

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Biennial Organizational Meeting of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Sunday, 1 January 2017.

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 Biennial Organization Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Sunday, **January 1, 2017** at 1:01 p.m. at the North Plainfield Borough Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Borough Attorney, Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., who then read the following Statement of Compliance:

"This is a Biennial Organization Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield scheduled by resolution of the Council adopted on November 28, 2016. 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 November 29, 2016, by publication of the announcement in the *Courier News* of December 1, 2016 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Ms. Schaefer.

Moment of Silence for the Men and Women Serving in Our Armed Forces

Borough Clerk Phoenix read the following:

"A statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers of Somerset County, New Jersey, relative to an election held in the County of Somerset on November 8, 2016 for the election of the following mentioned offices in the Borough of North Plainfield.

One (1) Four-Year Mayoral Seat
The said Board does determine that

MICHAEL GIORDANO JR.

was duly elected Mayor

Three (3) Four-Year Borough Council Seats
The said Board does determine that

KEIONA R. MILLER

FRANK RIGHETTI

FRANK "SKIP" STABILE

were duly elected to the Borough Council

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true, full and correct statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers of Somerset County, New Jersey.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of November 2016."

Eric M. Bernstein, Esq. administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-Elect:

MICHAEL GIORDANO JR.

Mayor Michael Giordano Jr. administered the Oath of Office to Council Members-Elect:

KEIONA R. MILLER

FRANK RIGHETTI

FRANK "SKIP" STABILE

PRESENT:

Council Members:	Lawrence La Ronde Everett Merrill Keiona R. Miller Frank Righetti Wendy Schaefer Douglas M. Singleterry Frank "Skip" Stabile
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Also Present:	Michael Giordano Jr., Mayor David E. Hollod, Business Administrator Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., Borough Attorney Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk
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Mr. La Ronde presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the "Rules of Order" annexed hereto and made a part hereof are adopted as the Rules of Order for this Council for the years 2017-2018.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

Mr. Bernstein called for nominations for President of the Council for the years 2017 and 2018.

Mr. Stabile nominated Lawrence La Ronde for President of the Council, seconded by Ms. Schaefer.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that

LAWRENCE LA RONDE

be and is hereby elected PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL for the years 2017-2018.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer with Roll Call as follows:

Ayes: Merrill, Miller, Righetti, Schaefer, Singleterry, Stabile
Abstain: La Ronde

Resolution carried 6-0-1.

Mr. La Ronde assumed the Chair.

Mr. Merrill nominated Frank "Skip" Stabile for Vice President of the Council, seconded by Ms. Schaefer.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that

Frank "Skip" Stabile

be and is hereby elected VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL for the years 2017-2018.

Seconded by Mr. Merrill with Roll Call as follows:

Ayes: Merrill, Miller, Righetti, Schaefer, Singleterry, La Ronde
Abstain: Stabile

Resolution carried 6-0-1.

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:

Mark Tighe	Four-year term
Gary Lewis	Four-year term
Dennis Jackson, Alternate 1	Two-year term
Edgar Marino, Alternate 2	Two-year term

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER TO THE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE:

Lawrence La Ronde	One-year term
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COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Frank “Skip” Stabile	One-year term
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COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Wendy Schaefer	One-year term
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COUNCIL MEMBER AS CLASS III MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Frank Righetti	One-year term
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COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION:

Keiona R. Miller	One-year term
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COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Frank “Skip” Stabile	One-year term
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APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL LIAISONS FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS:

BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Everett Merrill
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PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE:	Everett Merrill
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RENT STABILIZATION BOARD:	Wendy Schaefer
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SHADE TREE ADVISORY BOARD:	Frank “Skip” Stabile
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SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE:	Douglas Singleterry
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APPOINTMENT BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER:

SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS:

Frank Righetti One-year term

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

David E. Hollod Four-year term

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Patrick J. DeBlasio Four-year term

DIRECTOR OF LAW/BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Eric Martin Bernstein, Esq. Four-year term

DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

William G. Parenti Four-year term

DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

William F. Eaton Four-year term

BOROUGH TREASURER:

Kathleen M. Intravartolo One-year term

MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR:

David Minchello, Esq. One-year term

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

David E. Hollod One-year term

MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON:

David E. Hollod One-year term

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

David E. Hollod Alternate Commissioner

LICENSED SEWER OPERATOR:

Joseph Aidukas One-year term

RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Cynthia Danois One-year term

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

GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION:

Frank Righetti Four-year term
William F. Crosby III One-year term

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Tom Fagan Three-year term
Jim Maloney Three-year term

