

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **January 23, 2023** at 7:38 p.m. at North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo, Council Vice President
Suzette Given
Steven McIntyre
Everett Merrill
Keiona R. Miller
Wendy Schaefer
Frank “Skip” Stabile, Council President (absent – excused)

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor
David E. Hollod, Business Administrator
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Michele Irby-Garry, CMR, Acting Borough Clerk

Council Vice President Corzo 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 12, 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 Flag Salute was led by Mr. McIntyre followed by a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

The Council Vice President also announced that the governing body would convene in Executive Session at the conclusion of the Regular Meeting agenda for purposes of Attorney/Client Privilege and discussions on affordable housing.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

The Acting Clerk had submitted copies of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 9, 2023. Mr. Merrill requested an amendment to the meeting start time.

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

Mayor La Ronde announced the following appointments:

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

Redactor, Michele Irby-Garry

Backup Redactor, Stephanie Sherwood

HEARING: ORDINANCE NO. 23-01 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 2 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION,” MOST NOTABLY ARTICLE I, ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATIVE CODE,” SPECIFICALLY § 2-2, ENTITLED “OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,” MORE SPECIFICALLY § 2.2.3 ENTITLED “SALARY,” AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, § 2-3, ENTITLED “COUNCIL,” MORE SPECIFICALLY § 2.3.12, ENTITLED “SALARY OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL MEMBERS.)”

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Francine Gargano, 57 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, voiced her disagreement with the ordinance, reminding that all council members ran for office knowing that this is and always has been a volunteer position. She further suggested they resign if they no longer wish to serve without pay.

Jennifer McGovern, 371 Malcolm Avenue, North Plainfield, voiced her support of the ordinance, noting that the many Mayor and Council positions in other towns receive a small salary.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Merrill and on roll call carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 23-01 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Mr. Merrill and on roll call carried all six voting aye.

HEARING: ORDINANCE NO. 23-02 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 4, “GENERAL LICENSING,” MOST NOTABLY § 4-17, MORE SPECIFICALLY § 4-17-1, ET SEQ., ENTITLED “RECREATIONAL CANNABIS TAX” BY ADDING NEW DEFINITIONS TO §4-17.1 “DEFINITIONS” AND ADDING A NEW SECTION §4-17.4, ENTITLED “MUNICIPAL CANNABIS LICENSE REQUIRED.”

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Francine Gargano, 57 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, thanked Ms. Miller and Mr. Merrill for originally opposing the sale of recreational cannabis. Declaring her opposition to the ordinance,

the speaker remarked that Federal law prohibits the sale of cannabis. This will require cash transactions which increases the likelihood of robberies and burglaries, she concluded.

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

RESOLUTION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 23-02 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Vice President Corzo 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. 01-23-23-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-23-23-03a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k

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

Seconded by Ms. Miller and on roll call carried all six voting aye.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-03a WHEREAS, the United States honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the Nation every February; and,

WHEREAS, Black History Month was first set out in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, the “Father of Black History” as a time to enrich people’s understanding and appreciation of Black History and culture; and,

WHEREAS, what began as a week-long observance evolved into a month-long celebration officially recognized by President Gerald R. Ford during the American Bicentennial Year 1976 who

called upon Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”; and,

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society - from activists and civil rights pioneers such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more.; and,

WHEREAS, February was chosen primarily because its second week coincides with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln who emancipated the slaves and Frederick Douglas, a prominent abolitionist; and,

WHEREAS, this year’s Black History Month theme is “Black Resistance” exploring how African Americans have resisted historic oppression from the nation’s earliest days; and,

WHEREAS, by resisting African Americans have achieved triumphs, successes, and progress such as the end of slavery, the dismantling of segregation, the increased political representation at all levels of government, the passage of Civil Rights Act of 1964, the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History in DC and the increased and diverse representation of Black experiences in media: now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that February, 2023 be recognized as Black History Month; and, be it further resolved that this Governing Body endorses this year’s theme intended to celebrate the fight and perseverance of our diverse Community.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-03b RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH SALARIES AND WAGES FOR THE YEAR 2023 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 2023;

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 2023 as follows:

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>2023</u>
Mayor	\$ 12,000
Administrative Assistant	\$ 56,307
Business Administrator/Assistant Borough Engineer	\$172,480
Chief Financial Officer	\$ 49,053
Construction Official	\$ 25,044
Court Administrator	\$ 94,973
Director of Public Works	N/A1

Municipal Prosecutor	\$ 31,836
Office of Emergency Management Coordinator	\$ 10,824
Recreation Director	\$ 66,300
Recreation Co-Director	\$ 61,200
Assistant Recreation Director	\$ 14,857
Recreation Administrative Assistant (vacant)	N/A
Deputy Registrar	\$ 1,229
Tax Assessor	\$ 79,903
Tax Collector	\$ 19,776
Treasurer/QPA/Deputy CFO	\$ 17924
Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 59,092
Municipal Court Judge	N/A2
Zoning Officer	N/A1

