

**MINUTES** of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **February 26, 2024** at 9:15 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, 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.”

**APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

The Council Vice President called for a roll call on the Special Meeting minutes of February 16, 2024 and the Executive Session minutes of January 22, 2024: All in favor.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-26-24-01** BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 24-02 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing March 11, 2024 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. Schaefer and on roll call carried unanimously.

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title:

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-02** BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 21-13 FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE

COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ON OCTOBER 12, 2021 TO AMEND AND RESTATE SECTION 3 THEREIN

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-26-24-02** BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 24-03 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing March 11, 2024 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. Schaefer and on roll call carried unanimously.

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title:

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-03** BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-14 FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 TO AMEND AND RESTATE SECTION 3 THEREIN

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-26-24-03** BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 24-04 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing March 11, 2024 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. Given and on roll call carried unanimously.

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title:

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-04** BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN AMBULANCE, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; REAPPROPRIATING \$234,989.91 IN EXCESS BOND PROCEEDS FROM VARIOUS BOND ORDINANCES, NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSE, TO FINANCE PART OR ALL OF THE COST THEREOF

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-26-24-04** BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 24-05 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed

on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing March 11, 2024 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. Schaefer and on roll call carried unanimously.

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title:

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-05** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE, AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 22 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED “LAND DEVELOPMENT” MORE SPECIFICALLY ARTICLE VIII, ENTITLED “ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT”, AND MORE PARTICULARLY § 22-101, ENTITLED “WATER RUN-OFF CONTROL, “MOST NOTABLY BY AMENDING, REVISING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTION 22-101.2, ENTITLED “REGULATION” BY DELETING PARAGRAPH (f) THEREOF, ENTITLED “STORMWATER CONTROL” IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ENACTING A NEW PARAGRAPH (f), ENTITLED “STORMWATER CONTROL”

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice President Corzo 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. Schaefer requested that item “a” be removed for separate vote.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-26-24-05a** AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE 2024 TEMPORARY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Revised Statutes of New Jersey 40A:4-20 provides for the adoption of temporary appropriations in addition to temporary appropriations necessary for the period between the beginning of the current fiscal year and the date of the adoption of the Local Budget for the Year 2024;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that the following amendments to the temporary appropriations be made in the amounts and for the purposes herein set forth for the period between January 1st, 2024 and the adoption of the Local Budget for the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset and State of New Jersey for the fiscal Year 2024:

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries &amp; Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
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20-100	Department of Administration	\$ 62,750.00	\$15,675.00
20-110	Borough Council	12,000.00	1,000.00
20-120	Borough Clerk	38,500.00	6,3237.00
20-130	Department of Finance	85,000.00	3,500.00
20-135	Annual Audit		11,250.00
20-145	Tax Collection		3,250.00
20-150	Division of Assessments	27,000.00	1,725.00
20-151	Tax Appeals		7,500.00
20-155	Department of Law		77,500.00
20-165	Engineering		10,000.00
20-175	Historical Commission	775.00	0.00
21-180	Planning Board	375.00	1,250.00
21-185	Board of Adjustments	375.00	1,500.00
22-195	Uniform Construction Code	52,250.00	7,250.00
23-210	Liability Insurance		650,000.00
23-220	Group Insurance		300,000.00
23-225	Unemployment Compensation		1,250.00
25-240	Police	1,200,000.00	50,000.00
25-241	Crossing Guards	44,750.00	0.00
25-252	Emergency Management	5,000.00	4,125.00
25-265	Fire Protection	1.061,250.00	16450.00
25-266	Fire Hydrant		55,266.00
25-267	Uniform Fire Code	3,000.00	4,326.50
25-268	LOSAP		750.00
25-269	Emergency Medical Services		9,500.00
25-275	Borough Prosecutor	8,000.00	0.00
26-290	Street & Roads	312,175.00	128,12500

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries &amp; Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
26-310	Building & Grounds		30,250.00
26-315	Vehicle Maintenance		71,153.50
27-330	Health	46,750.00	36,750.00
27-340	Dog Regulation		15,000.00
28-370	Recreation	62,675.00	8,000.00
28-375	Maintenance of Parks		2,000.00
28-380	Shade Tree Advisory Board		2,500.00
30-415	Retirement Benefits		50,000.00
30-420	Celebration of Public Events		3,750.00
31-201	Contingent		2,500.00
31-430	Electricity		100,000.00
31-440	Telephone		20,000.00
31-445	Water		17,500.00
31-446	Natural Gas		7,500.00
31-460	Gasoline		53,750.00

31-461	Technology		50,000.00
31-462	Postage		10,000.00
31-471	Employees Retirement System		128,154.75
36-472	Social Security		120,000.00
36-475	Police/Fireman Retirement		500,000.00
41-899	Matching Funds for Grants		1,250.00
42-300	COAH Housing		0.00
42-305	Somerset County Recycling		50,000.00
42-306	SLEO-S&W		51,800.00
42-405	Parking Meters	21,250.00	0.00
42-520	NJDEP Permit Fee		1,312.50
43-490	Municipal Court	83,875.00	5,900.00
43-495	Public Defender		1,000.00
62-405	Capital Equipment		13,900.00
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	Totals	\$3,126,750.00	\$2,718,900.50

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>SEWER UTILITY FUND</u>	<u>Salaries &amp; Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
55-501	Sewer Operating	\$ 52,800.00	\$ 22,500.00
55-502	Plainfield Area Regional Sewer		500,000.00
55-541	Social Security		4,250.00
55-542	Unemployment Comp Insurance		250.00
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	Totals Sewer Utility	<u>\$ 52,800.00</u>	<u>\$ 527,000.00</u>