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE:

One-year terms:
Dr. James McLaughlin Superintendent of Schools
John Richardson Municipal Court Judge
Two-year terms:
Joel Kenderdine Public Citizens
Rev. Kevin Henry Religious Community Alternate

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE – One-year terms:

Michael Giordano Jr. Elected Official
Angelo Bufaino, P.E. Consultant Engineer
David E. Hollod Planning Board Member
William F. Crosby III Utility Authority Representative

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Three-year term:

Brian Martin	Coordinator
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One-year terms:

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
Lawrence La Ronde	Council Member
Dr. James McLaughlin	North Plainfield Public Schools
Milton Mathis	North Plainfield Public Schools
Joann Righetti	Citizen-at-Large
David DeRosa	Health
Richard Phoenix	Media
Angelo Costello	Public Works
Dr. Harry L. Allen	Hazardous Materials
Malcolm Plager	Shelter
Elizabeth B. Dente	Emergency Animal Shelter

RENT STABILIZATION BOARD:

Alissa DiScala	Three-year term
Mary Ann Climes	Three-year term
Douglas Singleterry	Three-year term
Michael Dellipoali, Alternate	Two-year term

SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS:

Tom Fagan	One-year term
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APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW BOARD – *One-year terms*

Michael Giordano Jr., Mayor
 David E. Hollod, Business Administrator (*requires confirming resolution*)
 Leonard W. Lange, Economic Development Committee
 Daniel Battista, Alternate
 Aimee Corzo, Alternate

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Lee Gallman	Two-year term
Janice Allen	Two-year term
Anne Soto	Two-year term
Joseph Tevlin	Two-year term
Bruce Heyman	Two-year term

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION:

Henry Stoner	Three-year term
Keiona Miller	Three-year unexpired term

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

Laly Kuga	Four-year term
Steve McIntyre	Two-year term

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Joanne Pierre	Three-year term
Peter Diaz	Three-year term
Nick Kisling	Three-year term

PLANNING BOARD:

Michael Giordano, Jr.	Four-year term
David E. Hollod	One-year term
Barbara Kreder	Four-year term

SHADE TREE ADVISORY BOARD:

Bart Thomas	Five-year term
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SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Michael Giordano Jr.	One-year term
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SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Alissa DiScala	Three-year term
Robert Foerster	Three-year term
Frank "Skip" Stabile	Three-year term
Elizabeth Gomes	One-year term
Jana Lattimore	One-year term
Mark Williams	One-year term

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

SOMERSET COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Keiona R. Miller One-year term

SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Henry R. Stoner One-year term

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

SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Frank Righetti One-year term

CONSENT AGENDA NO. 1

Council President La Ronde 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.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-01-17-04a, 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, aa and bb

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 all seven voting aye.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA NO. 1 RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04a BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that LAWRENCE LA RONDE 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 on January 1, 2018, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04b BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that FRANK “SKIP” STABILE be and hereby is appointed to the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04c 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 expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04d BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that FRANK RIGHETTI be and hereby is appointed as Class III member to the PLANNING BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04e BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that KEIONA R. MILLER be and hereby is appointed to the YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring on January 1, 2018, and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04f 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 to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04g 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,

DAVID E. HOLLOD

be and is hereby appointed BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 1, 2017 and expiring on January 1, 2021 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04h 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,

PATRICK J. DeBLASIO

be and is hereby appointed DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 1, 2017 and expiring on January 1, 2021, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04i 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,

ERIC MARTIN BERNSTEIN, ESQ.

be and is hereby appointed DIRECTOR OF LAW/BOROUGH ATTORNEY of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing on January 1, 2017 and expiring on January 1, 2021, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04j 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,

WILLIAM G. PARENTI

be and hereby is appointed DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2017 and expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04k 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,

WILLIAM F. EATON

be and hereby is appointed DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2017 and expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04l 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, KATHLEEN INTRAVARTOLO be and hereby is appointed TREASURER of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 1, 2017 and expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04m WHEREAS, the State Legislature has mandated that each municipality provide for a Municipal Prosecutor; and,

