

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **November 27, 2023** at 8:41 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

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.”

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

The Council President called for a roll call on the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting minutes of November 13, 2023: All in favor.

HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 23-18 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 22 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED “LAND DEVELOPMENT”, MORE SPECIFICALLY ARTICLE VIII, ENTITLED “ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT”, AND MORE PARTICULARLY § 22-89, ENTITLED “ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT”, MORE PARTICULARLY § 22-101, ENTITLED “WATER RUNOFF CONTROL,” BY ADDING A NEW § 22-101.5 ENTITLED “PRIVATELY-OWNED SALT STORAGE FACILITIES”, TO THE ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD.

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

RESOLUTION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 11-27-23-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 23-18 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

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

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.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 11-27-23-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

11-27-23-02 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. Miller and on roll call carried unanimously.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-27-23-02a RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL APPROVING PAYMENT NO.2 (FINAL) TO VORTEX SERVICES, L.L.C. AND THE CLOSING OUT OF THE CONTRACT AND THE RELEASE OF RETAINAGE FOR THE ROCKVIEW AVENUE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield previously awarded a contract for the Rockview Avenue Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project (hereinafter referred to as the "Project") to Vortex Services, L.L.C. (hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor"); and,

WHEREAS, David Testa, P.E., C.M.E., C.P.W.M., of Grotto Engineering Associates, L.L.C., the Borough's Engineer for the Project, on behalf of the Borough, by letter dated November 16, 2023, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Acting Borough Clerk and made a part hereof, has reviewed the Contractor's submission for Payment No.2 (Final); and,

WHEREAS, the original contract price for the Project was Three Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred Eight Dollars and Sixty Four Cents (\$335,608.64), which has been adjusted by the Final Contract Completed Cost, decreasing the final contract amount to a final Contract Price of Two Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Seven Dollars and Fifty Nine Cents (\$279,737.50); and,

WHEREAS, the Contractor has submitted said Final Payment No.2, adjusted by the above amount, to a final Contract Balance due in the total amount of Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Four Dollars and Seventy Five Cents (\$12,454.75), plus the release of any and all of the Contractor's retained funds held by the Borough for the Project; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Contract, the Contractor has submitted a one (1) year Maintenance Bond in the amount of Two Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Seven Dollars and Fifty Nine Cents (\$279,737.50), with an effective date of November 15, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, Director of Law/Borough Attorney Eric M. Bernstein, Esquire and the offices of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, L.L.C. have reviewed the Borough's Engineer on this Project and the Contractor's submissions and accept same based on the recommendations of the Borough Engineer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the request for Partial Payment No.2 (Final) and the Closeout of the Rockview Avenue Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project is approved with Vortex Services, L.L.C., whose main offices are located at 210 Bennett Road, Freehold, New Jersey 07728, in the total amount of Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Four Dollars and Seventy Five Cents (\$12,454.75) plus the release of any and all of the Contractor's retained funds held by the Borough for the Project, which Final Payment Request and Closeout request is incorporated herein by reference as if same was fully set forth within and payment for same is authorized to be made to the Contractor, without the need for any further action of this Borough Council; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the original contract price for the Project was Three Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred Eight Dollars and Sixty Four Cents (\$335,608.64), which has been adjusted by the Final Contract Completed Cost, decreasing the final contract amount to a final Contract Price of Two Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Seven Dollars and Fifty Nine Cents (\$279,737.50), which final contract price is hereby approved; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be subject to the Certification of the Borough's Chief Financial Officer as to the availability of funds for payment for same; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Acting Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute any and all necessary documents to close out the Project and issue Payment No.2 (Final) and release all retainage.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-27-23-02b A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL AND REFUND TAXES

WHEREAS, the owner of 260 Arnold Avenue, also known as Block 199.01 Lot 6 was deemed a 100% Disabled Veteran effective November 20, 2023 and is now exempt from property taxes per the Assessor and;

WHEREAS, the property taxes were billed on the aforementioned parcel for 2023 as well as 2024 1st and 2nd.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield of Somerset County, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel 2023 & 2024 taxes and refund overpayments on this parcel:

Refund Overpayments to:

Raymond Jones \$10,372.50
260 Arnold Avenue
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

RESOLUTION NO. 11-27-23-02c 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 27th day of November 2023 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

REPORTS:

POLICE DEPARTMENT – SEPTEMBER 2023 REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS:

New Jersey League of Municipality	Magazine
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	Weekly Update

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mayor La Ronde reported on the Army Corps of Engineers study of the flood risks within the Green Brook upper basin. The free Rabies Clinic will be held Saturday, December 2 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and the annual Tree Lighting and Santa Comes to Town on Sunday, December 3

from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The annual Budget hearings will be held Monday, December 4 at 9:00 a.m. in the second floor meeting room. Zufall Health will hold a free Covid and Flu Shot clinic on Saturday, December 9 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the North Plainfield Middle School.

Ms. Given announced that Dr. Aquino had been voted Somerset County's Superintendent of the Year.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Acting Borough Clerk

Council President