

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Friday, **February 16, 2024** at 6:36 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo, Council Vice President
 Suzette Given
 Steven McIntyre
 Everett Merrill
 Keiona R. Miller
 Wendy Schaefer
 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, Acting Borough Clerk

Ms. Garry 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. Hollod followed by a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces. Council President Stabile requested an additional moment of silence to honor Marques Hudson, the Plainfield Firefighter tragically killed in the line of duty.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION:

Mayor La Ronde presented the following Mayoral Proclamation:

WHEREAS, the United States honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the Nation every February; and,

WHEREAS, Black History Month was first set out in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, the "Father of Black History" as a time to enrich people's understanding and appreciation of Black History and culture; and,

WHEREAS, what began as a week-long observance evolved into a month-long celebration officially recognized by President Gerald R. Ford during the American Bicentennial Year 1976 who called upon Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."; and,

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and all of society - from activists and civil rights pioneers to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more.; and,

WHEREAS, February was chosen primarily because its second week coincides with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln who emancipated the slaves and Frederick Douglas, a prominent abolitionist; and,

WHEREAS, this year's Black History Month theme is "African Americans and The Arts" and points to how African Americans have contributed to visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression; and,

WHEREAS, African American artists have used art to preserve history and to foster empowerment; now, therefore,

BE IT PROCLAIMED by Mayor Lawrence La Ronde of the Borough of North Plainfield that February, 2024 be recognized as Black History Month; and be it further resolved that this Governing Body endorses this year's theme intended to celebrate the artistic contributions of African Americans in our diverse community and the world.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

The Council President called for a roll call on the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting minutes of January 22, 2024: All in favor.

HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-01 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT ORDINANCE NO. 22-02, GOVERNING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD.

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Corzo, seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16-24-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 24-01 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Garry 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.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16-24-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

02-16-24-02 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l

having been placed on the Consent Agenda and there having been no objection thereto, the same are hereby approved.

Seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried unanimously.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16-24-02a RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE ON THE ONLINE PUBLIC AUCTION SITE KNOWN AS MUNICIBID.

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A.* 40A:11-36 of the Local Public Contracts Law provides that any public contracting unit by resolution of the governing body may authorize by sealed bid or public auction the sale of its personal property not needed for public use; and,

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A.* 40A:11-4.11(b) of the Local Unit Electronic Procurement Act further provides that a local unit is authorized to use electronic procurement practices including an online auction for the sale of surplus personal property that shall otherwise comply with the provisions of *N.J.S.A.* 40A:11-36; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield has determined that the personal property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto and incorporated as if more fully set forth herein is no longer needed for public use; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield intends to utilize the online auction platform of Municibid, with its offices and principal place of business at its offices and principal place of business at 1635 Market Street, Suite 1600, Philadelphia, PA 19103, and located online at <https://municibid.com/>; and,

WHEREAS, the sales are being conducted pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 40A:11-36 and the guidelines set forth in the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2019-15:

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 of North Plainfield is hereby authorized to sell the surplus personal property as indicated on the attached schedule “A” on the public surplus online auction website at <https://mun icibid.com/>; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any reserve price, if applicable, shall be set forth as indicated on Schedule “A”; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 40A:11-36(5), the Borough of North Plainfield reserves the right to reject all bids, including when the minimum price has not been met for a particular item; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms and conditions of the agreement entered into between Municibid and the Borough of North Plainfield are available for inspection during regular business hours in the Office of the Borough Clerk and at <https://mun icibid.com/> ; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the online sale shall be advertised in accordance with *N.J.S.A.* 40A:11-36 of the Local Public Contracts Law in conjunction with this Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16-24-02b 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 Building Permit:

Trinity Solar \$ 256.00
2211 Allenwood Road
Wall, NJ 07719

Re: 686 Warfield Road - Quinator

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16-24-02c WHEREAS, the following organization has been issued identification number 352-5-27290 by the New Jersey Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission and has submitted applications to conduct raffles; and

WHEREAS, investigation has shown that this organization meets the requirements for the issuance of raffles licenses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Acting Clerk be and is hereby authorized to issue a raffles license to the following:

West End School PTA
447 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield
On-premises merchandise draw raffle – RL # 2301
March 23, 2024, 2:00 – 9:00 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16-24-02d BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that Detective Richard “Rick” Dow be and hereby is appointed to the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing February 13, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2027 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16-24-02e BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, Michael Dellipoali, Jr. be and hereby is appointed as a regular member to the RENT STABILIZATION BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing February 13, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2027 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16-24-02f RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD AND THE NORTH PLAINFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR LOCAL RECREATION FUNDING ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$100,000.00 to carry out a project to repair extensive surface damage to the basketball courts at Green Acres Park that are in poor condition and that were further damaged by Hurricane Ida;