WHEREAS, David Minchello, Esq. has experience in this area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that David Minchello, Esq. is hereby appointed Municipal Prosecutor for the Borough of North Plainfield for calendar year 2017. Said appointment is as an employee of the Borough in which he shall receive the allotted salary, but waives all other benefits available to an employee of the Borough.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04n 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 2017 in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04o 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. HOLLOD be and hereby is appointed as MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing on January 1, 2017 and expiring on January 1, 2018, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04p BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that DAVID E. HOLLOD be named as Alternate Commissioner to the Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund for calendar year 2017.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04q 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-3 Sanitary Sewer Operator for the 2017 calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to retain the services of Joseph Aidukas of Mott MacDonald to act as the Borough's C-3 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-3 Sanitary Sewer Operator for the 2017 calendar year.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04r BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that CYNTHIA DANOIS be and hereby is appointed as RECYCLING COORDINATOR for this Borough for calendar year 2017.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04s BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, FRANK RIGHETTI be and hereby is appointed to the GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION as the Council representative of the Borough of North Plainfield to serve for the legal term commencing at 1:00 p.m. on January 1, 2017 and expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, WILLIAM F. CROSBY III be and hereby is appointed to the GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION as the alternate representative of the Borough of North Plainfield to serve for the legal term commencing on January 1, 2017 and expiring on January 1, 2018, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04t BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that it does hereby recommend the appointment of FRANK RIGHETTI by the

Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders to the SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE as representative of the Borough of North Plainfield for the year 2017.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04u 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 expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04v BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice of consent of this Council, TOM FAGAN and JIM MALONEY be and hereby are appointed to the LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04w BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of the Council, Superintendent of Schools DR. JAMES McLAUGHLIN be and hereby is appointed a member of the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that JOHN RICHARDSON, ESQ. be and hereby is appointed Municipal Court Representative to the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that JOEL KENDERDINE be and hereby is appointed Member of the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2019 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that REV. KEVIN HENRY be and hereby is appointed as Religious Community alternate representative to the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2019 and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04x 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, the following are hereby appointed to the Municipal Wastewater Management Plan Committee for terms expiring December 31, 2017:

Michael Giordano Jr. – Elected Official
 Angelo Bufaino, P.E. – Consultant Engineer
 David E. Hollod – Planning Board Member
 William F. Crosby III – 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, WILLIAM F. CROSBY III is hereby appointed Chair of the Municipal Wastewater Management Plan Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM F. CROSBY III be appointed to the Somerset County Wastewater Advisory Committee and David E. Hollod, as alternate, for terms expiring December 31, 2017.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04y BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, BRIAN MARTIN be and hereby is appointed as Coordinator to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until his successor is 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 expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor is 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 expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor is 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 expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LAWRENCE LA RONDE be and hereby is appointed as Council Member representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM F. EATON be and hereby is appointed as Emergency Medical Services representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DR. JAMES McLAUGHLIN and MILTON MATHIS be and hereby are appointed as Public Schools representatives to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until their successors are appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that JOANN RIGHETTI be and hereby is appointed as Citizen-at-Large representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until her successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAVID DeROSA be and hereby is appointed as Health representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that RICHARD PHOENIX be and hereby is appointed as Media representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor is 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 expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor is 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 expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MALCOLM PLAGER be and hereby is appointed as Shelter representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor is 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 expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until her successor is appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04z BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, ALISSA DISCALA, tenant, and MARY ANN CLIMES and DOUGLAS SINGLETERRY, homeowners, be and hereby are appointed as Members to the RENT STABILIZATION BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2020 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED than upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, MICHAEL DELLIPOALI, homeowner, be and hereby is appointed as Alternate Member to the RENT STABILIZATION BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2019 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04aa BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, TOM FAGAN be and hereby is appointed citizen member to the SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2018 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-04bb BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that MARK TIGHE and GARY LEWIS are hereby appointed Members to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that DENNIS JACKSON and EDGAR MARINO are hereby appointed Alternate Members to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2019 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

CONSENT AGENDA NO. 2

Council President La Ronde read the Consent Agenda Statement.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-05 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-01-17-05a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k and l

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

Seconded by Mr. Stabile and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA NO. 2 RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-05a 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 2017; 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*, to *WKMB Radio* and posted on the official bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and the North Plainfield Memorial Library for calendar year 2017; 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. 01-01-17-05b 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 2017:

Unity Bank
Valley National Bank
United Roosevelt Savings Bank

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-05c 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 2017:

Michael Giordano Jr. – Mayor

Patrick J. DeBlasio - Chief Financial Officer

Kathleen Intravartolo - Treasurer

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-05d 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 calendar year 2017, 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 (10) calendar 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-05e 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 2017.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-05f 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 2017 for the following departments in the amounts designated:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-05g WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield has duly executed a recycling plan for all recyclable materials as designated by the Somerset County Solid Waste Management Plan and amendments thereto; and,

WHEREAS, as part of said Plan, the Borough is desirous to retain the services of Somerset County for its recycling program and the County is equally desirous to provide such services; and,

WHEREAS, an Agreement between the County and the Borough has been created to provide said recycling services for calendar year 2017.