- 1 Contracted with Grotto Engineering
- 2 Contracted with Watchung/Green Brook

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-03c A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG FOR FIRE SERVICES

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 40A:65-1, et seq., known as the “Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act,” authorizes two or more local units to enter into an agreement for interlocal services known as a Shared Service Agreement for the provision of municipal services (“Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield and the Borough of Watchung wish to ensure the safety and welfare of its residents by jointly purchasing and sharing a fire service ladder truck; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities have determined it to be in their mutual best interests to jointly purchase and share this service between the two municipalities: and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Watchung and the Borough of North Plainfield have previously determined that a shared service agreement for joint-provision of a shared ladder truck between the two municipalities is in their mutual best interests: and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Watchung and the Borough of North Plainfield have prepared a Shared Service Agreement (hereafter “Agreement”) for the joint-provision of sharing a ladder truck; and

WHEREAS, the governing bodies of the Borough of North Plainfield and the Borough of Watchung have reviewed the Agreement and are in mutual recognition of its benefits to their respective residents as having the potential to increase efficiency, enhance safety, and/or provide cost savings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the Borough of North Plainfield hereby endorses undertaking the aforementioned Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and/or Business Administrator is hereby authorized to take all necessary actions to allow for and support the Borough of North Plainfield's participation in this agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Agreement be maintained in the Borough of North Plainfield's office and be available for public inspection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Division of Local Government Services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-4(b).

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-03d RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD AND THE NORTH PLAINFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO FILE A GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR LOCAL RECREATION FUNDING ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS North Plainfield and the North Plainfield Department of Parks and Recreation desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$240,000.00 to carry out a project to repair extensive surface damage to the basketball courts at Green Acres Park that are in poor condition and that were further damaged by Hurricane Ida; 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 does hereby authorize the Mayor and the Department of Parks and Recreation to file an application for such a grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that North Plainfield and Department of Parks and Recreation recognize and accept that the Department of Community Affairs may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between North Plainfield Department of Parks and Recreation and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the person whose name, title and signature appear below is authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successor in said title is authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-03e RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A RECYCLING AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE PICKUP OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS.

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield 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 to municipalities within Somerset County, including the Borough of North Plainfield; *and*,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is desirous of retaining the services of the County of Somerset Department of Public Works for said recycling program *and*,

WHEREAS, by letter dated December 27, 2022, Melissa D. Harvey, Manager of the Somerset County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management submitted a recycling agreement for the period commencing January 1, 2023 through and including December 31, 2023 engaging the County of Somerset Department of Public Works 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 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 Deputy Borough Clerk or designee, 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 December 27, 2022, for a period commencing January 1, 2023 through and including December 31, 2023. 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-03f RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK OR DESIGNEE 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 a Transportation Service 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 Somerset County 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 associated with the providing of the transportation services; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield agrees to pay a cost for each day of the provided service at the rate of One Hundred Eighty Dollars and Eighty Five Cents (\$180.85) 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 (15th) 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 (10th) calendar day of the following month; and,

WHEREAS, the terms of the Agreement shall run from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023; 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.

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 Deputy Borough Clerk, on behalf of the Borough, to sign and/or execute the attached Agreement (as amended) with the Somerset County, Division of Transportation, for a period beginning January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 for ambulatory and accessible transportation services, without the need for any further action of this Borough Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-03g RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL APPOINTING SABRINA BRISON AS CLASS III SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR COMMENCING ON JANUARY 13, 2023 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2023.

WHEREAS, North Plainfield Chief of Police William Parenti finds it necessary to nominate for appointment Special Law Enforcement Officers to assist in the enforcement of the laws, regulations and ordinances of the Borough of North Plainfield for the safety and benefit of the residents of the Borough of North Plainfield; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Code §2-21 authorizes the appointment of Special Law Enforcement Officers upon the nomination of the Chief of Police to the Mayor, who shall recommend their appointment to the Borough Council for approval; and,

WHEREAS, North Plainfield Chief of Police William Parenti has nominated Sabrina Brison to serve as Class III Special Law Enforcement Officer for a term commencing on January 13, 2023 through August 31, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor has recommended to the Borough Council the appointment of Class II and Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers to the Borough Council to the North Plainfield Police Department appointment upon such terms:

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 appoints Sabrina Brison to serve as Class III Special Law Enforcement Officer for a term commencing on January 13, 2023 through August 31, 2023; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that a certified copy of the within Resolution be forwarded to the Mayor, Chief of Police, Police Captain, Borough Administrator, Personnel files, Payroll Department and Sabrina Brison.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-03h 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, that MICHELE GARRY be and hereby is appointed as Media representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 23, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-03i 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 23rd day of January, 2023 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-03j RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH SALARIES AND WAGES FOR THE YEAR 2023 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 2023;

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 2023 as follows:

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>2023</u>
Borough Clerk (vacant)	
Deputy Borough Clerk	\$ 60,000
Borough Council President	\$ 7,200
Borough Council Member	\$ 6,000

