

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 11 July 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, **July 11, 2022** at 8:08 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo
Suzette Given
Steven McIntyre
Everett Merrill, Council Vice President
Keiona R. Miller
Wendy Schaefer
Frank "Skip" Stabile, Council President

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough 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."

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

The Clerk had submitted copies of the minutes of the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting of June 27, 2022.

Mr. McIntyre requested amendments to the minutes. Meeting location should be corrected to the Council Chambers as opposed to the Community Center, and the red bags referenced as being sold were actually provided free of charge.

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

All seven in favor.

Minutes ordered approved 7-0.

HEARING:

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 22-04 BOND ORDINANCE NO. 22-04 PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2022 CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$3,110,000 THEREFOR (INCLUSIVE OF A NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$442,500) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,543,700 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. Schaefer and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 07-11-22-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 22-04 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

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

HEARING:

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 22-05 BOND ORDINANCE NO. 22-05 PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2022 ACQUISITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE SEWER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "BOROUGH"): APPROPRIATING \$1,242,000 THEREFOR (INCLUDING A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$100,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,142,000 IN BONDS OR NOTES 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. Schaefer and on roll call carried all seven voting aye.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 07-11-22-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 22-05 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Ms. Miller and on Roll Call carried all seven in favor.

The Clerk read the Ordinance by its title.

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 questioned item “e,” sale of surplus property. Mr. George explained that “Municibid” had been checked out, and functioned like a public E-Bay. After the State’s amendment to the Local Public Contracts Law, Municibid emerged as one of the larger such concerns. He concluded that municipalities are getting better sales results and much broader reach using Municibid. The items can be disposed of once they are advertised and receive no takers.

Mr. McIntyre asked about the electronic sign purchase included in the consent items. The Mayor said that it would be in front of the big tree on Borough property across from Borough Hall. It will be up in the air and controlled by wifi. Ms. Schaefer asked about power to the sign, and the Mayor explained that it would draw current from an electrical line that is already present at the location.

Mr. Merrill asked who would control the sign, and the Mayor replied that it would be controlled from his office, although the Police Department could access it in an emergency.

Mr. Merrill then asked for a separate vote on consent item “f.”

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

RESOLUTION NO. 07-11-22-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

07-11-22-03 a, b, c, d, e, g & h

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

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

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 06-27-22-03a A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR DESIGNEE AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD AND LOCAL UNION NO. 469 (BLUE COLLAR), INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS, WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough of North Plainfield, a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, County of Somerset, having an address at 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey 07060 (hereinafter referred to as the “Borough”) and the Local Union No. 469 (Blue Collar), International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America (hereinafter referred to as the “Union”) expired on December 31, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough and the Union have engaged in ongoing negotiations to discuss and agree upon the terms and conditions of a successor Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough and the Union have agreed upon the terms of a successor Agreement for the term January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024, the terms of which are set forth in the Labor Agreement, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk, the terms of which are incorporated herein and made a part hereof; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to memorialize its approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough and the Union for the term of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024 be and hereby is approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor or Designee and Borough Clerk are authorized to execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement and take all appropriate actions so as to implement this Resolution, with no further actions to be taken by the Borough Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 06-27-22-03b RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH BLACK ROCK ENTERPRISES, L.L.C. FOR THE 2021 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM – BROOK AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS.

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield (hereinafter referred to as the “Borough”) is in need of certain road improvements for the 2021 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program – Brook Avenue Improvements (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough solicited bids for the Project and the following six (6) bids were received:

<u>Bidding Entity</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
Black Rock Enterprises, L.L.C.	\$434,893.50
Your Way Construction, Inc.	\$447,932.54
Cifelli & Son	\$473,840.00
S. Brothers, Inc.	\$474,820.59
Top Line Construction Corp.	\$505,783.45
Capital Paving and Contracting, L.L.C.	\$524,050.75

WHEREAS, the estimate of Grotto Engineering Associates, L.L.C., the Borough’s Engineer on the Project, was Four Hundred Eleven Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Four Dollars (\$411,294.00) for the Project, indicating that the low bid is favorable and that, upon review, the low bid prices are reasonable; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough received an NJDOT Local Aid Grant in the amount of Three Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$310,000.00) to perform the work; and,