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

- 1) does hereby authorize the Mayor and the Department of Parks and Recreation to file an application for such a grant; and
- 2) recognizes and accepts that the Department of Community Affairs may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between North Plainfield Department of Parks and Recreation and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor whose name, title and signature appear below is authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successor in said title is authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16-24-02g BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that Keiona R. Miller be and hereby is appointed as Alternate member to represent the Borough of North Plainfield at all meetings of the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority (PARSA) and to serve for the term commencing on February 16, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2029 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16-24-02h 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 13th day of February 2024 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. 02-16-24-02i RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$67,725.00, UNDER THE FY2024 SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM, SUBAWARD GRANT NUMBER 24-1814, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CHIEF OF POLICE TO EXECUTE AND THE BOROUGH CLERK TO ATTEST TO A SUBGRANT AWARD AND ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS GRANT

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield in the County of Somerset, and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Borough of North Plainfield is authorized to accept a subaward grant from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, in the amount of \$67,725.00 under the Safe and Secure Communities Program, Grant No. 24-1814, with a Match-Fringe Benefits, for a total project cost of \$662,069.00.
2. The Mayor and Chief of Police are authorized to execute and the Borough Clerk to attest to a Subgrant Award in connection with this grant, and any and all documents in connection with this grant.
3. The Borough of North Plainfield is accepting this grant of funds for the purpose described in the application.
4. Subaward Period: March 1, 2024 to February 28. 2025.
5. A certified copy of this resolution shall be provided by the Office of the Borough Clerk to each of the following:
 - a. Mayor Lawrence La Ronde
 - b. Borough Council
 - c. Business Administrator
 - d. Borough Attorney
 - e. Chief Financial Officer
 - f. Police Department, Attention: Chief William Parenti
 - g. Police Department, Attention: Captain Alan McKay
 - h. Borough Grant Coordinator
 - i. State of New Jersey, Office of Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, P.O. Box 080, Trenton, NJ 08625-0080
 - j. Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, P.O. Box 080, Trenton, NJ 08625-0080

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16-24-02j RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT INSURANCE AGENCY FOR PROFESSIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the bylaws of the Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund require professional risk management consulting services to be performed; and

WHEREAS, the Business & Government Insurance Agency has offered its professional risk management consulting services to the Borough of North Plainfield for the Fund Year January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Business & Government Insurance Agency has proposed compensation for its services in the amount of seven percent (7%) of the Borough's annual assessment as promulgated by the Garden State Municipal JIF.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that Business & Government Insurance Agency be and is hereby appointed to provide professional risk management consulting services as referenced herein and that the Fund Commissioner and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute all documents relevant to this service.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16-24-02k RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL APPROVING PAYMENT REQUISITION 3 (FINAL) TO SALAZAR & ASSOCIATES, INC. AND THE CLOSING OUT OF THE VERMEULE MANSION, VERMEULE COMMUNITY CENTER AND NORTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY MINOR TOILET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield previously awarded a contract for the Vermeule Mansion, Vermeule Community Center and North Plainfield Public Library Minor Toilet Improvements Project (hereinafter referred to as the "Project") to Salazar & Associates, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor"); and,

WHEREAS, Peter Cantwell, C.D.T., L.E.E.D. A.P., of CTS Group Architecture/Planning, P.A., the Borough's Engineer for the Project, on behalf of the Borough, by letter dated December 13, 2023, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Acting Borough Clerk and made a part hereof, has reviewed the Contractor's submission for Locations A, B and C Final Payment Requisition 3 (Final); and,

WHEREAS, the original contract price for Location A, the Vermeule Mansion, was Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$11,000.00); and,

WHEREAS, the Contractor has submitted said Final Payment Requisition No. 3, for a final Contract Balance due for Location A in the total amount of One Thousand Three Hundred Twelve Dollars and Eighty Five Cents (\$1,312.85); plus the release of any and all of the Contractor's retained funds held by the Borough for the Project; and,

WHEREAS, the original contract price for Location B, the North Plainfield Public Library, was Eighty Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$80,900.00), which has been adjusted by the Final Contract Completed Cost, increasing the cost to Ninety Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Five Dollars and Sixty Five Cents (\$90,955.65); and,

WHEREAS, the Contractor has submitted said Final Payment Requisition No. 3, for a final Contract Balance due for Location B in the total amount of Twenty One Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Sixty Cents (\$21,150.60) plus the release of any and all of the Contractor's retained funds held by the Borough for the Project; and,

