

**MINUTES** of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **April 24, 2023** at 7:31 p.m. via Zoom.

**PRESENT:**

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

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor  
David E. Hollod, Business Administrator  
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney  
Michele Irby-Garry, CMR, Acting Borough Clerk

Council Vice President Corzo 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 12, 2022 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 Flag Salute was led by Ms. Miller followed by a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

**APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

The Council Vice President called for a roll call on the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting minutes of April 10, 2023: All in favor.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Vice President Corzo 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.

Ms. Schaefer requested that item “d” be removed for a separate vote.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-24-23-01** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

04-24-23-01 a, b, c, 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 Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried all five voting aye.

**APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-24-23-01a** RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET FOR A CERTIFIED RECYCLING PROFESSIONAL TO SIGN ANNUAL RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield has duly enacted a recycling plan for all recyclable materials as designated by the Somerset County Solid Waste Management Plan and amendments thereto codified in the Borough Code under section 14-7, "Recycling Program" and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Recycling Enhancement Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1E-96.2 et seq., the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of a Certified Recycling Professional to approve and sign a mandatory Annual Recycling Tonnage Report to be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Somerset, a body politic having its offices located at 20 Grove Street, P.O. Box 3000, Somerville, New Jersey 08876 (hereinafter referred to as the "County"), has a Certified Recycling Professional on staff; and,

WHEREAS, while it is understood that the responsibility for the accuracy of all tonnage and materials reported lies with the Borough of North Plainfield, the Borough is desirous of retaining the services of the County's Certified Recycling Professional for the signing of said Annual Recycling Tonnage Report to be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection at a rate of Forty Four Dollars and Thirty-eight Cents (\$44.38) per hour as needed, not to exceed an annual amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

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 enter into said contract with the County of Somerset, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, for the services of the County's Certified Recycling Professional to sign the Borough's Annual Recycling Tonnage Reports at a rate of Forty Four Dollars and Thirty-eight Cents (\$44.38) per hour as needed, not to exceed an annual amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents on behalf of the Borough to effectuate this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the execution 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 of this contract to Somerset County, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.14, is an exception to the bidding requirements as set forth in the Local Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(2).

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-24-23-01b** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAXES

WHEREAS, the owner of 413 Tappan Avenue also known as Block 170.02 Lot 9 was deemed as a 100 % Disabled Veteran effective January 01, 2023 and is now exempt from property taxes per the Assessor and;

WHEREAS, taxes had been billed on the aforementioned parcel for the first and second quarters of 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield of Somerset County, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel taxes on this parcel:

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-24-23-01c** RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND ACTING BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MOTT MACDONALD, LLC FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE STRUCTURAL INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF CERTAIN DECORATIVE LIGHT POLES.

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield has approximately eighty (80) decorative street lighting poles along Somerset Street, which have been in place for some extended period of time; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of professional engineering services to evaluate the structural integrity of the base connections for those decorative street light poles along Somerset Street and to identify whether any of the decorative street light poles' structural connections require repair and/or replacement (hereinafter referred to as the "Project"); and,

WHEREAS, Mott MacDonald, with a principal place of business located at 3 Paragon Way, Freehold, New Jersey 07728, is in the business of providing engineering services for general engineering and submitted a proposal, dated April 3, 2023 a copy of said proposal being maintained in the Office of the Borough Clerk and the contents of which are incorporated herein, for engineering services to inspect and evaluate the decorative light poles, prepare a report to the Borough of North

Plainfield and respond to any questions or concerns of the Borough of North Plainfield in an amount not to exceed Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$16,800.00); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is desirous of obtaining the services of Mott MacDonald to perform all of those services contemplated in the afore-referenced proposal.

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 award said contract to Mott MacDonald, 3 Paragon Way, Freehold, New Jersey and authorizes the Mayor and the Acting Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute a Professional Services Agreement with Mott MacDonald for engineering services for inspection, evaluation, reporting and comments regarding the decorative light poles along Somerset Street for the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$16,800.00) 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. 04-24-23-01e** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, JUSTINA MAZZELLA be and hereby is appointed to the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the balance of an unexpired term expiring on January 1, 2025 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-24-23-01f** 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-24-23-01g** BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following:

Refund of Road Opening Bonds

Stephen F. McArthur   \$ 1500.00  
PO Box 2697  
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060-0697

Work done at:

51 Sycamore Avenue

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-24-23-01h** Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Somerset;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the North Plainfield Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2023 - 2024 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ 7,864.76
Cash Match	\$ 1,966.19
In-Kind	\$ 5,898.57

2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

3. The Borough Council accepts subsequent award of this grant.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-24-23-01d** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GRANTING OF A PLACE TO PLACE TRANSFER APPLICATION PURSUANT TO TITLE 33 OF THE NEW JERSEY STATUTES TO MI MUNDO LATINO, L.L.C., AT PREMISES KNOWN AS 50-54 WATCHUNG AVENUE, PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 1814-33-001-003.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 33:1-1 et. seq., the Bridge Tavern, located at 50-54 Watchung Avenue, in the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset and State of New Jersey, is a licensed premises for the sale of alcoholic beverages, pursuant to New Jersey State ABC Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 1814-33-001-003; and,

WHEREAS, the entity/person holding the plenary retail consumption license for said licensed premises is Mi Mundo Latino, L.L.C.; and,