WHEREAS, Director of Law/Borough Attorney Eric M. Bernstein, Esquire and the offices of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, L.L.C., as well as Grotto Engineering Associates, L.L.C., the Borough’s Engineer on the Project, have reviewed the bid submissions and recommend the award of the bid and contract for the Project to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Black Rock Enterprises, L.L.C. , whose main offices are located at 1316 Englishtown Road, Old Bridge, New Jersey 08857 (hereinafter referred to as the “Contractor”) as there are no material defects with the bid proposal; 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 responsive and 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, subject to the concurrence of the NJDOT Local Aid Division Office:

Project:	2021 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program – Brook Avenue Improvements
Successful Bidder:	Black Rock Enterprises, L.L.C.
Base Bid:	In the Amount Not to Exceed Four Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Three Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$434, 893.50)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute a contract and all other necessary documents to engage the construction services of Black Rock Enterprises, L.L.C. 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 Black Rock Enterprises, L.L.C. for the Project known as the 2021 NJ DOT Municipal Aid Program – Various Streets, most notably Brook Avenue Improvements.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-11-22-03c RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH MESSERCOLA EXCAVATING CO., INC., FOR THE JEFFERSON AVENUE SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield (hereinafter referred to as the "Borough") is in need of certain excavation, pipe removal and replacement, concrete work, sanitary branch connections and related services for the Jefferson Avenue Sanitary Sewer Replacement project (hereinafter referred to as the "Project"); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough solicited bids for the Project and the following six (6) bids were received:

<u>Bidding Entity</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
Messercola Excavating Co., Inc.	\$339,992.20
John Garcia Construction Co.	\$345,598.55
Shauger Group, Inc.	\$356,368.50
CMS Construction, Inc.	\$398,176.20
Underground Utilities Corp.	\$398,988.00
Montana Construction Corp., Inc.	\$546,685.00

WHEREAS, the estimate of Mott McDonald, the Borough's Engineer on the Project, was Four Hundred Forty Eight Thousand Seventeen Dollars (\$448,017.00) for the Project, indicating that the low bid is favorable and that, upon review, the low bid prices are reasonable; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough has appropriated funds sufficient to cover the cost to perform the work; and,

WHEREAS, Director of Law/Borough Attorney Eric M. Bernstein, Esquire and the offices of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, L.L.C., as well as Mott McDonald, the Borough's Engineer on the Project, have reviewed the bid submissions and recommend the award of the bid and contract for the Project to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Messercola Excavating Co., Inc., whose

main offices are located at 539 East Third Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060 (hereinafter referred to as the “Contractor”) as there are no material defects with the bid proposal; 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 responsive and 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, subject to any and all approvals by other governmental agencies for the work:

Project:	Jefferson Avenue Sanitary Sewer Replacement
Successful Bidder:	Messercola Excavating Co., Inc.
Base Bid:	In the Amount Not to Exceed Three Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Two Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$339,992.20)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute a contract and all other necessary documents to engage the construction services of Messercola Excavating Co., 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 Messercola Excavating Co., Inc., for the Project known as the Jefferson Avenue Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-11-22-03d RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD AND THE NORTH PLAINFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT TO FILE A GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD.

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield Fire Department and its Emergency Medical Services Division (hereinafter referred to jointly as the “NPF”) use Personal Protection Equipment (hereinafter referred to as “PPE’s”) during the fighting of fires and other emergency responses, as well as for operational safety; and,

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic emergency along with surges for Omicron and Delta variants continues to present a threat to the health, safety and wellbeing of NPDF Firefighters and EMT's during their response to emergencies and for operational safety; and,

WHEREAS, the NPDF desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately Seventy-Six Thousand Forty-Nine Dollars and Sixty Cents (\$76,049.60) to provide alternative PPE to NPDF Firefighters and EMT's to better protect them during all incident responses especially when exposed to Covid 19:

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 of the Borough of North Plainfield does hereby authorize the NPDF to file an application for such a grant; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council and the NPDF recognize and accept that the Department of Community Affairs may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditures of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the North Plainfield Fire Department and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and in accordance with law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement and any other documents necessary in connection therewith

RESOLUTION NO. 07-11-22-03e RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY NO LONGER
NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE ON THE ONLINE PUBLIC AUCTION SITE KNOWN AS
MUNICIPAL, [HTTPS://MUNICIPAL.COM/](https://MUNICIPAL.COM/)

