

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **January 8, 2024** at 9:06 p.m. via Zoom.

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, 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 11, 2023 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 Vice President called for a roll call on the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting minutes of December 11, 2023: All in favor.

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:

Basil D’Armiento	Four-year term
Herminio Estrella	Four-year term
Michelle Brown	Four-year term
Bryan Carley, Alternate #1	Two-year term
Francine Gargano, Alternate #2	Two-year term

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL, ACTING AS LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH:

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE:

Suzette Given	One-year term
---------------	---------------

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Steven McIntyre One-year term

COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Wendy Schaefer One-year term

COUNCIL MEMBER AS CLASS III MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Aimee Corzo One-year term

COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION:

Suzette Given One-year term

COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Frank "Skip" Stabile One-year term

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL LIAISONS FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS:

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Suzette Given

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE: Everett Merrill

RENT STABILIZATION BOARD: Wendy Schaefer

SHADE TREE ADVISORY BOARD: Wendy Schaefer

APPOINTMENT BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER:

SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS:

Aimee Corzo One-year term

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

BOROUGH TREASURER One-year term

Kathleen Intravartolo

MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR One-year term

Raymond J. Stine, Esq.

PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (P.A.C.O.):

David E. Hollod One-year term

MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON:

David E. Hollod One-year term

BOROUGH HOUSING OFFICER:

Ken Capobianco One-year term

GARDEN STATE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND – One-year terms:

William Speck Fund Commissioner
David E. Hollod Alternate Commissioner

RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Stephanie Sherwood One-year term

LICENSED SEWER OPERATOR:

Joseph Aidukas One-year term

**APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS
REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:**

GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION:

Dr. Harry Allen, Alternate One-year term

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

Katherine Miller Four-year term
Steven McIntyre Four-year term
Sherlock Bender Four-year term
Stephen Harlan Four-year term

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Geri Modell Three-year term

Jennifer McGovern Three-year term

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE:

Joel Kenderine Three-year term
Madeline Olivio Vokuntario Three-year term

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE – One-year terms:

Lawrence La Ronde Elected Official
Angelo Bufaino, P.E. Consultant Engineer
David E. Hollod Planning Board Member
Basil D’Armiento Utility Authority Representative

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

One-year terms:

James DiPaolo - Three-year term Coordinator
Joseph Asprocolas Deputy Coordinator
Jennifer Bartholomew Deputy Coordinator
Michael J. Ceccato Deputy Coordinator
Chief William G. Parenti Police Department
Chief William F. Eaton Fire Department
Chief William F. Eaton Emergency Medical Services

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL:

One-year terms:

David E. Hollod Mayor’s Representative
Everett Merrill Council Member
Jody Karcher North Plainfield Public Schools
Michael Giordano, Jr. Citizen-at-Large
Sumera Khurram Health
Michele Irby-Garry Media
Angelo Costello Public Works
Dr. Harry L. Allen Hazardous Materials
Elizabeth B. Dente Emergency Animal Shelter

RENT STABILIZATION BOARD:

Keiona Miller Three-year term

SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS:

Tom Fagan	One-year term
-----------	---------------

YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION:

Joel Kenderine	Three-year term
Madeline Olivia Vokuntario	Three-year term

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW BOARD – *One-year terms*

Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor
 David E. Hollod, Business Administrator (*requires confirming resolution*)
 Leonard W. Lange, Economic Development Committee
 Daniel Battista, Alternate
 Michele Robertson, Alternate

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Tom Fagan	Two-year term
Leonard Lange	Two-year term
Desmond Battiste	Two-year term

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION:

Michael Giordano	Two-year term
Keiona Miller	Three-year term

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Mark Kelly	Three-year term
Mark Kruscyski	Three-year term
Evan Dickerson	Three-year term
James Patrick	Three-year term
Michelle Bedu	Three-year term
Christian Gutierrez	Two-year term

PLANNING BOARD:

David E. Hollod	One-year term
Aimee Corzo	One-year term
Andre Mitchell	Four-year term
Frank Kreder	Four-year term
Cheryl McKeever	One-year term
Michael Haggerty, Alternate #1	Two-year term
Madeline Olivio Vokuntario, Alternate #2	Two-year term

SHADE TREE ADVISORY BOARD:

Thalia Saloukas Four-year term

SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Lawrence La Ronde One-year term
Katherine Miller One-year term

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE MAYOR FOR APPOINTMENTS BY THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN COMMISSIONERS:

