

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the joint Agenda Conference of the North Plainfield Borough Council and Board of Education held on Monday, 12 December 2016.

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 Governing Body's actual approval of same. If changes are necessary, revised minutes will be posted to the website.

MINUTES of the Joint Borough Council/Board of Education Agenda Conference held on Monday, **December 12, 2016** at 7:38 p.m. at the North Plainfield Community Center, 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Everett Merrill
Keiona R. Miller
Frank Righetti (absent – excused)
Wendy Schaefer
Douglas M. Singleterry
Frank “Skip” Stabile
Lawrence La Ronde, Council President

Also Present: Michael Giordano, Jr., Mayor
David E. Hollod, Business Administrator
John Kaplan, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk

Board of Education Members: Linda Bond-Nelson
Bianka Butler (absent – excused)
Sandra J. Dodd
John Fellin, Jr.
Thomas N. Kasper (absent)
Kathleen Mullen
David Branan, Board President

Also Present: Dr. James V. McLaughlin, Superintendent of Schools
Donald Sternberg, Administrator/Board Secretary

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. Stabile.

Council President La Ronde requested a moment of silence for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

The Council President read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This is a Joint Meeting of the Borough Council and the Board of Education of North Plainfield. Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.* by transmitting said notice to the *Courier News, The Star-Ledger, The Alternative Press* and *WKMB Radio* on December 7, 2016, and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Peg Merrill, 307 Tremont Avenue, North Plainfield, inquired after assistance with funding for Project Graduation as parents lack the time necessary to assist with it.

(BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION) NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Rezoning Krausche Field from residential to business as per Borough Master Plan.** Mr. Branan requested the rezoning of Krausche Field from residential to business in the Master Plan. Mr. Hollod explained that the Master Plan would be adopted by ordinance sometime after the first of January. Detailing the required notification process for same, Mr. La Ronde spoke of the need to do sections of town individually. Mr. Singleterry concurred, noting their intentions of starting with the downtown area. Mr. Branan proposed leasing the outer area of Krausche Field for signage which would generate revenue for the schools. Advising that Route 22 is considered to be federal and falls under federal highway beautification, Mr. Stabile indicated that the State Department of Transportation had nixed advertising space there.
2. **Residential parking permits.** Mr. Branan shared his concerns regarding the lack of on-street parking, most notably since the implementation of the alternate side of the street parking ordinance. He noted that some individuals consider our streets park-and-ride friendly. Citing illegal housing as another concern, he indicated that parking permits would not be issued to those residents that cannot produce a legal rental lease. Advising that Board of Education office parking is extremely limited, Dr. McLaughlin also noted the hazards at the driveway. Indicating that Chief Parenti had been made aware of these concerns, Mr. Hollod assured that it would be looked into early next year.
3. **Limited number of parking spaces for Somerset School Staff in the municipal lot across Somerset Street.** Dr. McLaughlin noted the limited parking available to the Somerset School staff and requested consideration of authorizing staff parking in the municipal lot on Somerset Street. Mr. Branan asked about staff parking in the gravel lot behind Borough Hall. Responding to Mr. Stabile's suggestion, Ms. Mullen confirmed that there had been consideration of a referendum on the topic of purchasing properties in the area to use for parking. She indicated that a parking garage would be most beneficial, although not feasible.

4. **Field Maintenance Summer Use.** Council President La Ronde noted that the Department of Public Works maintains the fields during summer months.

5. **Crossing Guards – Schools’ Appreciation for a job well done.** Ms. Dodd introduced discussion, specifically concerns of parents and students illegally crossing the streets. Adding that children often step out from in between cars, Council President La Ronde called for better education and enforcement. Ms. Bond-Nelson agreed and thanked the crossing guards.

Mr. Merrill introduced discussion of Project Graduation. Assuring that everyone would like to see the students continue to benefit from the program, he suggested the formation of a subcommittee to explore cost saving measures as well as fund raising ideas. Mr. Branan called for continued discussion at the finance and facility subcommittee meeting on December 20, 2016. Reminding that it is a post-graduation event, Dr. McLaughlin requested they confirm liability with their attorney. Mr. Sternberg added that they have provided both transportation and food for the event. Ms. Mullen cautioned against underestimating the power of the students working to raise the money themselves.

6. **Designate two or more spaces as NO PARKING at the end of the Board of Education driveway, currently dangerous situation.** This topic was previously addressed in the discussion of residential parking permits.

Council President La Ronde called for a recess at 8:25 p.m.

RECESS

Council President La Ronde reconvened the meeting at 8:36 p.m. with all six council members still in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Community Center Generator Improvements** – D.E.H. Advising of a FEMA grant for a generator for the community center, Mr. Hollod indicated there were some concerns with the two lowest bids received and the item would be addressed at the next meeting.

2. **2017 Certified Local Government Grant Application** – W.S. Ms. Schaefer explained that this resolution authorizes the submission of an application for a grant in the amount of \$24,999. She cautioned that the grant application was complex, but the resulting monies would be worthwhile.

3. **Agreement with Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund (GSMJIF)** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod emphasized the Borough’s continued satisfaction with GSMJIF and values received for services rendered.

OLD BUSINESS: (None at this time)

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS:

Mr. Merrill reported that the West End School had dedicated its library to Beth Sobel on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. Stabile and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President