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A.* 40A:11-36 of the Local Public Contracts Law provides that any public contracting unit by resolution of the governing body may authorize by sealed bid or public auction the sale of its personal property not needed for public use; and,

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A.* 40A:11-4.11(b) of the Local Unit Electronic Procurement Act further provides that a local unit is authorized to use electronic procurement practices including an online auction for the sale of surplus personal property that shall otherwise comply with the provisions of *N.J.S.A.* 40A:11-36; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield has determined that the personal property described below in Schedule "A" and incorporated as if more fully set forth herein is no longer needed for public use; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield intends to utilize the online auction platform of Muncibid, with its offices and principal place of business at 1635 Market Street, Suite 1600, Philadelphia, PA 19103, and located online at <https://muncibid.com/>; and,

WHEREAS, the sales are being conducted pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36* and the guidelines set forth in the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2019-15:

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 is hereby authorized to sell the surplus personal property as indicated on the attached Schedule "A" on the public surplus online auction website at <https://muncibid.com/>; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any reserve price, if applicable, shall be set forth as indicated on Schedule "A"; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36(5)*, the Borough of North Plainfield reserves the right to reject all bids, including when the minimum price has not been met for a particular item; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms and conditions of the agreement entered into between Muncibid and the Borough of North Plainfield are available for inspection during regular business hours in the Office of the Borough Clerk and at <https://muncibid.com/>; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the online sale shall be advertised in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36* of the Local Public Contracts Law in conjunction with this Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-11-22-03g AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF AN ELECTRONIC MESSAGE SIGN

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a* and *N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29(c)*, may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program for any State contracts entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield has the need for an Electronic Message Sign utilizing the ESCNJ (65MCESCCPS) Cooperative Purchasing Program, from KC Sign & Awnings using co-op # ESCNJ 21/22-26 in the amount of \$41,985.00;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of North Plainfield authorizes the purchase of an Electronic Message Sign, from KC Sign & Awnings, using contract # ESCNJ 21/22-26, 142 Conchester Highway, Aston, PA 19014 in the amount of \$ 41,985.00

RESOLUTION NO. 07-11-22-03h 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 11th day of July, 2022 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

Mr. Merrill expressed his happiness to be working with the new deputy clerk who will be starting in two weeks, and confirmed that she is also very excited. She is currently working in a similar capacity in Maplewood, and the shorter commute from her home in South Plainfield will be of great benefit to her quality of life. He thanked the Council President and Ms. Corzo for their help in sifting through the various candidates’ resumes with him, and also added thanks to Ms. Miller and Ms. Corzo.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 07-11-22-03f RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL APPOINTING MICHELE IRBY-GARRY AS DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A.* 40A:9-135(a) and Borough Code § 2-4.1 authorize the appointment of a Deputy Borough Clerk by the Borough Council; and,

WHEREAS, a subcommittee of the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield entrusted to seek to fill the vacant position of Deputy Borough Clerk and the subcommittee is recommending to the Council the appointment of Michele Irby-Garry upon such terms as have been negotiated therewith;

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 appoints Michele Irby-Garry as Deputy Borough Clerk of the Borough of North Plainfield, effective July 25, 2022; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that a certified copy of the within Resolution shall be forwarded to the Mayor, Borough Administrator, Borough Clerk and Michele Irby-Garry.

Seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried all seven in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS:

NJ League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ	Various Newsletters and Communications
Somerset County Bd. of Commissioners Somerville	Various Newsletters and Communications
Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ	Invoice and Reports
NJ American Water Co., Voorhees, NJ	Newsdrop Newsletter
NJ Poison Control Center New Brunswick	Newsletter

Bryan Oakes, Jr., P.E. Mott MacDonald Freehold, NJ Walter Lane, Somerset County Planning Dir. Somerville Tina Totten, North Plainfield Richard K. Phoenix, RMC Borough Clerk/Chief Operator WPQJ970 Karel E. West, Verizon, Hempstead, NY Kimberly Cowart, Director Somerset County Community Development Somerville	Jefferson Ave. Sewer Project Bid Announcement Planning Partners Forum Green Brook Flood Control Meeting Memorial Day Exercises Radio Script Introductory Communication Urban County Cooperation Agreement
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REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS:

The Council President requested that certain aspects of noise violations and the regulation of public gatherings be discussed at the scheduled August 15th Council Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Samuel Alofoje, 168 Norwood Avenue, asked about the Borough noise ordinance in reference to controlling loud parties and gatherings. He described a recent party near his home featuring two highly-amplified deejays and profanity, and reportedly called the police three times for noise enforcement on July 4th.

