

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **July 24, 2023** at 9:20 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.”

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

RESOLUTION NO. 07-24-23-03a A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 61,000,000 American adults have disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau reports that over 3,000,000 children have disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was signed into law on July 26, 1990; and

WHEREAS, people with a disability remain at an increased risk of experiencing discrimination, isolation, and inequities; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are vital, and make meaningful contributions in the Nation's arts, science, healthcare, technology, sports, education, law, and many more sectors; and

WHEREAS, "DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH" IS CELEBRATED IN JULY BY PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield of Somerset County, State of New Jersey, expresses support for the designation of July 2023 as "Disability Pride Month" and calls on the residents of North Plainfield to observe "Disability Pride Month" with appropriate celebrations and activities; and take an active role in preventing the exclusion of, and discrimination against, individuals with disabilities.

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

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 23-11 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 4 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED "GENERAL LICENSING", MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTION 4-6, ENTITLED "CANVASSERS," BY REVISING SECTION 4-6 IN ITS ENTIRETY.

The Acting 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.

RESOLUTION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 07-24-23-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 23-11 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 07-24-23-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 23-10 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing August 14, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as the time and the North Plainfield Council Chambers,

263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey or Zoom as the place for hearing and final adoption.

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

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title:

ORDINANCE NO. 23-10 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 3 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED “POLICE REGULATIONS”, MORE SPECIFICALLY, § 3-7.10, ENTITLED “DISORDERLY CONDUCT” AND EVEN MORE PARTICULARLY BY ADDING A NEW § 3-7.10.1, ET SEQ., ENTITLED “BEGGING AND SOLICITING”.

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. 07-24-23-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

07-24-23-03 b, c, d, 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. Merrill and on roll call carried all six voting aye.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 07-24-23-03b A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO REFUND TAXES

WHEREAS, the owner of 401 US Highway 22, 15D, also known as Block 6.01 Lot 15 Qualifier -CONDO - -, paid the property taxes for 2022 3rd & 4th as well as 2023 1st and 2nd and;

WHEREAS, taxes were also paid by Corelogic on the same quarters:

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 refund overpayments on this parcel:

Refund Overpayments to:
Jayzelle C Roberts \$2,874.90
401 US Highway 22, 15D
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

RESOLUTION NO. 07-24-23-03c RESOLUTION EXTENDING GRACE PERIOD FOR PAYMENT OF 3RD QUARTER 2023 TAXES

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-64 provides that third quarter tax bills were to be mailed at least 47 days prior to the due date of August 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, because of delays outside of the Township’s control, the bills could not be mailed prior to this deadline; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3d provides that when third quarter tax bills cannot be mailed by June 14, taxes shall not be subject to interest until at least 25 days after the tax bills are mailed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the interest charged as per Resolution No. 07-24-23-03c, shall be waived if payment of third quarter tax bills is received by August 18, 2023. Any payments not made within this time shall be charged interest from the State set due date of August 1, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-24-23-03d 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 Construction Permit:

Vision Solar \$ 542.00
511 Route 168
Turnersville, NJ 08012

Property at: No Installation

198 Westervelt Avenue
North Plainfield. New Jersey 07060

RESOLUTION NO. 07-24-23-03e 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 a 100% Disabled Veteran effective January 1, 2023 per the Assessor and;

WHEREAS, the property taxes were billed on the aforementioned parcel for 2023 3rd & 4th quarters as well as 2024 1st and 2nd.

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. 07-24-23-03f 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 24th day of July, 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. 07-24-23-03g RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND ACTING BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH CROSSROADS PAVING CO. FOR THE FY2022 MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM - JACKSON AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS.

