

**MINUTES** of the Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **August 14, 2023** at 7:38 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 (absent – excused)  
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. Merrill followed by a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Mayor La Ronde presented the following Mayoral Proclamation:

**Prostate Cancer Awareness Month**

Whereas, this year, approximately 288,300 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in the United States alone and roughly 34,700 will die this year from the disease; and

Whereas, in New Jersey, an estimated 9,460 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed and an estimated 730 deaths will occur in 2023; and

Whereas, men with relatives with a history of prostate cancer are twice as likely to develop the disease; and

Whereas, prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in American Men and the third leading cause of cancer death behind lung and colon cancer; and

Whereas, 1 in 8 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime and 1 in 6 African American men will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime. Overall, African American men are 1.7 times more likely to be diagnosed with - and 2.1 times more likely to die from prostate cancer than white men; and

Whereas, Veterans who were exposed to herbicides like Agent Orange are at increased risk for developing prostate cancer, and are more likely to have an aggressive form of the disease; and

Whereas, education regarding prostate cancer and early detection strategies is critical to saving lives, preserving, and protecting our families; and

Whereas, if caught early, prostate cancer has a five-year survival rate of nearly 100%. However, for late stage prostate cancer the five-year survival rate is 31%; and

Whereas, all men are at risk for prostate cancer and we encourage the citizens of North Plainfield to recognize the importance of awareness and screenings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Lawrence La Ronde, do hereby proclaim the month of September, 2023 to be Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in North Plainfield.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

George Miller, 27 Vine Street, North Plainfield, voiced his concerns with children playing soccer at Somerset School during inclement weather. He then shared his frustrations with the amount of vehicles parked on Vine Street.

Barbara Habeeb, 73 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, voiced her displeasure with the audible exhaust systems and loud music from vehicles, calling for stronger enforcement of both.

Carl and Esther Hoffman, 27 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, shared their traffic safety concerns after their daughter was struck by a vehicle and injured.

Francine Gargano, 57 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, inquired after the status of the refund due to her client which was discussed at a previous meeting. She then detailed the over-crowding in her neighborhood which has led to illegally parked vehicles.

Geri Modell, 296 Brook Avenue, North Plainfield, called for stronger enforcement of speeding as well as the implementation of traffic calming measures.

Pam Strickland, 195 Sandford Avenue, North Plainfield, stressed her displeasure with the loud music played in her neighborhood. She questioned the legality of families renting rooms out of single family home, noting it has led to over-crowding in the schools.

Daniel Battista, 34 Regent Street, North Plainfield, stressed the need for stronger enforcement of the panhandling and litter along Somerset Street.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **2023 Capital Budget Recommendations** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod detailed several recommendations for the 2023 Capital Budget. The Police Department requested funds for the replacement of in-vehicle computers, vehicle mounted radar units and a four-wheel drive vehicle. The Fire Department’s 1.3 million dollar ladder truck will be offset by four hundred thousand dollars of grant funds and a monetary contribution from the Borough of Watchung. The Office of Emergency Management has requested thirty-five thousand dollars to ensure full preparedness to respond to an active shooter event. The library will need sixty-five thousand dollars for an asbestos abatement and boiler replacement. Funds will be used for an upgrade to the heating and cooling system in the municipal building. The Green Acres Park athletic court re-surfacing project will utilize over two hundred thousand dollars. Various road improvements and municipal parking lot repairs are necessary. Two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars will be used for a new Department of Public Works garbage truck. Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars has been allotted for sanitary sewer repairs. The 2023 Budget included five million dollars for capital projects and we have proposed 3.8 million dollars, he concluded.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS:**

Mr. Merrill reported on the success of the summer camp year end barbeque.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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Borough Clerk

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Council President