

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 23 May 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, **May 23, 2022** at 8:33 p.m. at the North Plainfield Community Center, 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

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

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor
David Hollod, Business Administrator
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 May 9, 2022.

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

GCADA, the New Jersey Department of Human Services/Division on Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has awarded a Youth Leadership Grant to the GCADA Municipal Alliance Program; and

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 of North Plainfield has applied for DMHAS Youth Leadership funding through 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 an application for DMHAS Grant funding for the North Plainfield Municipal Alliance for Year One Grant Term 7/1/22 – 3/14/23 in the amount of:

DMHAS Grant Funding	\$3702.50
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2. The Borough of North Plainfield and the Borough Council acknowledge the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.
3. The Borough of North Plainfield accepts subsequent award of this grant.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-23-22-01c BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to create duplicate tax sale certificate(s) as follows:

Block 142.01 Lot 25 21 D Washington Ave. # 09-00319 issued 10/01/09

RESOLUTION NO. 05-23-22-01d 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 23rd day of May, 2022 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

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

Maureen Coxwell, Deputy County Clerk
Somerville
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk
Chief Operator, WPQJ970 – 1630-AM
NJ Poison Control Center
New Brunswick

Somerset County Mobile Office
Coming to North Plainfield
Booster Clinic
Radio Script
Driving High is Illegal

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one appeared.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Merrill recalled a popup party on Mali Drive that had occurred a year ago. He observed that a recent unruly gathering at Long Branch caused those memories to resurface and expressed his concerns that the Borough had adequate legislation in place to discourage such events, adding that a notice regarding a similar gathering in Berkeley Heights had appeared on the North Plainfield community page. The Mayor replied that our local police make it a practice to monitor the page. It would be up to the Council if any sort of resolution were brought forward attempting to regulate such gatherings. The Councilman rejoined that the Long Branch mayor appeared to be deflecting the gathering to New Jersey Transit since that was the apparent means of travel chosen by the partiers.

Council President Stabile cautioned against publicity that could paint a target on North Plainfield. Ms. Miller offered the possibility of putting a limit on the number of people attending gatherings, while Mr. George said that there were attempts to limit the number of individuals congregating in private homes for a party. The Mayor reminded that there are already a variety of ordinances on the books that would have shut down last year's Mali Drive gathering, such as measures regarding noise, intoxication and public lewdness. It was a matter of enforcement. Mr. Merrill recalled that wristbands had been sold for the Mali gathering that opened the door to underage drinking – a clear violation of the law. The Mayor added that the Mali pop-up was unadvertised, and had so abruptly increased in size and volume that residents lacked the time to alert the police. Ms. Schaefer agreed that police had received minimal public input regarding the Mali Drive gathering. Mr. McIntyre suggested asking the Police Chief for guidance on regulating potentially unruly gatherings. The Council President observed that there is a patchwork of ordinances in place that could help with controlling them.

Mayor La Ronde reminded of the range of Memorial Day exercises in town which would follow prior years' observances. Shopping bags made from recycled materials are being given away by the Borough supported by prior Clean Community Day grant monies in efforts to create alternatives to plastic shopping bags, and the Girl Scouts are selling bag pods as fundraisers. "Diversity in the Borough" has been announced as the 4th of July Parade theme. The High School's Hope Club will serve as Grand Marshals to the parade.

The next County-sponsored vaccine clinic is planned for Sunday, June 12th at the Firehouse. Free home radon testing kits are once again available from the Mayor's Office. Ms. Miller suggested that the kits be supported by publicity as part of the Borough's advocacy for poison prevention. Juneteenth will be celebrated June 18th on the middle school grounds. The Councilwoman suggested that the event remain celebratory but solemn.

Ms. Schaefer reiterated that she is in full support of the Fire Department and any equipment necessary to help them in their quest to protect the Borough and its residents.

The Pride Flag will be hoisted by the Fire Department on June first, and will continue flying for the entire month of June.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President