WHEREAS, the original contract price for Location C, the Vermeule Community Center, was One Hundred and Eighty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$188,300.00), which has been adjusted by the Final Contract Completed Cost, increasing the final contract amount to a final Contract Price of One Hundred and Ninety One Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Dollars and Ninety Five Cents (\$191,460.95) for Location C; and,

WHEREAS, the Contractor has submitted said Final Payment Requisition No. 3, adjusted by the above, for a final Contract Balance due for Location C in the total amount of Twenty Thousand Eighty Dollars and Twelve Cents (\$20,089.12) plus the release of any and all of the Contractor's retained funds held by the Borough for the Project; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Contract, the Contractor has submitted a one (1) year Maintenance Guarantee for all work and materials, with an effective date of June 1, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, Director of Law/Borough Attorney Eric M. Bernstein, Esquire and the offices of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, L.L.C. have reviewed the Borough Engineer's and the Contractor's submissions and accept same based on the recommendations of the Borough Engineer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the request for Final Payment No. 3 (Final) and the Closeout of the Vermeule Mansion, Vermeule Community Center and North Plainfield Public Library Minor Toilet Improvements Project is hereby approved with Salazar & Associates, Inc., whose main offices are located 2226 Morris Avenue, Union New Jersey 07083, in the total amount for Locations A, B and C of Forty Two Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Two Dollars and Fifty Seven Cents (\$42,552.57), plus the release of any and all of the Contractor's retained funds held by the Borough for the Project, which Final Payment Requests and Closeout requests are incorporated herein by reference as if same were fully set forth within and payment for same is authorized to be made to the Contractor, without the need for any further action of this Borough Council; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the original contract price for Location A, the Vermeule Mansion, was Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$11,000.00), which final contract price is hereby approved; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the original contract price for Location B, the North Plainfield Public Library, was Eighty Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$80,900.00), which has been adjusted by the Final Contract Completed Cost, increasing the cost to Ninety Thousand Nine

Hundred and Fifty-Five Dollars and Sixty-Five Cents (\$90,955.65), which final contract price is hereby approved; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the original contract price for Location C, the Vermeule Community Center, was One Hundred and Eighty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$188,300.00), which has been adjusted by the Final Contract Completed Cost, increasing the final contract amount to a final Contract Price of One Hundred and Ninety One Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Dollars and Ninety Five Cents (\$191,460.95), which final contract price is hereby approved; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution 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 Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Acting Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute any and all necessary documents to close out the Project and issue Payment No. 3 (Final) and release all retainage.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-16-24-02/ RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND ACTING MUNICIPAL CLERK TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PRB ATTORNEYS, LLC AS SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT MATTERS FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of certain professional services to provide Special Counsel Legal Services for certain employment matters for the Borough of North Plainfield for calendar year 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield has received a proposal from PRB Attorneys, LLC, dated January 25, 2024, a copy of said proposal being maintained in the Office of the Acting Municipal Clerk and the contents of which are incorporated herein, to provide professional services relative to certain employment matters as may be assigned from time to time by the Director of the Department of Law for the calendar year 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal submitted by PRB Attorneys, LLC proposes that they perform the services associated with such legal services on an hourly fee basis of One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$125.00) per hour, not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) without further authorization.

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 accepts the proposal submitted by PRB Attorneys LLC to perform the professional services of Special Counsel for certain employment related matters for the calendar year 2024; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Acting Municipal Clerk to sign and/or execute any and all contracts to memorialize the proposal

submitted by PRB Attorneys, LLC, for the position of Special Counsel for the Borough of North Plainfield for the calendar year 2024; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award of this proposal 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, the proposal and its performance shall be consistent with all applicable laws and the bid proposal of PRB Attorneys, LLC, dated January 25, 2024, for the duties and responsibilities of Special Counsel for certain employment related matters for the Borough of North Plainfield for the calendar year 2024.

REPORTS:

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT – 4TH QUARTER
POLICE DEPARTMENT – 2023 ANNUAL REPORT
BOARD OF HEALTH – JANUARY 2024 REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS:

Somerset County Board of Commissioners	Newsletter
NJDEP Office of Local Government Assistance	Newsletter
New Jersey Transit	Public Hearing
New Jersey American Water	Petition

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.


COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mayor La Ronde announced that several Black History Month events would take place at the library and in the schools. The Fire Department will host their annual St. Baldrick’s Day event on Saturday, March 23.

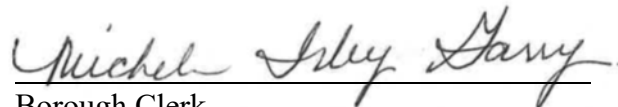
Mr. Merrill reported that the last Parks and Recreation Committee meeting included discussions of the Mayor’s Special Events budget and the need for increased monetary donations.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.



Council President



Borough Clerk