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-03k RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,600.00, UNDER THE FY2023 SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM, SUBAWARD GRANT NUMBER 23-1814, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CHIEF OF POLICE TO EXECUTE AND THE BOROUGH CLERK TO ATTEST TO A SUBGRANT AWARD AND ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS GRANT

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield in the County of Somerset, and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Borough of North Plainfield is authorized to accept a subaward grant from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, in the amount of \$48,600.00 under the Safe and Secure Communities Program, Grant No. 23-1814, with a Match-Fringe Benefits, for a total project cost of \$599,496.00.
2. The Mayor and Chief of Police are authorized to execute and the Borough Clerk to attest to a Subgrant Award in connection with this grant, and any and all documents in connection with this grant.
3. The Borough of North Plainfield is accepting this grant of funds for the purpose described in the application.
4. Subaward Period: March 1, 2023 to February 28, 2024.
5. A certified copy of this resolution shall be provided by the Office of the Borough Clerk to each of the following:
 - a. Mayor Lawrence La Ronde
 - b. Borough Council
 - c. Business Administrator
 - d. Borough Attorney
 - e. Chief Financial Officer
 - f. Police Department, Attention: Chief William Parenti
 - g. Police Department, Attention: Captain Alan McKay
 - h. Borough Grant Coordinator
 - i. State of New Jersey, Office of Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, P.O. Box 080, Trenton, NJ 08625-0080

- j. Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, P.O. Box 080, Trenton, NJ 08625-0080

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-04 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 – Affordable Housing

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 Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried unanimously. Executive Session convened at 7:54 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Council Vice President Corzo reconvened the meeting at 8:58 p.m. with all six council members present.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-23-23-05 RESOLUTION DE-DESIGNATING REGION NINE UAW HOUSING CORPORATION AS REDEVELOPER OF THOSE CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY DESIGNATED AS BLOCK 110, LOTS 2.02 THROUGH 2.13 AND A PORTION OF LOT 2.14 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD.

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield (“Borough”) previously determined that property designated as Block 110, Lots 2.02 through 2.14 on the Official Tax Map of the Borough (the “Property”), also known as the Villa Maria site, is an area in need of redevelopment in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 *et seq.*; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough previously designated Region Nine UAW Housing Corporation (“RNHC”), a non-profit, Internal Revenue Code 501c(3) organization, as the Redeveloper for the development of low- and moderate-income family rental dwelling units on the Property to help fulfill the Borough’s Third (3rd) Round affordable housing obligations and implement the Borough’s adopted Housing Element and Fair Share Plan; and,

WHEREAS, RNHC proposed to develop up to twenty-four (24) units of affordable housing on Lots 2.02 through 2.13 and a portion of Lot 2.14 of the Property; and,

WHEREAS, RNHC has failed to meet the various milestones associated with its Redeveloper designation and is unable to meet the Borough's requirements and expectations for the redevelopment of the Property; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough to encourage the redevelopment of the Property in accordance with its requirements and expectations; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough has further determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough to de-designate RNHC as the Redeveloper for the Property and to find another Redeveloper who can best meet the Borough's requirements and expectations for the redevelopment of the Property.

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

1. The above recitations are incorporated herein as if set forth at length; and,
2. RNHC is hereby de-designated and removed as the Redeveloper for the Property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents and/or agreements necessary to effectuate this Resolution on behalf of the Borough, subject to review and approval of the Borough Attorney.

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

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Merrill requested an update on the Food Bank.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Francine Gargano, 57 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, voiced her concerns about the traffic violators throughout North Plainfield. She stated her outrage with over-crowding in and around her neighborhood, noting that the amount of on-street parking has increased exponentially. Park visitors continue to park illegally on the surrounding side streets and public urination is commonplace which is disgraceful.

Michael Haggerty, 320 Brook Avenue, North Plainfield, recalled having served as Mayor of North Plainfield from 1993 – 1996 and hiring Rich Phoenix as Deputy Borough Clerk. The speaker noted his alarm to learn that Mr. Phoenix took roll call on his own re-appointment resolution with all voting nay.

Diane Melendez, 24 Howard Street, North Plainfield, commented that she planned to sell her house due to the over-crowding, drug-dealing, traffic violators and illegal parking on her street.

Mark Kruszczyński, 48 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, stated his concerns with the amount of parked vehicles on Rockview Terrace near the intersection of Greenbrook Road. He proposed permit parking for certain sections of the Borough.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ms. Miller thanked the residents in attendance for bringing forth their concerns that evening.

Ms. Given reported that the Board of Education had appointed Mark Kruszczyński as Board President and Amnet Ramos as Board Vice President. Carlie Dougherty was appointed as the liaison to the Council. They have begun strategic planning to accommodate the needs of the Borough.

Council Vice President Corzo thanked Ms. Garry for her hard work and dedication over the last few weeks.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Acting Borough Clerk

Council President