WHEREAS, Mi Mundo Latino, L.L.C. has requested approval of a place to place transfer of said plenary retail consumption license noted above into an adjacent expanded space pursuant to a site plan approved by the Planning Board of the Borough of North Plainfield for the construction of an outdoor dining area wherein alcoholic beverages may be served, which requires a place to place transfer to permit the license holder to operate therein; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield has reviewed the application of Mi Mundo Latino, L.L.C. for said place to place transfer including, but not limited to, the stockholders thereof and the record of the licensee showing that there are no known violations of local and/or state alcoholic beverage laws by the stockholders seeking the transfer or the current licensee; and,

WHEREAS, the North Plainfield Police Department has reviewed the application of Mi Mundo Latino, L.L.C. for said place to place transfer and performed an investigation as required by N.J.S.A. 33:1-1, et seq., and reported to the Borough of North Plainfield that there are no known violations of local and/or state alcoholic beverage and/or criminal laws, or conditions which would impact the approval of said place to place transfer, Mi Mundo Latino, L.L.C., has supplied additional information requested by the North Plainfield Police Department in order to complete its report, of which the North Plainfield Police Department noted certain concerns which may affect the health, safety and welfare of the premises, patrons and residents in the area; and,

WHEREAS, in discussions with the representatives of Mi Mundo Latino, L.L.C., those certain concerns of the Borough of North Plainfield's officials were addressed, and certain conditions were agreed upon by Mi Mundo Latino, L.L.C., as part of the application and its approval; and,

WHEREAS, the current licensee has satisfied all outstanding judgments against the current licensee and submitted paperwork to the Borough of North Plainfield evidencing the satisfactions of said judgements; and,

WHEREAS, publication of the transfer has been made in The Courier News, The Star Ledger, The Alternative Press and WKMB Radio and there were no objections received by the ABC Board prior to a hearing on this transfer; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield is of the opinion that the place to place transfer should be granted with the conditions stated below.

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 approves and authorizes the place to place transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License, No. 1814-33-001-003, held by Mi Mundo Latino, L.L.C., and operated at 50-54 Watchung Avenue in the Borough of North Plainfield to permit the operation of said plenary retail consumption license in and about the premises including expanded outdoor dining area with service of alcoholic beverages at the licensed premises, subject to the mandatory following conditions.

1. There shall be no music, whether recorded, live or electronically produced, played in the expanded outdoor dining area.

2. Service in and use of the expanded outdoor dining area shall end at 12:00am midnight on Friday and Saturday nights and 11:00pm on all other nights.

3. The gate to the rear driveway of 70 Pearl Street, which adjoins the property at 50-54 Watchung Avenue, shall remain locked and for the use of the owner(s) and/or tenant(s) of that property only.

4. The dumpster area shall be enclosed in such enclosure as required by the approval of the North Plainfield Planning Board for the site plan submitted to permit the construction of the outdoor dining area.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that violation of any of the above conditions shall be grounds for revocation of the approval of applicant's place to place transfer, upon notice and an opportunity to be heard in accordance with N.J.S.A. 33:1-1; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,that the Acting Borough Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a certified true copy of this Resolution to the Director of the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control within ten (10) business days.

Seconded by Mr. Merrill with Roll Call as follows:

Aye: Corzo, McIntyre, Merrill, Miller  
Nay: Schaefer

Resolution carried 4-0-1.

**REPORTS:**

POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – February 2023  
BOARD OF HEALTH MONTLY REPORT – March 2023  
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT - 1ST Quarter 2023

**REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

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

Mayor La Ronde announced that Clean Community Day and the annual Fishing Derby would be held Saturday, May 6. He thanked the residents that voluntarily cleaned a portion of the Green Brook and the Hope Club for their recognition of Earth Day.

Mr. Hollod reported on the sewer rehabilitation and sewer replacement projects on Rockview Avenue as well as the two projects at the Community Center.

Vice President Corzo advised that Council President Stabile asked her to give a report on the issue of food vendors along Somerset Street that was brought up by a member of the public during the last council meeting. The day after the last council meeting when the issue was brought up, Council President Stabile made inquiries and found out that our Health Department was already aware of this issue and has been on the lookout for violators. Additionally, our Police Department was already looking for these vendors and had indeed issued a ticket even before the last council meeting took place. That individual will have to appear in court. The NPPD will continue to monitor the situation.

Further, after our last council meeting, a borough official reached out with high importance to the county individual who provides Health Department inspection coverage for the Borough about the Somerset Street issue brought up at our last council meeting. The inspector then visited 350 Somerset Street (laundromat) and 100 Somerset Street (Fine Fare Supermarket), locations given by the member of the public who brought up the issue, to see if anyone was selling food items; no one was that day. The inspector will continue to monitor those locations when she is in North Plainfield to do food establishment license inspections. However, we also now have another specific location that Council Member Given recently brought to our attention: outside the High School at lunchtime.

Separately, an individual had come into Borough Hall recently to inquire about what was necessary to become a licensed food vendor in the Borough. She was given assistance and various documents to fill out and return, but she has not done so as of yet. It is not known if this is the same individual who was issued the ticket. Finally, Council President Stabile has recommended that we invite a representative from the county to give a presentation to the council (perhaps in May) on the Health Department inspection services they provide the Borough. In conclusion, this is an issue that we will continue to enforce and evaluate.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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Acting Borough Clerk

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Council President