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 of North Plainfield hereby agrees to enter into an Agreement with the County of Somerset for Somerset County to provide recycling services for calendar year 2017 to the Borough under the terms and conditions of said Agreement, which is attached. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Borough.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-05h RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET TO PROVIDE A LICENSE TO USE THE SALT DOME WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS, the County of Somerset is in need of a facility wherein it can access and obtain road salt on an as needed basis; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is in the process of constructing a new salt dome in the Borough of North Plainfield for the storage of road salt (hereafter referred to as the “Project”); and,

WHEREAS, the County has agreed to reimburse the Borough Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) within sixty (60) calendar days of the completion of the Project for the perpetual use of the Borough’s salt dome.

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 Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute the attached Shared Services/License

Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”) with the County of Somerset to allow the County and its employees access to the Borough’s new salt dome on an as needed basis once said salt dome is completed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-05i 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 Building Permit Fees/Job Cancelled

Ryan, Inc.	\$122.00
741 Leigh Avenue	
Union, NJ 07083	

Re: Brian Richardson
555 Fisk Place

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-05j RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH INNOVATIVE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING INC. FOR COMMUNITY CENTER GENERATOR IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of certain improvements at the Borough Community Center, specifically the generator (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield solicited bids for the Project and nine (9) bids were received. The following three (3) bids were the lowest bids received:

<u>Bidding Entity</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
Colonial EP, LLC	\$98,336.67
Innovative Electrical Contracting Inc.	\$174,900.00
Astro Electrical Contractor, LLC	\$181,000.00

WHEREAS, the alleged lowest bidder, Colonial EP, LLC, prices for each bid item were not contained in the bid forms, and was Fifty-Four Percent (54%) lower than the engineer’s estimate, it was the opinion of Mott MacDonald, the Borough’s consulting engineer supervising on this Project, that the alleged lowest bidder cannot responsibly perform the Contract work for payment of the bid amount; and,

WHEREAS, the alleged lowest bidder, Colonial EP, LLC failed to submit a Certificate of Surety consistent with the bid requirements and the requirements of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-22*; and,

WHEREAS, Mott MacDonald reviewed all the bid submissions, recommends the award of the bid and contract for the Project to the lowest responsible bidder, Innovative Electrical Contracting

Inc., whose main offices are located at 230 Route 206, Suite 2C, Flanders, New Jersey 07836 (hereinafter referred to as the “Contractor”); and,

WHEREAS, Director of Law/Borough Attorney Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., and the offices of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC, have reviewed the bid submissions and find no material defect with the bid proposal for the Contractor; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is desirous of obtaining the services of the Contractor to perform all those services contemplated in the Borough’s bid documents and the bid proposal submitted by the Contractor; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield finds that the Contractor is the lowest responsible bidder for the Project pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.

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 the following Bid and Contract:

Project: Community Center Generator Improvements
Successful Bidder: Innovative Electrical Contracting Inc.
Total Bid: In the Amount of One Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$174,900.00).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute the contract and all necessary documents to engage the construction services of Innovative Electrical Contracting Inc. for the Project; 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, the Borough’s bid documents and the bid proposal of Innovative Electrical Contracting Inc. for the Project known as the Community Center Generator Improvements.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-05k PROVIDING FOR A TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2017 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 2017 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, 2017 and the adoption of the

Local Budget for the Borough of North Plainfield, Somerset County and State of New Jersey for the Year of 2017:

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
20-100	Department of Administration	\$ 51,500.00	\$ 3,587.50
20-110	Borough Council		1,000.00
20-120	Borough Clerk	32,000.00	5,050.00
20-130	Department of Finance	64,500.00	3,375.00
20-135	Annual Audit		9,500.00
20-145	Tax Collection		3,000.00
20-150	Division of Assessments	22,500.00	1,800.00
20-151	Tax Appeals		8,750.00
20-155	Department of Law		67,500.00
20-165	Engineering		15,000.00
20-175	Historical Commission	500.00	250.00
21-180	Planning Board	300.00	1,475.00
21-185	Board of Adjustments	250.00	1,625.00
22-195	Uniform Construction Code	43,750.00	2,250.00
23-210	Liability Insurance		401,250.00
23-220	Group Insurance		525,000.00
23-225	Unemployment Compensation		6,250.00
25-240	Police	1,374,250.00	15,500.00
25-241	Crossing Guards	42,500.00	0.00
25-252	Emergency Management	1,775.00	2,550.00
25-265	Fire Protection	791,500.00	14,250.00
25-266	Fire Hydrant		48,250.00
25-267	Uniform Fire Code	3,000.00	1,853.00
25-268	LOSAP		2,000.00
25-269	Emergency Medical Services		8,750.00
25-275	Borough Prosecutor	6,500.00	0.00
26-290	Street & Roads	233,750.00	108,750.00
26-310	Building & Grounds		22,500.00
26-315	Vehicle Maintenance		44,450.00
27-330	Health	56,250.00	33,750.00
27-340	Dog Regulation		10,000.00
28-370	Recreation	37,500.00	5,862.50
28-375	Maintenance of Parks		1,625.00
28-380	Shade Tree Advisory Board		2,500.00
30-415	Retirement Benefits		25,000.00
30-420	Celebration of Public Events		2,500.00
31-201	Contingent		1,750.00
31-430	Electricity		95,000.00
31-440	Telephone		18,250.00
31-445	Water		6,000.00
31-446	Natural Gas		15,500.00
31-460	Gasoline		48,750.00

31-461	Technology		5,000.00
31-462	Postage		9,000.00
31-471	Employees Retirement System		73,742.25
36-472	Social Security		96,250.00
36-474	Consolidated Police/Fire Retirement		0.00
36-475	Police/Fireman Retirement		292,562.25
41-899	Matching Funds for Grants		1,250.00
42-300	COAH Housing		1,250.00
42-305	Somerset County Recycling		50,000.00
42-405	Parking Meters	18,750.00	0.00
42-520	NJDEP Permit Fee		1,312.50
43-490	Municipal Court	78,750.00	5,475.00
		Salaries	Other
A/C #	CURRENT FUND	& Wages	Expenses
43-495	Public Defender		1,000.00
62-405	Capital Equipment		16,950.00

Totals		\$2,859,825.00	\$2,145,795.00
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45-920	Payment of Bond Principle	\$	\$1,240,000.00
45-925	Note Principle		0.00
45-930	Interest on Bonds		399,962.34
45-935	Interest on Notes	0.00	40,000.00
Totals		\$ 0.00	\$1,679,962.34

		Salaries	Other
A/C #	SEWER UTILITY FUND	& Wages	Expenses
55-501	Sewer Operating	\$ 50,500.00	\$ 10,750.00
55-502	Plainfield Area Regional Sewer		440,000.00
55-541	Social Security		3,875.00
55-542	Unemployment Comp Insurance		250.00

Totals Sewer Utility		\$ 50,500.00	\$ 454,875.00
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55-520	Payment of Bond Principal		\$ 111,208.65
55-522	Interest on Bonds	0.00	41,555.43
55-523	Principal/Interest-Notes		15,228.50

Totals		\$ 00.00	\$ 167,992.58
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RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-17-05/ 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 1st day of January, 2017 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

COMMUNICATIONS:

<p>Somerset County Office of Public Information Somerville, NJ Richard K. Phoenix, RMC – Borough Clerk & Chief Operator, WPQJ970 – 1630-AM Radio Tri-County Chamber of Commerce South Plainfield, NJ NJ State League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Trenton, NJ Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ Sustainable Raritan River Coalition New Brunswick, NJ NJ Highlands Coalition Boonton, NJ Nick Ciampa, Fleetwood Camera Museum Kerry Pflugh, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Trenton, NJ</p>	<p>Various Communications, Advisories and News Releases Calendar Updates and Advisories; Time-Sensitive Radio Scripts Newsletters and Advisories Newsletters and Advisories Various Newsletters and Advisories Report and Invoicing Newsletters Newsletters Lights of Washington Park book First Day Hikes</p>
<p>Somerset County Sheriff Somerville, NJ Denise Szabo, RMC – President Municipal Clerks’ Assoc. of NJ, Bernards Twp., NJ Public Service Electric & Gas Newark, NJ Brett Radi, Somerset County Clerk Somerville, NJ Somerset County Freeholders Somerville, NJ Gannett NJ Neptune, NJ</p>	<p>Enforcement: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Municipal Seal Replacement Tariff re: Mason Substation Repair Municipal Seal Replacement Recycling Agreement Certification of Courier-News Circulation and Legal Advertising Rates</p>

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:

Council President La Ronde requested discussion of the stigma free zone. Mr. Singleterry requested discussion of the Master Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE:

Mayor Giordano read his State of the Borough address as follows:

Happy New Year and welcome to North Plainfield's Annual Reorganization Meeting. I'd like to wish everybody a happy, healthy and prosperous 2017, especially my distinguished colleagues on the Borough Council.