SOMERSET COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Keiona R. Miller One-year term

SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Michael Giordano, Jr. One-year term

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COUNCIL FOR APPOINTMENTS BY THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN COMMISSIONERS:

SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Steven McIntyre One-year term

HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 23-19 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 7A OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED "TRAFFIC SCHEDULES", MORE SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER 7A-3, ENTITLED "SCHEDULE III, PARKING PROHIBITED DURING CERTAIN HOURS," AND MOST NOTABLY SECTION 7A-3(E), ENTITLED "NO PARKING ON MONDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 2:00AM AND 6:00AM", AND MOST NOTABLY SECTION 7A-3(K), ENTITLED "NO PARKING WEDNESDAY 7:00AM TO 5:00PM", AND MOST NOTABLY SECTION 7A-3(M), ENTITLED "NO PARKING THURSDAY 7:00AM TO 5:00PM", AND, MOST NOTABLY SECTION 7A-3(N), ENTITLED "NO PARKING FRIDAY 2:00AM TO 6:00AM"

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

RESOLUTION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 23-19 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

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

CONSENT AGENDA NO. 1

Council Vice President Corzo stated that all matters listed on Consent Agenda No. 1 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. Corzo presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-08-24-02a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z

having been placed on Consent Agenda No. 1 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 NO. 1 RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02a BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that SUEZETTE GIVEN be and hereby is appointed as Board of Health Member to the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2025, and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02b BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that STEVEN MCINTYRE be and hereby is appointed to the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02c BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that WENDY SCHAEFER be and hereby is appointed to the LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02d BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that AIMEE CORZO be and hereby is appointed as Class III member to the PLANNING BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02e BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that SUEZETTE GIVEN be and hereby is appointed to the YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02f BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that FRANK "SKIP" STABILE be and hereby is appointed to the SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified..

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02g 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, KATHLEEN INTRAVARTOLO be and hereby is appointed TREASURER of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02h RESOLUTION APPOINTING MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTOR AND ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTOR TO THE NORTH PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL COURT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

WHEREAS, the Mayor requests the appointment of a Municipal Court Prosecutor, an Alternate Municipal Court Prosecutor and a Conflict Prosecutor to the North Plainfield Municipal Court for calendar year 2024; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that, as of January 8, 2024, the Municipal Court Prosecutor and Alternate Municipal Court Prosecutor to the North Plainfield Municipal Court, as well as Conflict Prosecutor for calendar year 2024 shall be as follows:

Municipal Court Prosecutor: Raymond J. Stine, Esq. and the Law Firm of Shain Schaffer P.C. Mr. Stine shall be compensated at an annual salary of \$30,000.00, less all applicable deductions.

Alternate Municipal Court Prosecutor: To be appointed by a separate Resolution.

Conflict Prosecutor: Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, L.L.C., effective January 8, 2024 with compensation to be paid at the Firm's hourly rate for other Borough work.

Mr. Stine shall remain in his respective position until a successor is qualified and appointed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02i 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, DAVID E. HOLLID be and hereby is appointed as PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (P.A.C.O.) for the Borough of North Plainfield for the year 2024 in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02j 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, DAVID E. HOLLID be and hereby is appointed as MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing on January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02k 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, KEN CAPOBIANCO be and hereby is appointed BOROUGH HOUSING OFFICER of this Borough for calendar year 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02l BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that WILLIAM SPECK be named as Fund Commissioner and DAVID E. HOLLID be named as Alternate Commissioner to the Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund for calendar year 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02m RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD APPOINTING A LICENSED SEWER OPERATOR

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of a professional to act as the Borough's C-4 Sanitary Sewer Operator for the 2024 calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to retain the services of Joseph Aidukas of Mott MacDonald to act as the Borough's C-4 Sanitary Sewer Operator and believes that Joseph Aidukas is eminently qualified to perform such engineering services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that Joseph Aidukas of Mott MacDonald is hereby appointed as the Borough's C-4 Sanitary Sewer Operator for the 2024 calendar year.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02n BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that STEPHANIE SHERWOOD be and hereby is appointed as RECYCLING COORDINATOR of this Borough to serve for calendar year 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02o 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, DR. HARRY ALLEN be and hereby is appointed to the GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION as the Commissioner of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing

January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02p BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that it does hereby recommend the appointment of STEVEN MCINTYRE by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Commissioners to the SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE as representative of the Borough of North Plainfield for the year 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02q 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, DAVID E. HOLLID be and hereby is appointed as a member of the Borough Administration to the ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW BOARD of this Borough to effectuate Architectural Design Standards pursuant to Chapter XXII, Subsection 22-138 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of North Plainfield to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02r BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that BASIL D'ARMIENTO be and hereby is appointed to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2028 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that HERMINIO ESTRELLA be and hereby is appointed to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2028 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MICHELLE BROWN be and hereby is appointed to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the balance of an unexpired term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2027 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BRYAN F. CARLEY be and hereby is appointed as Alternate Member No. 1 to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the balance of an unexpired term expiring on January 1, 2027 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FRANCINE GARGANO be and hereby is appointed as Alternate Member No. 2 to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the balance of an unexpired term expiring on January 1, 2027 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02s 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, KATHERINE MILLER be and hereby is appointed to the HISTORIC PRESERVATION

COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2028 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

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, STEVEN MCINTYRE be and hereby is appointed to the HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2028 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

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, SHERLOCK BENDER be and hereby is appointed to the HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2028 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

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, STEPHEN HARLAN be and hereby is appointed to the HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2028 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02t BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice of consent of this Council, JENNIFER MCGOVEN and GERI MODELL be and hereby are appointed to the LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal terms commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2027 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02u 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, JOEL KENDERINE and MADELINE OLIVIO VOKUNTARIO be and hereby are appointed to the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal terms commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2027 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02v 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, the following are hereby appointed to the Municipal Wastewater Management Plan Committee for terms expiring December 31, 2024:

Lawrence La Ronde – Elected Official
 Angelo Bufaino, P.E. – Consultant Engineer
 David E. Hollod – Planning Board Member
 Basil D’Armiento – Utility Authority Representative; and

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that by nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, BASIL D'ARMIENTO is hereby appointed Chair of the Municipal Wastewater Management Plan Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Basil De'Armiento be appointed to the Somerset County Wastewater Advisory Committee and David E. Hollod, as alternate, for terms expiring December 31, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02w 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, JOSEPH ASPROCOLAS, JENNIFER BARTHOLOMEW, and MICHAEL J. CECCATO be and hereby are appointed as Deputy Coordinators to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT of this Borough to serve for the legal terms commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM G. PARENTI be and hereby is appointed as Police Department representative to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the legal term commencing on January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM F. EATON be and hereby is appointed as Fire Department representative to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the legal term commencing on January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM F. EATON be and hereby is appointed as Emergency Medical Services representative to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the legal term commencing on January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAVID E. HOLLLOD be and hereby is appointed as the Mayor's representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that EVERETT MERRILL be and hereby is appointed as Council Member representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that JODY KARCHER be and hereby is appointed as Public Schools representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MICHAEL GIORDANO, JR. be and hereby is appointed as Citizen-at-large representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SUMERA KHURRAM be and hereby is appointed as Health representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MICHELE IRBY-GARRY be and hereby is appointed as Media representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANGELO COSTELLO be and hereby is appointed as Public Works representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DR. HARRY L. ALLEN be and hereby is appointed as Hazardous Materials representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ELIZABETH B. DENTE be and hereby is appointed as Emergency Animal Shelter Manager representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02x 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, KEIONA MILLER be and hereby is appointed to the RENT STABILIZATION BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02y 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, TOM FAGAN be and hereby is appointed to the SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 8, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-02z 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, JOEL KENDERINE and MADELINE OLIVO be and hereby are appointed to the YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal terms commencing January 8,

2024 and expiring on January 1, 2027 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

CONSENT AGENDA NO. 2

Council Vice President Corzo read the Consent Agenda Statement.

Ms. Schaefer requested clarification of item “n” before voting. Mayor La Ronde explained that the council needed to hire part-time administrative assistants to work in the Clerk’s Office. Mr. George advised that the resolution was not ready and would be added to the next meeting.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-08-24-03a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, o, p

having been placed on Consent Agenda No. 2 and there having been no objection thereto, the same are hereby approved.

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

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA NO. 2 RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03a BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to charge interest on delinquent tax, assessment, and sewer user accounts for the calendar year 2024, as follows:

Eight percent (8%) on the first one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) which is delinquent for a period in excess of ten calendar (10) days, which said percentage shall be chargeable from the due date of the payment; and

Eighteen percent (18%) on any amount in excess of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) which is delinquent for a period in excess of ten (10) calendar days, which said percentage shall be chargeable from the due date of the payment; and

Six percent (6%) yearly penalty on any tax delinquency, as defined by N.J.S.A. 54:4-67, which exceeds ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), provided said delinquency has not been paid prior to the end of the calendar year.