Seconded by Mr. McIntyre with roll call as follows:

Aye: Corzo, Given, McIntyre, Miller  
 Nay: Schaefer

Resolution carried 4-1.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-26-24-05** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

02-26-24-05 b, c, d

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. 02-26-24-05b** RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND ACTING MUNICIPAL CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH VORTEX SERVICES, L.L.C. FOR THE ROCKVIEW AVENUE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield (hereinafter referred to as the “Borough”) is in need of certain utility improvements for the Contract 2023-01 Rockview Avenue Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough solicited bids for the Project and the following three (3) bids were received:

<u>Bidding Entity</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
Vortex Services, L.L.C.	\$102,914.00
National Water Main Cleaning Services	\$108,911.20
Entech Infrastructures	\$119,945.00

WHEREAS, the estimate of Mott McDonald, the Borough’s Engineer on the Project, was Ninety Seven Thousand One Hundred Seventy Nine Dollars and Thirty Six Cents (\$97,179.36) for the Project, indicating that the low bid of One Hundred Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fourteen Dollars and No Cents (\$102,914.00), while six percent (6%) higher than the Engineer’s estimate and, upon review, is still favorable to the Borough and the low bid price is reasonable overall; 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 Mott McDonald, 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, Vortex Services, L.L.C., whose main offices are located at 210 Bennett Road, Freehold, New Jersey 07728 (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, subject to the concurrence of the NJDOT Local Aid Division Office:

Project: Contract 2023-01 Rockview Avenue Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Successful Bidder: Vortex Services, L.L.C.  
 Base Bid: In the Amount Not to Exceed One Hundred Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fourteen Dollars and No Cents (\$102,914.00).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Acting Municipal Clerk to sign and/or execute a contract and all other necessary documents to engage the construction services of Vortex Services, L.L.C. 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 Vortex Services, L.L.C. for the Project known as the Contract 2023-01 Rockview Avenue Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project.

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-26-24-05c RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MOTT MACDONALD, LLC, FOR MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024 FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD.**

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of a professional engineer to provide certain general engineering services for the period between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024 inclusive; and,

WHEREAS, Mott MacDonald, LLC, with a principal place of business located at 3 Paragon Way, Freehold, New Jersey 07728, is in the business of providing engineering services and has submitted a proposal, dated February 1, 2024, a copy of said proposal being maintained in the Office of the Borough Clerk and the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein, for 2024 Municipal Engineering Services for the Borough of North Plainfield, Somerset County, State of New Jersey, on an hourly basis for all services, all of which are contemplated and set forth in the afore-referenced proposal and at the hourly rates set forth hereinbelow:

Principals / Principal Project Managers / Principal Engineers	\$219.00 to \$320.00
Sr. Project Engineer / Sr. Project Manager / Sr. Project Geologist / Sr. Project Scientist	\$173.00 to \$275.00
Sr. Specialist V / Sr. Designer V	\$152.00 to \$213.00
Sr. Inspector IV/V / Sr. Surveyor IV/V	\$135.00 to \$219.00
Project Engineer / Engineer IV / Project Architect / Architect IV / Project Manager	\$152.00 to \$241.00
Project Geologist / Geologist IV / Project Scientist / Scientist IV.	\$124.00 to \$193.00
Engineer II/III / Architect II/III.	\$118.00 to \$197.00
Specialist III/IV / Designer III/IV	\$96.00 to \$171.00
Scientist II/III / Geologist II/III	\$86.00 to \$140.00

Engineer I / Architect I	\$89.00 to \$135.00
Scientist I / Geologist I.	\$79.00 to \$103.00
Inspector III / Surveyor III / Specialist I/II	\$84.00 to \$134.00
Assistant Surveyor I/II / Assistant Inspector I/II	\$89.00 to \$103.00
Technicians	\$72.00 to \$99.00
Administration / Project Support	\$74.00 to \$137.00
Expenses as in Schedule A; and,	

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is desirous of obtaining the engineering services of Mott MacDonald, LLC, to perform all of those services contemplated in the afore-referenced proposal.

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 does hereby authorize the Mayor and the Acting Municipal Clerk to sign and/or execute a Professional Services Agreement with Mott MacDonald, LLC, 3 Paragon Way, Freehold, New Jersey 07728 for Municipal Engineering Services for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, inclusive, as contemplated in the afore-referenced proposal, without the need for any further action of this Borough Council.

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 is made pursuant to and consistent with the Local Public Contracts Laws of the State of New Jersey.

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-26-24-05d** 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 26th 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.

**REPORTS:** None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Somerset County Board of Commissioners	of	Newsletter
NJDEP Office of Local Government Assistance		Newsletter
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	of	Ground Water Remedial Action Protectiveness/Biennial Certification Form



**REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

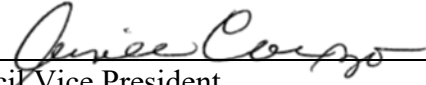
Francine Gargano, 57 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, spoke against the use of taxpayer monies for a traffic study to tell us what we already know. An increasing issue throughout the borough is illegal housing which leads to vehicles parked on the street illegally. She favored a look into limiting access to Plainfield through county roads as a means to ease vehicular congestion as well as allow for the police department to monitor for commuter speeding.

**COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:** None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

  
Borough Clerk

  
Council Vice President