

# ***DRAFT MINUTES***

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 27 June 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 Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **June 27, 2022** at 7:31 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

**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  
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney  
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk

Council President Stabile read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This 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."

Mayor La Ronde led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

*Moment of Silence for the Men and Women Serving in Our Armed Forces*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one appeared

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **BOND ORDINANCES – (D.E.H.)** In the absence of the Business Administrator, the Council President explained that the Bond Ordinances as appear on tonight’s Regular Meeting agenda were explained in full at the June 13, 2022 meeting. There were no further questions on the topic

2. **ABC LICENSE RENEWALS – (F.S.S.)** Mr. George commented that he was in receipt of an e-mail from Deputy Fire Chief Beattie that all licensees’ prior cited fire violations had been abated. Mr. Phoenix had advised that all eleven (11) licensees had been current with their Tax Clearance Certificates earlier on in the process this year, and Mr. George could see no reason to not move forward with approvals. The Council President asked Mr. Phoenix about the process involved regarding providing current licenses to the various Plenary Retail Consumption and Distribution Licensees. Mr. Phoenix explained State policy that the current license of every licensed premise be displayed and current as of midnight on June 30<sup>th</sup> when one fiscal year ends and the new fiscal year comes in. Especially during Covid lockdown, licensees had expressed their appreciation for the in-person delivery by the Clerk, as many had staff shortages during the pandemic but had remained open within limits of the Governor’s Executive Orders. The Council President replied that he preferred that licensees be told to pick up their licenses in person at the Clerk’s Office.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS:**

Mr. Merrill reported favorably on the live telecast of the high school graduation, adding that 2:30 p.m. was a much better hour for commencement as the later time (6:00 p.m.) suffered from excessive heat which was not present earlier in the day. The Mayor commented that the earlier hour had created much needed flexibility, while Ms. Given commented that Project Graduation had ceased to serve its original purpose. She assured that the Senior Picnic instead of “(Senior) Smash” deserved support for its positive aspects, since Smash encouraged participants to be out after dark. The Mayor opined that this generation was treating socialization differently. Ms. Given interjected that these seniors preferred transportation by Lyft or Uber to reach home at the event’s conclusion. She assured that the Covid pandemic had surely left its social mark on the students, and that one hundred-fifty (150) more had attended the picnic than participated in Smash.

Mr. Merrill lauded a recent Somerset County-sponsored Active Shooter exercise in Hillsborough. North Plainfield was invited, he added, and it only ran fifteen minutes from start to finish.

In closing, Ms. Given indicated her enthusiasm for the recent Juneteenth event, adding that it showed great promise as an annual event.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Borough Clerk

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Council President