

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Tuesday, 12 October 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 Tuesday, **October 12, 2021** at 7:36 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT:

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

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor
 David Hollod, Business Administrator
 Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., Borough Attorney
 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 Pledge to the Flag was led by Mr. McIntyre.

All then joined in a moment of silence for the Men and Women serving in our Armed Forces.

Mayor La Ronde presented the following Mayoral Proclamation:

I, Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor of the Borough of North Plainfield, New Jersey, do hereby proclaim that Halloween will be celebrated in the Borough of North Plainfield on Sunday, October 31, 2021. Door-to-door Trick or Treating shall begin no earlier than 3:00 pm on this date and end no later than 8:00 pm.

The Clerk had submitted copies of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 27, 2021.

The Council President called for a roll call on the minutes:

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

HEARING:

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 21-13 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$3,561,000 THEREFOR (INCLUDING STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANTS IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$660,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,771,400 IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 10-12-21-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 21-13 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Ms. Corzo and on roll call carried all six voting aye.

HEARING:

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 21-14 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE 2021 SANITARY SEWER AND REPAIR PROGRAM OF THE SEWER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "BOROUGH"); APPROPRIATING \$648,000 THEREFOR (INCLUDING A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF

\$65,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$583,000 IN BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried all six voting aye.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 10-12-21-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 21-14 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Mr. McIntyre 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. 10-12-21-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

10-12-21-03 a and b

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 RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 10-12-21-03a REQUESTING APPROVAL OF INSERTION OF \$5,000.00 FOR THE 2021 BUDGET REVENUE AVAILABLE FROM THE MUNICIPAL YOUTH SERVICES GRANT

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40:4-87 provides that the Director of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any municipality when

such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of North Plainfield hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2021 in the sum of \$5,000.00 which item is now available as a revenue from the Municipal Youth Services Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$5,000.00 be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

Municipal Youth Services Grant

RESOLUTION NO. 10-12-21-03b 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 12th day of October, 2021 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

REPORTS 2021:

Police Department – August Monthly

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
Hon. Gov. Phil Murphy, Trenton	Exec. Order No. 266 – General Election
NJ State Treasurer, Trenton	Certification of Equalized Valuation Tables
Somerset Co. Governing Officials Somerville	October Meeting
FEMA, Washington, DC	Extending Hurricane Ida Requests
Somerset County Business Partnership Somerville	Top 40 Under 40
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Trenton	Weekly Report
NJ American Water Co., Voorhees, NJ	News Drop
Creative Land Recycling, Berkeley, CA	EPA Brownfields Grants

Roger Graubard, North Plainfield NJ Highlands Coalition Boonton, NJ Office of the Attorney General, Trenton Tina Totten, North Plainfield	Resignation from Bd. of Adjustment Annual Meeting Screening of Way of the Ramapough National Opioids Settlement Green Brook Flood Control Oct. meeting
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REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank D’Amore, 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, recalled his request at the last meeting that the Council use their investigative authority to determine why OPRA requests are not responded to within the statutory time frame. He explained that as of today, he had still not received a response to an OPRA request submitted on July 6, 2021. He reminded that Rental Certificates of Occupancy must be issued and strict enforcement of same is essential for the safety and well being of the residents.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 10-12-21-04 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that prior to the adjournment of this meeting it shall convene in executive session from which the public will be excluded for the purpose of discussion on:

Affordable Housing/Land Acquisition/State Mandate

Exclusion of the public for this purpose is specifically permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. The contents of this discussion will not be disclosed until such time as the disclosure of same will not adversely affect the public interest and upon resolution of the Council. Formal action may be taken following end of executive session.

Seconded by Ms. Corzo and on roll call carried all six voting aye. Executive Session convened at 7:56 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to come out of Executive Session by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Given and carried unanimously.

Council President Stabile reconvened the meeting at 9:22 p.m. with all six council members present.

Mr. Bernstein advised that all council members present at the convening of the regular meeting were still present, as well as the Mayor, Business Administrator, Director of Law, Mr. George, Borough Clerk and Deputy Borough Clerk. Discussion included an update relative to the Borough’s on-going desire to seek compliance with their Affordable Housing obligation,

potential negotiations related to Union County parkland, and State legislation regarding electric vehicles. No formal action would be taken.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Hollod thanked the Council for their support of the Bond Ordinances.

Mayor La Ronde reminded that Somerset County residents will have the option to vote early at the Community Center from October 23 to October 31 with Sunday hours from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and all other days from 10 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Clean Community Day will be held Saturday, October 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. October is National Fire Prevention Month and the Fire Department will kick off their 2021 Change Your Clock Change Your Battery program.

Ms. Corzo thanked the library staff for their Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration: De Colores on Saturday, October 9 which included activities, stories, and crafts for kids. Ms. Given added that the library offers two grab-and-go packages available in their lobby.

Mr. Merrill reported that the Krausche Field renovations committee would hire one contractor to complete the project.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council Vice President