \$165,846 |
| Chief Financial Officer | \$ 48,091 |
| Construction Official | \$ 24,553 |
| Court Administrator | \$ 93,111 |
| Director of Public Works | N/A |
| Municipal Prosecutor | \$ 31,212 |
| Office of Emergency Management Coordinator | \$ 10,612 |
| Recreation Director | \$ 65,000 |
| Recreation Co-Director | \$ 60,000 |
| Assistant Recreation Director | \$ 14,566 |
| Deputy Registrar | \$ 1,205 |
| Tax Assessor | \$ 78,336 |
| Tax Collector | \$ 17,888 |
| Treasurer/QPA/Deputy CFO | \$ 16,072 |
| Code Enforcement Officer | \$ 57,933 |
| Municipal Court Judge | N/A |
| Zoning Officer | N/A |

RESOLUTION NO. 03-14-22-03c 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 14th day of March, 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, Cannabis Power Point |
| Somerset County Bd. of Commissioners Somerville | Various Newsletters and Communications |
| Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ | Invoice and Reports |
| Somerset County Bar Association Somerville | Land Use Law Symposium |
| NJ Highlands Coalition, Boonton, NJ Somerset County Governing Officials Somerville | Allamuchy State Park Hike March Dinner Meeting |
| NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Trenton | Newsletters, Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program |
| Maria Chavkin, North Plainfield Bd. Of Education | Special Bd. Of Education Meeting |
| Capehart Scatchard, Esqs. Mount Laurel | NJ Public Entity Law Monthly |

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Merrill requested a presentation from the new Recreation Directors. Mayor La Ronde indicated that they would be at the next meeting.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor La Ronde announced that the moratorium on utility shut-offs would end the following day. Approximately one thousand Borough residents would be in danger of having their power shut-off on March 16. PSE&G has several programs available for residents who have had a hard time paying their bills. Somerset County Emergency Rental Assistance Program still has funds available for those struggling to pay their rent due to the pandemic. The New Jersey Homeowners Relief Fund is available to assist homeowners with mortgage payments. Anyone in need of assistance may see an ERAP professional at the library; information is on the main page of our website and on Facebook. The annual St. Baldrick's Day event will be held March 19 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Firehouse. The Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership will hold the Green Brook Cleanup on March 19 from 10 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.; registration details are on the website and Facebook.

Ms. Miller reiterated her request for a report or presentation from the police department regarding local community policing activities. Announcing that March is Women's History Month, she expressed her pride in serving on the majority female Council.

Ms. Miller made a motion to open the floor to public comment. Seconded by Ms. Corzo and on voice vote carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Cynthia Dawkins, 477 Mountainview Drive, North Plainfield, explained that she had intended to join the meeting earlier, but discovered a raccoon in her attic. Ms. Schaefer provided contact information for the Plainfield Area Humane Society as they would be able to assist with trapping the animal.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President