

MINUTES of the Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **February 26, 2024** at 7:34 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo, Council Vice President
Suzette Given
Steven McIntyre
Everett Merrill (absent – excused)
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, Acting Borough Clerk

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 11, 2023 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Richard Phoenix, 58 Sycamore Avenue, North Plainfield, questioned Ordinance No. 24-02, specifically Section 3(v) Buildings and Grounds which included the demolition of the Vermeule Caretaker’s House as it is currently home to the borough’s food pantry. Mr. Hollod confirmed that the house would not be demolished and those funds would now be used towards the purchase of an ambulance should Ordinance No. 24-02 pass.

Geri Modell, 296 Brook Avenue, North Plainfield, voiced her concerns with the amount of speeding motorists throughout the borough as well as the loud exhaust systems. Mayor La Ronde confirmed that ticket issuance for loud exhaust systems had recently increased.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Presentation of the Proposed 2024 Municipal Budget** – (L.L and P.D) Mr. DeBlasio indicated that as the Budget stands, the municipal tax rate would amount to an approximate increase of \$199.60 per household. Surplus had increased to more than five million, more than half of which would be used to offset additional tax increases. Salaries, pensions, health benefits

and debt services led to an overall increase of one million, three hundred eighteen thousand dollars. Responding to Ms. Schaefer, Mr. DeBlasio confirmed that salaries increase approximately five hundred thousand dollars each year. The councilwoman requested a breakdown of the overall 2023 over-time paid out by department as well as the anticipated figures for 2024.

2. **Bond Ordinances (3) Re-appropriation of Balances to Purchase an Ambulance – (D.E.H. and P.D.)** Mr. Hollod indicated that a portion of the funds in three previously adopted bond ordinances had never been utilized and would now be appropriated for the purchase of an ambulance.

3. **Stormwater Ordinance Required by NJDEP – D.E.H.** Mr. Hollod explained that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection had provided supplemental and amendatory language to permit the Borough to make certain revisions to its Stormwater Management and Control Code provisions.

4. **Award of Bid for Rockview Avenue Sanitary Sewer Project – D.E.H.** Mr. Hollod indicated this resolution would authorize an agreement with Vortex Services, LLC for the Rockview Avenue Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project in the amount of one hundred two thousand nine hundred fourteen dollars (\$102,914.00).

5. **Resolution for Mott MacDonald to Provide Sanitary Sewer Engineering Services – D.E.H.** Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution would authorize a professional services agreement with Mott MacDonald, LLC for municipal engineering services for 2024.

6. **Traffic Calming/Safety Improvements – L.L.** Mayor La Ronde explained that this resolution would authorize Klein Traffic Consulting, LLC to evaluate Myrtle Avenue, Willow Avenue, Rockview Avenue, Rockview Terrace, and Warfield Road for traffic controls, signing, striping and pavement markings. The recent striping of Warfield Road had not calmed speeding according to recent police traffic reports. Council members shared their concerns and requested additional data before moving forward with the study.

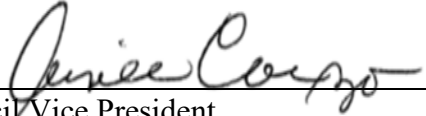
OLD BUSINESS: None.

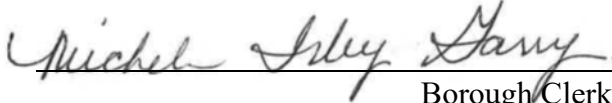
REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.


 Council Vice President


 Borough Clerk