This Reorganization Meeting has special meaning to me in that it marks the beginning of my third term in office. I want to thank the voters who've expressed their confidence in my administration by returning me to this office. And I want to thank them for returning a solid team of Council Members to this table – Councilwoman Keiona Miller, Councilman Skip Stabile, and Councilman Frank Righetti. But whether or not you supported us with your vote, I hope you take continued pride in what we've accomplished working together as a team and the progress we've made as a community. I hope that you look around our community and get a sense of what local government, working hard and working together, can accomplish for everyone's benefit.

I'm proud to say that redevelopment activity, investment, and progress in North Plainfield continued to be strong in 2016, and this trend will continue into the New Year. The planning and investments we made in previous years are strengthening North Plainfield today to make it a great place to live, work and do business.

Highlights of this past year include the opening, approval or construction of several new businesses in the Borough, most notably, the recently opened La-Z-Boy furniture showroom and the Kiddie Academy. Now under construction are the AAA Travel Store and Auto Repair Center, Metro Storage Facility and the Goodwill store. Approved, and soon to be under construction, are the Petco pet store next to the Texas Roadhouse Restaurant, Arooga Sports Bar and Quick Chek convenience store and gasoline station. Soon to be before the Board of Adjustment is a WAWA Convenience Store and gasoline station.

All of these developments serve to strengthen the Route 22 Corridor as a place to do business, shop and dine. All of them add to the convenience of living in North Plainfield and bring jobs to our economy.

The Borough also completed a number of road and sewer projects throughout the town, designated Rehabilitation and Redevelopment areas in accordance with the recent Master Plan, constructed a new salt storage facility and emergency generator at our Public Works Yard, constructed a new Downtown parking lot, planned for a new fueling facility at our Public Works Yard and, with action taken today, awarded a bid for an emergency generator at the Vermeule Community Center.

Planning Initiatives

As an outgrowth to our new Master Plan, the first new Plan in over 40 years, the Council has endorsed the designation of Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Areas. The Rehabilitation Area is targeted at the Downtown, and the Redevelopment Area is targeted at the long abandoned and run

down Villa Maria site. It is my hope that focusing on these areas will help to spur growth and new tax revenue for North Plainfield.

We also implemented a Government Energy Aggregation Program for the Borough. This is a process by which we solicit bids for electricity generation costs. The concept of energy aggregation allows our residents and businesses to voluntarily benefit from competitive pricing for their electricity use and encourages the increased use of renewable energy. Rest assured that any customer in the program remains free to shop for a better deal or withdraw from the program at any time. Information on this program is on our website and any consumer may still opt in to this program which will run through the end of 2017, at which time we hope to have another competitive contract in place.

Traffic Regulations

A safety initiative put into place last year was the elimination of many uncontrolled intersections in the Borough by placing Stop and Yield signs. The Police Department, Borough Engineer and Borough Administrator have worked extensively on this initiative and came up with recommendations for over 70 locations. I ask all of you, especially motorists, to be on the lookout for these changes and set an example by driving safely.

Recreation Department

Recreation and sports are a huge part of North Plainfield's tradition. Our varied programs have always been run well by a dedicated group of part time workers and volunteers. However, this past year the program has been enhanced further by the staffing of a full-time Recreation Director, Dennis Passe. Dennis coordinates our many part time staffers and volunteers to help bring even more Recreation services to our residents.

In 2016 for example we had our first free outdoor movie with a new and improved sound system, and we installed a new horseshoe pit and bocce court.

In the summer, we introduced "on line" sports registration to the community, complementing our new recreation web site. Our residents can now register for youth sports programs at their convenience from their home, office or smart phone.

Improvements were also made to our summer camp program which now features outside vendors providing educational activities every other week. This is in addition to our weekly camp activities and is provided at no extra charge.

For this holiday season, we created a community-wide house decoration contest and awarded gift cards to the top three contest winners. Additionally, our holiday decorations were expanded at Vermeule.

Special Events

Our Mayor's Special Events Committee runs several free events throughout the year for our residents. These events include the Memorial Day Services, 4th of July Parade, Summer Concert and Fireworks Display, Somerset Street Car Cruise, Senior Picnic, and Santa's Arrival and Tree Lighting.

This year the Committee introduced the North Plainfield Community Day featuring free bounce rides and face painting for children, two bands providing entertainment for everyone, and food vendors. The evening was capped off with our fantastic Fourth of July fireworks display.