The Tax/Utility Collector is hereby authorized, at such time deemed necessary, to cancel any property tax and/ utility overpayment or delinquent amounts less the \$10.00.

The Collector is authorized to charge and collect a fee of \$20.00 for any and all checks offered in payment that are returned by the bank as uncollected funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03b BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the following are hereby authorized to sign checks for the Borough of North Plainfield for calendar year 2024:

Lawrence La Ronde – Mayor

Patrick J. DeBlasio - Chief Financial Officer

Kathleen Intravartolo - Treasurer

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03c BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the following are hereby designated as depositories for Borough funds for calendar year 2024:

Unity Bank
Valley National Bank
United Roosevelt Savings Bank

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03d BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that Borough Tax Assessor BARBARA A. FLAHERTY is hereby authorized to file corrective appeals for errors in assessments or counterclaims to increase assessments, defend tax appeals filed by taxpayers, and agree to the terms of any stipulations of settlement of tax appeals as she deems necessary and in the best interest of the Borough for calendar year 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03e BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of North Plainfield is hereby authorized to establish change funds for calendar year 2023 for the following departments in the amounts designated:

Borough Clerk	\$100.00
Construction Office	50.00
Health Office	100.00
Municipal Court	300.00
Police	50.00
Public Works	50.00

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03f WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17 allows for the cancellation of property tax overpayments or delinquent amounts of less than \$10.00.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to cancel all property tax overpayments and/or delinquencies in the amounts of less than \$10.00, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03g PROVIDING FOR A TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2024 PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-19

WHEREAS, the Revised Statutes of New Jersey 40A:4-19 provides for the adoption of temporary appropriations for the period between the beginning of the Budget Year and the date of the adoption of the Local Budget for the Year 2024 for the purposes and amounts required;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that the following temporary appropriations be made in the amounts and for the purposes herein set forth for the period between January 1st, 2024 and the adoption of the Local Budget for the Borough of North Plainfield, Somerset County and State of New Jersey for the Year of 2024:

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
20-100	Department of Administration	\$ 62,750.00	\$ 3,175.00
20-110	Borough Council	12,000.00	1,000.00
20-120	Borough Clerk	36,750.00	6,375.00
20-130	Department of Finance	78,000.00	3,500.00
20-135	Annual Audit		10,500.00
20-145	Tax Collection		3,250.00
20-150	Division of Assessments	26,250.00	1,600.00
20-151	Tax Appeals		7,500.00
20-155	Department of Law		76,250.00
20-165	Engineering		12,500.00
20-175	Historical Commission	775.00	250.00
21-180	Planning Board	375.00	1,250.00
21-185	Board of Adjustments	375.00	1,500.00
22-195	Uniform Construction Code	52,250.00	2,500.00
23-210	Liability Insurance		550,000.00
23-220	Group Insurance		300,000.00
23-225	Unemployment Compensation		5,000.00
25-240	Police	1,000,000.00	50,000.00
25-241	Crossing Guards	44,750.00	0.00
25-252	Emergency Management	6,125.00	4,000.00
25-265	Fire Protection	1,017,000.00	16,125.00
25-266	Fire Hydrant		50,201.50
25-267	Uniform Fire Code	3,000.00	4,628.50
25-268	LOSAP		750.00
25-269	Emergency Medical Services		9,750.00
25-275	Borough Prosecutor	7,000.00	0.00
26-290	Street & Roads	302,875.00	116,250.00
<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
26-310	Building & Grounds		26,000.00

26-315	Vehicle Maintenance		69,153.50
27-330	Health	43,750.00	35,500.00
27-340	Dog Regulation		15,000.00
28-370	Recreation	61,675.00	7,925.00
28-375	Maintenance of Parks		1,625.00
28-380	Shade Tree Advisory Board		2,000.00
30-415	Retirement Benefits		75,000.00
30-420	Celebration of Public Events		3,750.00
31-201	Contingent		2,500.00
31-430	Electricity		93,750.00
31-440	Telephone		20,000.00
31-445	Water		7,250.00
31-446	Natural Gas		20,000.00
31-460	Gasoline		45,000.00
31-461	Technology		50,000.00
31-462	Postage		10,000.00
31-471	Employees Retirement System		118,328.00
36-472	Social Security		117,500.00
36-475	Police/Fireman Retirement		500,000.00
41-899	Matching Funds for Grants		1,250.00
42-300	COAH Housing		2,500.00
42-305	Somerset County Recycling		50,000.00
42-306	SLEO-S&W		55,500.00
42-405	Parking Meters	21,622.00	0.00
42-520	NJDEP Permit Fee		1,312.50
43-490	Municipal Court	85,000.00	5,400.00
43-495	Public Defender		1,000.00
62-405	Capital Equipment		17,650.00
	Totals	\$2,862,322.00	\$2,592,749.00
45-920	Payment of Bond Principle \$		\$2,140,000.00
45-925	Note Principle		0.00
45-930	Interest on Bonds		358,590.50
45-926	Lease Payments	0.00	276,911.40
	Totals	\$ 0.00	\$2,777,501.90