The Council President recalled how he and then Councilman La Ronde had championed the current noise ordinance which should be able to deal with pop-up parties. The Mayor said that the current noise ordinance is clear. Anything that you can hear inside your home is against the ordinance. For enforcement, residents should call the police non-emergency number, (908) 769-2937. If a fee is required to enter the gathering, it is illegal by law. Mr. Stabile rejoined that commercial events are illegal in residential zones.

Fitzgerald Tales, 150 Norwood Avenue, North Plainfield, (the prior speaker's neighbor) described the same event with cars parked up and down the street and strangers discarding bottles and litter.

Asked by Mr. Stabile about the frequency of the parties, Mr. Alofoje affirmed that they had been commonplace since 2018, with overbearing music that had driven a neighbor out of town. It appears that the next scheduled get-together is apparently July 24th. The gatherings appear to be attracting people from Brooklyn and New York City. Mr. Stabile commented that the gatherings raised multiple concerns, and the Mayor assured that he would check into the internet link for the parties. Ms. Schaefer advised that people should not be reluctant to phone the police if they were troubled by these incidents. The more calls, the better the enforcement will be, she assured.

On reports of liquor sales at the gatherings, the Mayor confirmed that liquor sales in themselves were illegal at such a gathering and sufficient for an immediate shutdown of such a party. Mr. Stabile asked if Mr. George could have a good look at the Borough's ordinances for enforcement opportunities, and the Mayor suggested that the town's gathering permit might answer some questions.

Mr. McIntyre questioned the penalties, and if they were escalating. Mr. George confirmed that there were escalating fines that could result in indictment, arrest and jail time. Ms. Miller suggested higher fines. Mr. George explained that they are statutory fines, and Ms. Miller suggested that regulations and fines be drawn up specifically for pop-up parties. The Mayor agreed that that could be a remedy, while the State Police have remained valuable resources for identifying possible local pop-ups. The Council President suggested that the matter be revisited at the next meeting scheduled for August 15th.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor La Ronde hoped that all enjoyed the parade and fireworks. He reminded of the Car Nutz Monday, July 18th car cruise on Somerset Street with a deejay and food vendor with three trophies offered. The Mayor's Wednesday evening Summer Concerts are being well received. He reported on a productive meeting with the Hispanic community, then advised of the Hope Social Services Academy wanting to come into the community with donated gifts for adults and children. No fees would be charged. They just require a staging area for their truck and trailer.

Mr. Hollod interjected his thanks for the support for tonight's bond ordinances, and Ms. Corzo welcomed him back. Ms. Given commented on how impressed she was with the first scheduled Mayor's summer concert, and Mr. McIntyre assured how terrific the parade and fireworks had been. He was particularly pleased with how the parade and the fireworks were held days apart, spreading out the joyous Independence Day celebration. Referencing the Apgar House, he reported briefly on volunteers meeting there on Saturday. He was particularly impressed with the volunteers' help with the cleanup.

Mr. Merrill congratulated Mr. Irovando and Recreation for all that they have done over the years to assure that the Independence Day celebration was memorable and better still from year to year, adding that he was the embodiment of a good volunteer.

Ms. Schaefer added her welcome back to Mr. Hollod, confirming how much she had enjoyed the 4th of July celebrations, particularly the fireworks and Community Day with all ages dancing.

Ms. Given reminded of the annual National Night Out celebration scheduled for August 2nd, remarking how popular the free hot dogs and hamburgers had become at every year's first Tuesday in August event.

Mr. Stabile concluded with his thanks to Mr. George for his skills as a wordsmith and to all involved in the deputy clerk search for their tireless efforts. He affirmed that Ms. Irby-Garry would serve us well. Echoing other previous speakers, the Council President expressed his admiration for

the parade, Community Day and fireworks which drew a record crowd. He agreed on Mr. Irovando's tireless dedication to the celebration, and finally welcomed back Mr. Hollod.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President