In 2017, the Committee plans on expanding the Community Day with additional activities, providing free outdoor concerts on the recently renovated outdoor stage at the Vermeule Community Center, and will ask Santa Claus to tour North Plainfield the evening he meets children at the Community Center.

Fire/EMS Department

This year our Fire/EMS Department completed a full year of providing EMS (emergency medical services) services to Green Brook Township with great success. In turn, our Fire and EMS call volume will finish at approximately 3,400 incidents, well above the 2,834 from 2015. These additional EMS incidents also helped generate a record breaking year of revenue for 2016, which will finish just shy of \$500,000.

During 2016 the Fire Department finalized one of its capital improvement projects, which included full renovations to the apparatus floor. This project included the improvement to drainage and a new surface area to Bays 3 and 4 of the firehouse which will enhance safety.

Lastly, we did have one major fire of significance at the Regency Village apartment complex on a very hot weekend in July. Unfortunately, the fire took the lives of two local residents, but thanks to a strong County-wide mutual aid fire plan, the fast-moving fire was contained to the building of origin. On the whole, the fire department had a successful year in 2016.

Police Department

In 2016 the Police Department continued our successful Summer Teen Evening Program (STEP). We graduated our second successful Youth Police Academy for children in the 5th through 8th grades. National Night Out was the biggest so far with over 600 in attendance. The DARE program graduated 251 students. Our Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T) program was well received with the 7th graders. Patrol officers responded to and deployed Narcan 15 times saving victims of drug overdoses.

On March 10, 2016, Chief William Parenti and Lt. Ed Ciempola testified before the New Jersey State Accreditation Commissioners and are happy to report the commission voted unanimously to approve the Police Department for a record third reaccreditation. The North Plainfield Police Department voluntarily submits to the process of Accreditation to demonstrate its willingness to be held to a higher standard. Maintaining accredited status is a highly-prized recognition, demonstrating the hard work being done by the men and women of our Department each day in service to our community.

Continuing to be one of the trend setters and to show our willingness for transparency, North Plainfield Police are now wearing Body Worn Cameras. President Obama began the call for police to wear these cameras, and in December of 2015 Acting Attorney General Hoffman announced \$2.5 million in grant funding for police departments to implement them. Our Police Department applied for and received funding for the cameras.

While not a cure-all for the problems we are dealing with in policing, they are a win-win for both police officers and the public. They provide a firsthand look at the dangerous situations officers encounter on a daily basis, improve transparency and build trust. They have a calming effect on both the officers and the persons involved knowing they are being recorded. North Plainfield Police will continue to embrace the latest policing trends to better serve our proud community.

Public Works

This past year we made significant improvements at our expanded Public Works facility, part of which was acquired from the Somerset County Freeholders in 2014 for the sum of \$1.00.

We constructed a new salt dome that is now operational which significantly increases our storage capacity. This facility was partially funded by the Somerset County Freeholders and will be shared with their Public Works Department to help support snow removal efforts in our part of the County.

We also added an emergency generator to the Public Works garage which will keep us fully operational during emergencies. As part of the salt storage construction, we removed contaminated soil at the site. This year I anticipate the construction of a new fueling facility and further improvements to enhance efficiency of this critical department.

Emergency Preparedness

Although we've been very fortunate this past year with regard to flooding, and have had a mild winter (so far!) we know, based on past experience, that we must be proactive in preparation for any emergency. We secured funding from FEMA for a generator for the Vermeule Community Center and this bid was awarded today. We previously installed two natural gas generators at the Public Works Garage which will keep fuels flowing and our radio station on the air in the event of a power failure. We also have a diesel generator at the Municipal Complex to keep it operating in the event of a power failure.

I would also like to again take this opportunity to encourage all residents, businesses and family members to sign up for our Alert Program which allows you to customize how you prefer to be reached, and the type of notifications you would like to receive, for emergencies, special events, etc. You can choose to be notified by phone, email, and/or text message – the choice is yours. It is essential to provide us with your contact info if you have an unlisted phone number and you wish to be notified about emergency information. Even if you don't live in town but want to be aware of alerts that may affect family members, you may use this service. Instructions on how to sign up can be found on the Borough's Webpage.

Infrastructure Projects and Community Facilities

We have been very aggressive over the past years investing in our community facilities and infrastructure. We have taken advantage of historically low borrowing costs and very competitive construction prices. I'd like to thank the Borough Council for being supportive of these initiatives. I will be presenting additional projects for their consideration in the spring as part of the annual budgetary process.