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>SEWER UTILITY FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
55-501	Sewer Operating	\$ 51,250.00	\$ 22,500.00
55-502	Plainfield Area Regional Sewer		500,000.00
55-541	Social Security		4,250.00
55-542	Unemployment Comp Insurance		250.00

Totals Sewer Utility		<u>\$ 51,250.00</u>	<u>\$ 527,000.00</u>
55-520	Payment of Bond Principal		\$ 235,000.00
55-522	Interest on Bonds	0.00	81,071.17
55-523	Principal/Interest-Notes	<u> </u>	<u>0.00</u>
Totals		<u>\$ 00.00</u>	<u>\$ 316,071.17</u>

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03h Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Somerset;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the North Plainfield Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2024 - 2025 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ 7,864.76
Cash Match	\$ 1,966.19
In-Kind	\$ 5,898.57
2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.
3. The Borough Council accepts subsequent award of this grant.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03i BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following:

Refund of Escrow Balances

T-Mobile	\$ 1,357.50
JDL Properties	\$ 2,227.50
VIP Honda	\$ 55.00
Somerset Childcare	\$ 578.91
Devon Sobers	\$ 150.85
933 Route 22 West LLC	\$ 1,667.50

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03j RESOLUTION RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH BRUNO ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR 2024 GRANT WRITING SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is aware of the availability of competitive grants and other funding opportunities which are provided through County, State, Federal and private non-profit projects and funding sources; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield believes that it is in the best interests of the residents of the Borough of North Plainfield to use the services of a professional grant writing entity to prepare and submit grant proposals to such funding sources to pursue funding for various municipal projects; and,

WHEREAS, Director of Law/Borough Attorney Eric M. Bernstein, Esq. and the offices of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC, have reviewed the proposal of Bruno Associates, Inc., 1373 Broad Street, Suite 203B, Clifton, New Jersey 07013 to provide grant writing services on an hourly blended rate of One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$125.00) per hour, not to exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for calendar year 2024, including consulting with the Borough’s officials and employees, research in the area of available funding, identifying grant opportunities, preparing and submitting such grants as may receive the authorization of the Borough for submission, and has recommended that a contract be issued to Bruno Associates, Inc., pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A11-3(a)* for the same; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is desirous of obtaining the services of Bruno Associates, Inc., to perform all those services contemplated in the Borough’s solicitation of a proposal submitted by Bruno Associates, Inc., for grant writing services.

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 awards a contract to Bruno Associates, Inc., to provide grant writing services to the Borough for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, for an hourly blended rate of One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$125.00) per hour, not to exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for calendar year 2024, subject to finalizing the form of a contract by and through the office of the Director of Law/Borough Attorney; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute a contract and all other necessary documents to engage the services of Bruno Associates, Inc. for the grant writing services so authorized; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award of this contract 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 award and the contract and its performance shall be consistent with all applicable laws and the proposal for professional services contract submitted by Bruno Associates, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03k BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following:

Refund of Dumpster Bond

Sharod Johnson \$ 200.00
306 Lawrence Avenue
North Plainfield, New Jersey
07060

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03l RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION FOR MANDATED MINIMUM NURSE STAFFING AT HOSPITALS.

