

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 28 March 2022.*

*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 Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **March 28, 2022** at 8:46 p.m. at the North Plainfield Community Center, 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

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
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 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 15, 2021 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 Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting of March 14, 2022.

The Council President called for a roll call on the minutes: All in favor.

HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 22-02 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT ORDINANCE NO. 17-20, GOVERNING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

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 unanimously.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 03-28-22-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 22-02 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Ms. Corzo and on roll call carried unanimously.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 03-28-22-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8, that the approved 2022 Municipal Budget of the Borough of North Plainfield be read by its title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the determination of the Council that a complete copy of the approved budget, as aforesaid, has been made available for public inspection at the North Plainfield Memorial Library and the Somerset County Library at least one week prior to today's date, and that a copy of said budget has been made available to each person requesting the same during said week and during this public hearing.

Seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried unanimously.

HEARING:

MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD,
COUNTY OF SOMERSET, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. Merrill and on roll call carried unanimously.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 03-28-22-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council Members of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

\$21,799,559.67 (Twenty-One Million, Seven Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars and Sixty-Seven Cents) Item Two below for municipal purposes, I so move.

Seconded by Ms. Given and on roll call carried unanimously.

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. 03-28-22-04 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

03-28-22-04 a, b, c

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

Seconded by Mr. Merrill and on roll call carried unanimously.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-28-22-04a RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION’S “ENFORCEMENT GUIDANCE ON THE CONSIDERATION OF ARREST AND CONVICTION RECORDS IN EMPLOYMENT DECISIONS UNDER TITLE VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964”

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c. 183, requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit’s hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq., (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and,

WHEREAS, the members of the Borough Council have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with the Borough's hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual's criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit's hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-28-22-04b RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE AN ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH PKF O'CONNOR DAVIES, LLP FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS, there exists a need for auditing and financial services for the Borough of North Plainfield; and,

WHEREAS, PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP, Certified Public Accountants and Registered Municipal Accountants, with an office address of 20 Commerce Drive, Suite 301, Cranford, New Jersey 07016, submitted an Engagement Letter for Auditing and Accounting Services dated January 31, 2022, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk and made a part hereof (hereinafter referred to as the "Engagement Letter"); and

WHEREAS, the proposed cost of the Statutory Audit services as contemplated within the afore-referenced Engagement Letter is Forty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$49,500.00); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is desirous to obtain the services of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP, to perform all of those services contemplated in the afore-referenced Engagement Letter.

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 does hereby authorize the Mayor and Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute the Engagement Letter with PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP, Certified Public Accountants and Registered Municipal Accountants, with an office address of 20 Commerce Drive, Suite 301, Cranford, New Jersey 07016 without the need for any further action of this Borough Council.

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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award is made pursuant to and consistent with the Local Public Contracts Laws of the State of New Jersey.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-28-22-04c 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 28th day of March, 2022 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 League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ	Various Newsletters and Communications, Cannabis Power Point
Somerset County Bd. of Commissioners Somerville	Various Newsletters and Communications
Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ	Invoice and Reports
Somerset County Parks, Somerville Dept. of Community Affairs, Trenton	Spring Registration State Aid Certification Signed Municipality Budget
NJ American Water Co., Voorhees, NJ	Newsdrop Newsletter

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor La Ronde thanked Councilmembers McIntyre and Schaefer for their efforts with the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership’s Green Brook Cleanup. He reported that the agreement with Somerset County for transportation services for seniors would go into effect on April 4. The fire department raised more than twenty-eight thousand dollars for St. Baldrick’s Day. He advised of his attendance at an Eagle Scouts award ceremony recognizing three recipients and honoring Robert Holzer for his twenty-two years of service in Boy Scouts of America. He recognized the North Plainfield High School Drama Club’s presentation of Little Shop of Horrors as outstanding. He announced that the Easter Egg hunt would be held Saturday, April 16 at 2 p.m. at the Vermeule Community Center and the Annual Fishing Derby would be held Saturday, April 23 at 8:30 a.m. at Green Acres Park.

Mr. Hollod thanked the Council for their support of the Budget. Thanking Ms. Miller for her efforts with Poison Prevention Week, he reminded of the drop-box for medications available in the building lobby.

Ms. Corzo thanked administration for their efforts with the Budget. She asked for the status of her request to look into a traffic signal at Mountain Avenue and Leland Avenue. Mr. Hollod reminded this is a county responsibility and he would reach out to them regarding same.

Ms. Given thanked Mr. Jackson and Ms. DeJesso for their presentation.

Mr. McIntyre also thanked Recreation for their presentation. He spoke in favor of Recreation's plans to incorporate use of the Community Center, specifically if it meant more community events throughout the year.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President