Our recent Sanitary Sewer Improvement projects include:

Geraud Avenue Pump Station Improvements, recently completed

Cypress Gardens Sanitary Sewer project, recently completed

Grove Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement, nearing completion

Dahlia Terrace Sanitary Sewer Replacement, out for bids

This past year we were awarded funding through the 2016 Community Development Block Grant program for the West End Sewer Improvements, which is currently under design.

Our recent Roadway Improvement projects include:

Resurfacing and other improvements to major routes including Warfield Road (entire length), Grove Street, Duer Street, Rockview Avenue, Rockview Terrace (entire length), and portions of thirteen other streets.

We recently completed the construction of a new parking lot at the corner of Somerset Street and Pearl Street. This will soon be generating additional revenue for the Borough as well as providing more convenient parking in our Downtown.

Next year we expect to have a new traffic signal constructed at this intersection which will include pedestrian signals to enhance pedestrian safety.

Upcoming Roadway Improvements:

The NJDOT recently awarded the Borough a \$180,000 Grant for the reconstruction of Norwood Avenue. This project is currently under design and will be constructed later this year. Thanks to the renewal of the State Transportation Trust Fund we expect that there will be twice as much money for these qualifying grant projects in the future. We eagerly await the opportunity to apply for these additional funds beginning next year.

With the recent endorsement of the Complete Streets concept by the Borough Council, there will also be additional benefits for pedestrians and bicyclists as we seek to make the roadways more accommodating and safe for those users. This endorsement has allowed us to obtain grant money for additional bike racks which are being placed at key locations in town.

Building Improvements:

We hired an architect who is currently developing plans and specs to re-design and modernize the main floor space at the Memorial Library. We expect that this project will go out for bid in 2017. Longer term we will be exploring installation of an elevator for this heavily-used facility.

This year we proceeded with plans to renovate the Upstairs Conference Room at Borough Hall and Hallway. This work is nearing completion with the installation of new flooring and carpeting. The rest of our Mayors portraits will soon be hung in the Conference Room.

2017 Annual Budget

We began the process of preparing the 2017 annual budget in November. The 2017 budget being proposed will maintain all essential services and be formally presented to the Council next month. As usual, the main upward pressures on the budget are costs that we cannot control – State Health Benefits Plan premiums, State Pension Plan obligations and property tax valuation losses due to outside economic factors.

We did well by benefiting from increased revenues due to economic development (especially in the US Route 22 Corridor), increased fees for EMS services provided in Green Brook Township, aggressive tax collection efforts, and receipt of our full State Aid entitlement due to achieving the highest possible category once again in the State’s annual Best Practices Survey.

Personnel

I extend my thanks to our team of Directors and Department Heads, and the staff at Borough Hall for their hard work in the past year and their dedication to the Borough and its citizens. This also includes our legal team, headed by Eric Bernstein and his staff.

First and foremost among our Borough Hall staff are Borough Administrator David Hollod, and Administrative Assistant Gail Cain. Most every issue affecting the Borough comes through this two person office and their hard work and dedication shows through in every aspect of what we accomplish. One of the initiatives completed this year by Administrator Hollod, Chief Eaton, and Jim Rodino was the preparation of a new Personnel Manual for all employees.

A huge “Thank You” goes out to all of our volunteers serving as members of the committees, commissions, and advisory boards for your countless hours of service, especially to those members departing from our boards and committees. And congratulations are offered to all the newly appointed members who are needed for their fresh ideas and experience. All of you make my job much easier.

I look forward to working with the Borough Council, the Board of Education, the Somerset County Freeholders, state agencies, our neighboring communities, community groups, and our many volunteers to continue the progress we have made in North Plainfield. Time and again we have demonstrated the value of strong partnerships with these groups.

If you have any questions, please contact me or any member of our Borough staff at any time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for being with us today and best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2017!

Mr. Hollod thanked the Mayor and Council for his reappointment.

Wishing everyone a happy New Year, Mr. Merrill thanked those in attendance and encouraged residents to attend the meetings.

Ms. Miller thanked those in attendance and offered her wishes to all for a blessed, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Ms. Schaefer, offering her congratulations to all of the re-elected officials and appointees, expressed her wishes to all for a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Mr. Righetti wished everyone a happy New Year and thanked everyone for their support of his Council seat.

Mr. Singleterry thanked those in attendance and wished everyone a happy New Year.

Thanking everyone for sharing New Year's Day with them, Mr. Stabile stated it is a privilege to continue to serve on the Council.

Council President La Ronde echoed his colleagues' sentiments.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President