

# ***DRAFT MINUTES***

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, May 10, 2021.*

*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 Regular (virtual) Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **May 10, 2021** at 8:35 p.m. via Zoom.

**PRESENT:**

Council Members: Aimee Corzo  
Suzette Given  
Steven McIntyre  
Everett Merrill  
Keiona R. Miller  
Wendy Schaefer (absent – excused)  
Frank “Skip” Stabile, Council President

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor  
David Hollod, Business Administrator  
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney  
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk  
Stephanie Sherwood, RMC, CMR, Deputy Clerk

Council President Stabile read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This virtual 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 28, 2020 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and the Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

The Clerk had submitted copies of the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of April 26, 2021.

The Council President called for a Roll Call on the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 26, 2021: All in favor.

The Council President called for a Roll Call on the minutes of the Executive Session of April 26, 2021:

Aye: Corzo, McIntyre, Merrill, Miller, Stabile  
Abstain: Given

**HEARING:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 21-02** CALENDAR YEAR 2021 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

The Clerk read the Ordinance by its title.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Corzo, seconded by Ms. Miller and on Roll Call carried all six voting aye.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-10-21-01** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 21-02 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Ms. Corzo and on Roll Call carried all six voting aye.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council President Stabile stated that all matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by Council, that particular item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-10-21-02** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

05-10-21-02 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h

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

Seconded by Ms. Miller and on Roll Call carried all six voting aye.

**APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-10-21-02a** Resolution to Apply for Funds: Two copies of this resolution must be included in the completed application. Each of the municipality and the library/nonprofit agency/association library must certify that they are authorizing their governing bodies to submit this grant application. This resolution may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which together shall be one instrument.

The Borough of North Plainfield and the Somerset County Library System  
Municipality Library/Nonprofit Agency

hereby certify that permission has been granted to apply for the project entitled the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act, in the amount of: \$ 723,400.00 (which includes a Borough match of 50% of the total).

The filing of this application was authorized at the official meeting of the governing body of the Municipality/Library/Nonprofit Agency held on: May 10, 2021.

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-10-21-02b RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION TO NJ STATE LIBRARY FOR RENOVATIONS OF THE NORTH PLAINFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield and the Somerset County Library Commission hereby certify that permission has been granted to apply for the project entitled the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act, in the amount of:

\$723,400.00 (total construction project).  
\$361,700.00 (50% Borough matching funds).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council do hereby approve the submission of said grant application.

It is hereby certified that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield at a meeting of said council held on May 10, 2021.

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-10-21-02c** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to create duplicate tax sale certificate(s) as follows:

Block 92 Lot 36      21-23 Lincoln Place # 41-98      issued 10/22/98

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-10-21-02d RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET REGARDING THE COUNTY’S SHARED SERVICES MARKETPLACE SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Uniform Shared Services Act (“Act”), N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq. authorizes two (2) or more contracting units to enter into a Interlocal or Shared Service Agreement for the exchange of work, materials and supplies; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the County of Somerset (“County”) has commenced a voluntary Shared Service Marketplace System to enable the County and municipalities located within the County to exchange work, materials and supplies between and amongst themselves; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to participate in the County’s Shared Service Marketplace System by executing the attached Cooperative Agreement in order to effect substantial economies as to the exchange of work, materials and supplies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and the Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the County of Somerset regarding the County’s Shared Services Marketplace System. A copy of such Cooperative Agreement is annexed hereto and incorporated herein and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-10-21-02e** WHEREAS, the following organization has been issued identification number 352-5-27290 by the New Jersey Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission and has submitted applications to conduct raffles; and

WHEREAS, investigation has shown that this organization meets the requirements for the issuance of raffles licenses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Clerk be and is hereby authorized to issue raffles licenses to the following:

West End School PTA  
447 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield  
On-premises merchandise draw raffle – RL # 1194  
June 5, 2021, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Rain date: June 12, 2021, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-10-21-02f** Resolution Supporting the *Click It or Ticket* Mobilization of May 24 – June 6, 2021

Whereas, there were 585 motor vehicle fatalities in New Jersey in 2020; and

Whereas, approximately 40% of the motor vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes were not wearing a seat belt; and

Whereas, use of a seat belt remains the most effective way to avoid death or serious injury in a motor vehicle crash; and

Whereas, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 135,000 lives were saved by safety belt usage nationally between 1975-2000; and

Whereas, the State of New Jersey will participate in the nationwide *Click It or Ticket* seat belt mobilization from May 24 – June 6, 2021 in an effort to raise awareness and increase seat belt usage through a combination of high visibility enforcement and public education; and

Whereas, the Division of Highway Traffic Safety has set a goal of increasing the seat belt usage rate in the state from the current level of 90.23% to 93%; and

Whereas, a further increase in seat belt usage in New Jersey will save lives on our roadways;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Borough of North Plainfield declares its support for the *Click It or Ticket* seat belt mobilization both locally and nationally from May 24 – June 6, 2021 and pledges to increase awareness of the mobilization and the benefits of seat belt use.

