

MINUTES of the Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **July 24, 2023** at 7:42 p.m. at North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo, Council Vice President
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 E. Hollod, Business Administrator
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Michele Irby-Garry, CMR, Acting 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 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 Mr. McIntyre followed by a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Raquel Figueroa, 501 Mountainview Drive, North Plainfield, stated that she was struck by a vehicle while riding her bicycle through the intersection of Greenbrook Road and Clinton Avenue. The accident left her with three fractures in her wrist and several broken bones in her ankle which required surgical repair. Reporting that she was one of four high school students struck by vehicles in the span of a month, she urged for bike lanes, speed humps, and more signage to advise motorists to slow down. Ms. Given reported on the recent subcommittee meetings which included discussions of various traffic calming measures. Joining in, Mayor La Ronde indicated a flashing pedestrian crossing sign would be installed at the intersection of Greenbrook Road and Rockview Terrace.

Christine Holman, 21 Myrtle Avenue, North Plainfield, spoke of the dangers presented by distracted drivers, regardless of the time of day.

Libni Reyes, 97 Myrtle Avenue, North Plainfield, detailed an incident on a Saturday afternoon in which his nine year old twins were nearly struck by a speeding vehicle.

Mavis Luque, 105 Myrtle Avenue, North Plainfield, commented on her recent meeting with the Mayor to discuss garbage and safety issues. She reported on the issues in and around Green Brook Park, including public intoxication, public urination, fights and illegal parking.

Mercedes Mejia, 94 Fairview Avenue, North Plainfield, urged for the installation of speed humps on Fairview Avenue to deter speeding. She shared her frustrations with the litter in her neighborhood as well as the loud music played at all hours of the day. Mayor La Ronde announced that lawn signs encouraging motorists to slow down would be made available to residents at no cost.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Designated E-Commerce Parking Spaces** – S.G. & D.E.H. Ms. Given stated that the Borough parking lot at Somerset Street and Craig Place would soon designate a safe area for individuals to conduct their e-commerce transactions. Joining in, Mayor La Ronde noted this has become commonplace in various municipalities after an off-duty police officer was mugged during an e-commerce transaction.
2. **Rental of Backyards** – S.M. & S.G. Mr. McIntyre advised of his recent discovery of the Swimply App, which allows homeowners to advertise their swimming pools for rent. Ms. Given reported that residents also rent out their backyards for dog walking. Mr. McIntyre questioned if 10-6.5 of the Borough Code would prohibit this. Affirming, Mr. George further explained that once a private residence has been rented for a party function, it becomes a commercial business. Lack of regulations and the absence of a lifeguard become liabilities, he concluded.
3. **Parking Enforcement (Safety Sticks)** – L.L. Mr. George advised of the evening's resolution which authorizes the Mayor and Borough Clerk to execute an agreement with Municipal Parking Systems, Inc. for the installation and operation of SafetyStick parking control devices. The devices would monitor parking activity and enforce parking regulations in no-parking zones such as fire lanes, bus stops, crosswalks, and loading zones. All council members agreed to move forward with the project while Mayor La Ronde confirmed the agreement would be memorialized the following day.
4. **Begging/Soliciting Ordinance** – F.S.S. and P.G. Mr. George recalled previous discussion of the ordinance, specifically the restriction of begging/soliciting within ten feet of any entrance or exit of any bank or automated teller machine while in customer use or any entrance or exit of a commercial premise. At the request of the council, the distance would be increased from ten feet to twenty feet.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS:

Mr. Merrill reported on the new slide installation at Green Acres Park. Conversations have begun with the Green Acres Foundation regarding storage room renovations and the Borough will look into Open Space funding from Somerset County for our parks.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President