

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, February 24, 2020.

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

MINUTES of the Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **February 24, 2020** at 7:33 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo
Lawrence La Ronde
Everett Merrill
Keiona R. Miller
Wendy Schaefer
Douglas M. Singleterry
Frank "Skip" Stabile, Council President

Also Present: Michael Giordano, Jr., Mayor
David Hollod, Business Administrator
Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., Borough Attorney
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk
Stephanie Sherwood, RMC, CMR, Deputy Clerk

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

Council President Stabile requested a moment of silence for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces. Vice President Merrill also requested a moment of silence for former Middle School teacher, Deanne D'Armiento who had recently passed away.

The Council President read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This is an Agenda Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, scheduled by resolution of the Council adopted on November 18, 2019. 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*, *WJLP-TV* and *WKMB* Radio on November 19, 2019, 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:

Frank D'Amore, 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, inquired after the Borough's response to the State's letter regarding the removal of the obelisk street markers from the Washington Park Historic District. Mr. Hollod advised that Mr. D'Amore would receive a copy of the Borough's response as it was determined that the street markers were not original to the district.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion of the 2020 Budget** – D.E.H. (Patrick DeBlasio, CFO and Kathleen Intravartolo, Treasurer, CTC, QPA, to be present). Mr. DeBlasio explained that the Budget would be adopted within the State established timeframe. A municipal tax rate increase to 1.361 would amount to an increase of \$89 per homeowner. Approximately \$1,500,000 of the 2019 surplus would be used to offset even higher tax increases. The Borough continues to see a 98.27% tax collection rate. Although salary, pension, insurance and debt service costs have increased, we anticipate State aid will remain stable. We would like to introduce the Budget at the next meeting, he concluded.

2. **Agreement with Somerset County to Provide Certified Recycling Professional to Sign/Certify Annual Recycling Tonnage Reports for the year 2020** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution allows the Borough to retain the services of the County's Certified Recycling Professional for the signing of the Annual Recycling Tonnage Report to be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection at a rate of Forty One Dollars and Eighty-two Cents (\$41.82) per hour.

3. **Closeout, Final Payment and Release of Retainage for 2019 Capital Road Improvements Project by S. Brothers, Inc.** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod advised that this resolution authorizes the closeout of the contract and final payment of fifteen thousand six hundred and eighteen dollars and thirty-six cents (\$15,618.36) to S. Brothers, Inc. for the 2019 Capital Road Improvements Project.

4. **Status of Noise and Canvassing Ordinances** – L.L.R. Mr. La Ronde explained that upon further review of the Borough code, it was determined that chapter 3-7.5 prohibits sound trucks which would restrict the loud music played by the ice cream trucks. The councilman requested a deeper delve into the canvassing ordinance in an effort to make it more cohesive.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS:

Mr. Merrill reported on the success of the basketball game between the Harlem Wizards and the North Plainfield Canucks. At last count, the event had raised over \$8,000 for Project Graduation. Thirty veterans have been signed up for Hometown Heroes and their banners will be displayed along Somerset Street from Memorial Day through Veterans Day.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President