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-10-21-02g** RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL APPROVING PAYMENT NO. 2 (FINAL) TO S. BROTHERS, INC. AND THE CLOSING OUT OF THE CONTRACT AND RELEASE OF RETAINAGE FOR THE 2020 CAPITAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – VARIOUS STREETS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield previously awarded a contract for the 2020 Capital Road Improvement Program – Various Streets Project (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”), with said contract having been awarded to S. Brothers, Inc., whose main offices are located at P.O. Box 317, South River, New Jersey 08882 (hereinafter referred to as the “Contractor”); and,

WHEREAS, David J. Testa, P.E., C.M.E., C.P.W.M. of Grotto Engineering Associates, LLC (hereinafter referred to as the “Engineer”), on behalf of the Borough, by letter dated April 30, 2021, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk and made a part hereof, has reviewed the Contractor’s submission for Payment No. 2 (Final) in the total amount of Twenty-Eight Thousand Seventy-Five Dollars and Thirty-Two Cents (\$28,075.32), plus the release of any and all of the Contractor’s retained funds held by the Borough for the Project; and,

WHEREAS, a Final Quantities Change Order in the amount of Thirty-Two Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty-Eight Dollars and Thirty Cents (\$32,568.30) has reduced the original Contract Sum from Seven Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifteen Dollars and Fifty-Five Cents (\$778,915.55) to Seven Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand Three Hundred and Forty-Seven Dollars and Twenty-Five Cents (\$746,347.25); and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Contract, the Contractor has submitted a one (1) year Maintenance Bond in the amount of Seventy-Four Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty-Four Dollars and Seventy-Three Cents (\$74,634.73), with an effective date of May 3, 2021; and,

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the request for Partial Payment No. 2 (Final) and the Closeout of the 2020 Capital Road Improvement Program – Various Streets Project is approved with S. Brothers, Inc., whose main offices are located at P.O. Box 317, South River, New Jersey 08882, in the total amount of Twenty-Eight Thousand Seventy-Five Dollars and Thirty-Two Cents (\$28,075.32), plus the release of any and all of the Contractor’s retained funds held by the Borough for the Project, which Final Payment Request and Closeout request is incorporated herein by reference as if same was fully set forth within and payment for same is authorized to be made to the Contractor, without the need for any further action of this Borough Council; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Final Quantities Change Order in the amount of Thirty-Two Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty-Eight Dollars and Thirty Cents (\$32,568.30), which has reduced the original Contract Sum from Seven Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifteen Dollars and Fifty-Five Cents (\$778,915.55) to Seven Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand Three Hundred and Forty-Seven Dollars and Twenty-Five Cents (\$746,347.25) is hereby approved; and,

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-10-21-02h** 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

NJ State League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ	Newsletters & Advisories
County of Somerset, Somerville, NJ	Newsletters & Communications
Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ	Report and Invoicing
Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority Middlesex, NJ	Minutes and Agenda
NJ Dept. of Transportation, Trenton	Commitment to Communities
NJ State Treasurer, Trenton	Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax
NJ Alcoholic Beverage Control, Trenton	License Renewal Conventions
Municipal Clerks’ Association of NJ	The Quill Newsletter

Ocean Grove, NJ NJ American Water, Voorhees, NJ NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Trenton	News Drop Newsletter Community Right to Know Survey Weekly Update Application for Green Acres Funds Primary Election Preparation Vaxride
Somerset County Election Board NJ Transit, Newark	

**REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mayor La Ronde announced that the County would hold a Covid-19 vaccination clinic at the firehouse on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Borough-wide yard sale is scheduled for June 5 and 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thanking Katherine Miller and Janice Allen for their efforts in putting together Clean Communities Day, he reported on a sizeable turnout and productive event. The North Plainfield Equity Town Hall is scheduled for May 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The North Plainfield Girl Scouts have scheduled a food drive for May 22, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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Borough Clerk

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Council President