

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 12 September 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, **September 12, 2022** at 8:11 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
David E. Hollod, P.E., Business Administrator
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Brian Hak, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk
Michele Garry, CMR, Deputy 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."

PUBLIC COMMENT

Angel Edmonson, 154 Walnut Street, reported on a lot of accidents on Jefferson and Walnut. One happened this weekend in front of her house and she asked for more police presence.

The Mayor said he will notify the Police Department about getting more presence on Jefferson Avenue. The resident also indicated that school kids were parking close to the corner and possibly causing risks of accidents.

The Mayor will talk to DPW about having the corner curb re-striped.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

Mayor La Ronde read the following Proclamation:

National Hispanic Heritage Month

WHEREAS, the observation of Hispanic Heritage Month began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson; and

WHEREAS, North Plainfield is home to a flourishing Hispanic population; and

WHEREAS, our community recognizes that the contributions of a thriving immigrant community makes for a strong and vibrant North Plainfield; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to recognize these contributions of Hispanic Americans and to celebrate Hispanic heritage, history and culture; and

WHEREAS, this observance celebrates the multicultural tapestry that is North Plainfield and the traditions of our residents whose ancestry can be traced to Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean islands; and

WHEREAS, North Plainfield, takes great pride in our diversity with the Hispanic community playing an important role in that diversity; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans contribute to the fields of business, law, politics, education, agriculture, community service, the arts, sciences, and more; enriching the extraordinary character of our proud community; and

WHEREAS, North Plainfield is fortunate to count among its population a large number of residents of Spanish and Latin American descent, who grow businesses, create jobs, strengthen our economy and contribute to our daily lives; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month theme for 2022 "Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation."

WHEREAS, we appreciate and honor the countless achievements of Hispanic

Americans and continue our efforts to ensure our community is a welcoming and united one that provides just and equal opportunities for all; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor of the Borough of North Plainfield, do hereby proclaim **September 15th through October 15th as Hispanic Heritage Month** in North Plainfield, and encourage all to recognize and celebrate Hispanic culture, achievement and contribution today and into the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mayor advised that the Concealed Carry Ordinance and Pop-Up Parties were previously discussed.

1. **Closeout of Cifelli Final Payment** – (D.E.H.) Mr. Hollod discussed the final payment , remarking that it was funded in large part by the state grant.

2. **Illegal Soliciting** – (K.R.M.) Ms. Miller discussed people posing as state-regulated groups knocking on doors, and wanted to know if there is a list of legitimate businesses that are authorized to solicit. Several towns, she said, put Canvassing, Soliciting and Peddler ordinances into a single ordinance with fines for violations. She was interested in doing the same.

The Mayor replied that we do not have a list of businesses that can solicit within the Borough. However, keeping the ordinances separate was voted on in 2017 and Ms. Miller was amongst those councilmembers that voted on that. Fees, he continued, are set by the State.

The Council President advised that residents needed to contact the police department with complaints before entering it on social media. Ms. Schaefer wanted to know if a script is provided and Mr. Bernstein warned of 1st amendment concerns. Ms. Miller replied that she would like to revisit the discussion to change the ordinances. Mr. Stabile polled the Council and all agreed to re-examine the ordinances.

3. **Abandoned Telecommunication Service Lines** – (S.M.) Mr. McIntyre indicated that cable and telephone lines are falling or sagging. More often, the old lines are left when new lines are installed, thus causing cable pollution as referenced by Mr. Stabile. Perhaps the engineer or property maintenance can contact the utility companies to remove the lines or fix them. He suggested an ordinance for sagging lines and requiring the lines to be fixed or a summons issued. Ms. Schaefer asked if the resident or company would be cited. Mr. Bernstein replied that the utility would be fined and that the Uniform Construction Code might apply.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS:

Ms. Corzo discussed progress on the planned October 1st Hispanic Parade and Special Events Festival

Ms. Schaefer advised of an e-mail that Christal Blue was resigning from the Memorial Library due to a promotion.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President