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield has received correspondence, communications and public comment urging support of pending legislation to mandate minimum nursing staffing levels in New Jersey’s hospitals; and,

WHEREAS, such information, as presented, has provided materials supporting the enactment of such legislation, including:

1. A one (1)-patient increase in a nurse’s workload increased the likelihood of an in-patient death within thirty (30) calendar days of admission by seven (7%) percent; and,
2. Mortality risk decreases by nine (9%) percent for ICU patients and sixteen (16%) percent for surgery patients with the increase of one (1) FTE (fulltime) RN per patient day; and,
3. Nurse staffing shortages are a factor in one (1) out of every four (4) unexpected hospital deaths or injuries caused by errors; and,

4. A 2021 study published in the American Journal of Infection Control found that each additional sepsis patient per nurse was associated with nineteen (19%) percent higher odds of in-hospital mortality; and,
5. A study of New York hospitals in 2021 showed significant decreases in patient deaths would occur if patient care was limited to a ratio of four (4) patients to one (1) Nurse: 4,370 deaths would have been avoided in New York just among Medicare patients during the two(2)-year study; and,

WHEREAS, this staffing crisis can and will continue to have dire consequences on the delivery of care.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset and State of New Jersey urge the New Jersey Legislature and Governor Murphy to pass and sign into law S.304 and A.4536, or their successor legislation in the 2024-2025 Legislative Session, to mandate safe staffing levels in every hospital.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Acting Borough Clerk is to send a copy of this Resolution to those members of the State Senate and the General Assembly who represent the citizens and residents of the Borough of North Plainfield, and who are Senator Nicholas Scutari, Assemblywoman Linda Carter; and, Assemblyman James Kennedy.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03m 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 8th day of January 2024 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. 01-08-24-03o BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the *COURIER NEWS* be named the official newspaper of the Borough of North Plainfield for the publication of legal notices for calendar year 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meeting notices of the Borough of North Plainfield shall be transmitted to the *COURIER NEWS* and *THE STAR-LEDGER*, *THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS* and posted on the official bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and the North Plainfield Memorial Library for calendar year 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tap into North Plainfield be and hereby is designated as the electronic news source for which notices and other matters are to be provided under the Open Public Meetings Act.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-24-03p RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL APPOINTING MICHELE IRBY GARRY TO A SECOND (2ND) TERM AS ACTING BOROUGH CLERK AND AWARDING AN INCREASE IN THE SALARY OF THE ACTING BOROUGH CLERK FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD.

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey requires the appointment of an Acting Borough Clerk, subject to the appointment of a permanent successor due to a vacancy in the office of Borough Clerk, effective January 9, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, Michele Irby Garry served as the Deputy Borough Clerk for the Borough of North Plainfield and held such position prior to the vacancy in the office of Borough Clerk; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133(c)*, Michele Irby Garry was appointed Acting Borough Clerk, effective on January 10, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, Michele Irby Garry has been serving in the capacity of Acting Borough Clerk of the Borough of North Plainfield in accordance with and under the terms of *N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133(c)* for a period not to exceed January 9, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133(c)* requires that an Acting Borough Clerk may be appointed to a second (2nd) one (1) year term by a governing body, subject to the approval of the Director of the New Jersey State Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (“LGS”) as to such appointment; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council desires to reappoint Michele Irby Garry to another one (1) year term as Acting Borough Clerk for a term not to exceed January 9, 2025 subject to the appointment of a Borough Clerk, with a two percent (2.00%) raise to Seventy Two Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Three Dollars and Fifty Eight Cents (\$72,653.58), effective upon January 10, 2024, subject to approval of the appointment by the Director of LGS..

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey hereby does appoints Michele Irby Garry to term, not to exceed one (1) year, or January 9, 2025, subject to the appointment of a Borough Clerk, as Acting Borough Clerk, effective January 10, 2024, and with a two percent (2.00%) raise to Seventy Two Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Three Dollars and Fifty Eight Cents (\$72,653.58), effective January 10, 2024. All of this is subject to the approval of the Director of the New Jersey State Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services.

REPORT:

POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – OCTOBER 2023

COMMUNICATIONS:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	of	Weekly Update
Somerset County Board of Commissioners	of	Newsletter

New Jersey League of Municipalities	Newsletter & Communications
PSE&G	Petition

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Francine Gargano, 57 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, called to question the fee her client had been charged for a duplicate tax sale certificate.

Kim Haspel, 2357 Audubon Avenue, South Plainfield, reported that the nurses had settled and returned to work. She again explained her support of legislation that would cap the number of patients assigned to each nurse dependent upon the needs of those patients.

Mr. Stewart, 220 Glenside Place, North Plainfield called for stronger police enforcement of speeding and loud exhaust.

Juey-Hwa Hsu, 219 West Shirley Avenue, Edison, thanked the Council members for their support.

Monique Simmons, North Plainfield, via Zoom chat, shared her concerns with the number of car burglaries throughout the Borough. Mayor La Ronde asked that residents contact the police immediately if they witnesses suspicious behavior or car burglaries.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President