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield (hereinafter referred to as the “Borough”) is in need of certain road improvements for the FY2022 Municipal Aid Program - Jackson Avenue Improvements (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough solicited bids for the Project, nine (9) bid packages were purchased and the following nine (9) bids were received:

Bidding Entity	Base Bid
Crossroads Paving Co.	\$579,490.90
Cifelli & Son	\$606,462.00
Relvax	\$626,197.31
Black Rock Enterprises, L.L.C.	\$649,364.20
Topline Construction Corp	\$663,189.12
KM Construction Corp.	\$664,024.40
S&L Contracting	\$672,441.97
Your Way Construction	\$673,034.16
Zuccaro, Inc.	\$820,494.00

WHEREAS, the estimate of Grotto Engineering Associates, L.L.C., the Borough’s Engineer on the Project, was Six Hundred Thirty Thousand One Hundred and One Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$630,101.50) for the Project; and,

WHEREAS, the review of the bid of Crossroads Paving Co. was substantially lower than the Engineer’s estimate, indicating that the low bid is favorable and that, upon review, the low bid price is reasonable, references were checked and responses were favorable from prior work in other municipalities; 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, Crossroads Paving Co., whose main offices are located at 386 South Street, #169, Newark, New Jersey 07105 (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:

Project:	FY2022 Municipal Aid Program - Jackson Avenue Improvements
Successful Bidder:	Crossroads Paving Co.
Base Bid:	In the Amount Not to Exceed Five Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$579,490.90)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Acting Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute a contract and all other necessary documents to engage the construction services of Crossroads Paving Co. 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 Crossroads Paving Co. for the Project known as the FY2022 Municipal Aid Program - Jackson Avenue Improvements.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-24-23-03h A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO REFUND TAXES

WHEREAS, the owner of 825 NJSH 22W, also known as Block 119 Lot 1.01, appealed their assessment value and;

WHEREAS, the Tax Court Judgments for the year 2021and 2022 reduced the assessments resulting in tax overpayments of \$22,373.04 and \$30,823.79:

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 refund overpayments on this parcel:

Refund Overpayments to:

Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC.

For Realty Income Corporation \$ 53,196.83

34 Mountain Blvd, Building A

P.O. Box 4922

Warren, NJ 07059

Council President Stabile presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption, noting that it would be memorialized tomorrow:

RESOLUTION NO. 07-24-23-04 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH MUNICIPAL PARKING SYSTEMS, INC. FOR INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF SAFETYSTICK PARKING CONTROL DEVICES

WHEREAS, Municipal Parking Service, Inc. (“MPS”) has developed a unique, proprietary, patent-protected parking and no-parking enforcement and parking data technology system referred to as the Sentry® System (the “Sentry System”), which includes the camera-equipped, self-enforcing Sentry® SafetyStick® bollards (the “SafetyStick(s)”) and related hardware and the Sentry® software (the “Sentry Software”) that enables operation and web-based back-end management of the SafetySticks; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield wishes to deploy up to one hundred (100) SafetySticks and use the Sentry System to monitor parking activity and enforce parking regulations in certain no-parking zones such as fire hydrants, bus stops, crosswalks, and loading zones (the “No-Parking Zone(s)”); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield believes that it is in the best interests of the residents of the Borough of North Plainfield to use the services of MPS to provide such SafetyStick devices to control parking and enforce its no-parking zones for traffic safety and the safety of pedestrians and cyclists in and about the Borough; and,

WHEREAS, the Director of Law/Borough Attorney Eric M. Bernstein, Esquire and the offices of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, L.L.C. have reviewed the proposed contract with MPS for the use of up to one hundred (100) Safety Stick devices and accept same with the recommendations of the Chief of Police of the North Plainfield Police Department.

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 a contract to Municipal Parking Services, Inc., for the provision and use of up to one hundred (100) SafetyStick devices; and,

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 services of Municipal Parking Services, Inc. for the use of said company’s SafetyStick devices; 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 and the proposal for SafetyStick devices submitted by Municipal Parking Services, Inc.

Seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried all six voting aye.

REPORTS:

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE QUARTERLY REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS:

Dynamic Earth Lake Como, NJ	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Site Remediation Program
New Jersey State League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ	Legislative Bulletin 2022-2023

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: Mr. Merrill requested a discussion of the quarterly reports with someone from Property Maintenance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mayor La Ronde announced the upcoming National Night Out scheduled for Tuesday, August 1 at 6 p.m. and reminded everyone that the weekly summer concerts are held every Wednesday at Vermeule.

Mr. McIntyre shared details of an online seminar he attended including the process of businesses moving into towns as well as the charging standards associated with electric vehicles and how that will impact municipalities.

Ms. Miller encouraged a look into the most recent communication from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding funding, specifically for the use of electric buses.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Acting Borough Clerk

Council President