

**MINUTES** of the Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **September 11, 2023** at 7:34 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 (absent – excused)  
Wendy Schaefer  
Frank “Skip” Stabile, Council President

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 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 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 Chief Eaton followed by a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Chief William Eaton presented the Fire/EMS awards ceremony.

Mayor La Ronde administered the Oaths of Office to the following new officers:

Captain Michael Ceccato

Lieutenant Allen-Michael Smith

Firefighter/EMT Technician Michael Bigelow

EMT Technician Kathleen Ferrante

Per-Diem EMT Daniel Faldraga

Mayor La Ronde then presented the following Mayoral 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 15<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup> as Hispanic Heritage Month in North Plainfield, and encourage all to recognize and celebrate Hispanic culture, achievement and contribution today and into the future.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **EMS Services – Chief Eaton to be Present – L.L.** Chief Eaton detailed the department’s EMS services provided in a full-time capacity since 2012, including full-time EMS services for Green Brook. The Borough employs full-time and part-time per-diem EMT’s, responds to 3,600 calls per year recovers \$450,000 for these services. Our average response time is six minutes which is below the national average, he reported.

Ms. Schaefer shared her concerns with the full-time EMS coverage of Green Brook, specifically the possibility that those costs may be passed onto our residents. Mayor La Ronde interjected that Green Brook is currently reviewing a new agreement which addresses these concerns or we will no longer offer coverage for them. Chief Eaton explained that the joint purchase of a new ladder truck with Watchung will require us to respond to mutual aid fire calls in Watchung, typically about five to ten each year.

2. **Proposed Traffic Safety Control System Ordinance – D.H.** Mr. Hollod explained that this ordinance will add a parking monitoring and enforcement system which Chief Parent detailed in a previous meeting discussion.

3. **Proposed Code/Fee Ordinance – L.L.** Mayor La Ronde advised that this ordinance would increase the fees for taxi owners, coin-operated amusement devices, canvassers, motor vehicle sales, alcoholic beverage control licenses, and portable storage units.

4. **PARSA Shared Services Agreement – D.H.** Mr. Hollod stated that this resolution authorizes an agreement with the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority for the cleaning of the Borough’s sewerage lines.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

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

Ms. Corzo announced that the Hispanic Festival would be held on Saturday, September 16 at the Community Center from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Given announced the upcoming Fall Festival to be held on Saturday, September 30 at the North Plainfield High School from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

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Borough Clerk

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Council President