

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **May 6, 2024** at 7:35 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 on Roll Call)
 Wendy Schaefer – (Absent-Excused)
 Frank “Skip” Stabile, Council President

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor
 David Hollod, Borough Administrator
 Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
 Michele Irby-Garry, 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, 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 Council President noted that an Executive Session would be held at the close of regular business of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

The Council President called for a roll call on the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting minutes of April 22, 2024:

Aye: Corzo, Given, McIntyre, Merrill, Stabile
 Absent: Miller, Schaefer

HEARING & FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-10 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT ARTICLE I OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD BE AMENDED, REVISED AND SUPPLEMENTED AS TO CHAPTER 2 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION,” MORE SPECIFICALLY ARTICLE III ENTITLED “DEPARTMENTS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES AND AGENCIES,” AND MORE PARTICULARLY CHAPTER 2-29, ENTITLED “SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.”

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Motion to close public comment by Mr. McIntyre, seconded by Ms. Given with roll call as follows:

Aye: Corzo, Given, McIntyre, Merrill, Stabile
Absent: Miller, Schaefer

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

RESOLUTION NO. 05-06-24-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 24-10 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Ms. McIntyre with Roll Call as follows:

Aye: Corzo, Given, McIntyre, Merrill, Stabile
Absent: Miller, Schaefer

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

RESOLUTION NO. 05-06-24-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 24-11 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing May 20, 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. Corzo with roll call as follows:

Aye: Corzo, Given, McIntyre, Merrill, Stabile
Absent: Miller, Schaefer

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-11 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT ORDINANCE NO. 24-01, GOVERNING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD.

Reading of title by Acting Clerk

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. McIntyre presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption

RESOLUTION NO. 05-06-24-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

05-06-24-03 a,b,c,d,e

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

Second by Mr. Merrill with Roll Call as follows:

Aye: Corzo, Given, McIntyre, Merrill, Stabile

Absent: Miller, Schaefer

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 05-06-24-03a BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that, pursuant to N.P.R.G.O. 4-1 et seq., it does hereby authorize the issuance of license for the owner/operation of a limousine to the following for one year in accordance with the applications heretofore submitted:

Ramon Cruz Nieves
2 Kennedy Court
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

RESOLUTION NO. 05-06-24-03b 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 6th day of May 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. 05-06-24-03c A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAXES

WHEREAS, the owner of 175 Clinton Avenue, also known as Block 182 Lot 15 was deemed a 100% Disabled Veteran effective April 11, 2024 per the Assessor and;

WHEREAS, the property taxes were billed on the aforementioned parcel for 2024 2nd quarter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield of Somerset County, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel taxes as on this parcel:

RESOLUTION NO. 05-06-24-03d A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL AND REFUND TAXES

WHEREAS, the owner of 86 Myrtle Avenue, also known as Block 148 Lot 40 was deemed a 100% Disabled Veteran and is now exempt from property taxes per the Assessor and;

WHEREAS, the property taxes were billed on the aforementioned parcel for 2024 1st, and 2nd quarters:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield of Somerset County, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel taxes and refund overpayments on this parcel:

Refund Overpayments to:

De Jesus-Otero, Jonathan	\$ 3,260.05
86 Myrtle Avenue	
North Plainfield, NJ 07060	

RESOLUTION NO. 05-06-24-03e RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH SALARIES AND WAGES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024 FOR EMPLOYEES NOT COVERED BY THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.

WHEREAS, certain employees of the Borough of North Plainfield are not covered by the terms and conditions of a collective bargaining agreement and thus need to have their compensation established for calendar year 2024, retroactive to January 1, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the following titles will receive the following compensation for calendar year 2024, retroactive to January 1, 2024, as follows:

TITLE	
2024 Deputy Borough Clerk	\$ 61,200.00
Deputy Registrar	\$ 1,254.00
Acting Borough Clerk (stipend)	\$ 10,200.00

Employees not Covered by the Terms and Conditions of a Collective Bargaining Agreement

Second by Mr. Merrill with Roll Call as follows:

Aye: Corzo, Given, McIntyre, Merrill, Stabile

Absent: Miller, Schaefer

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

RESOLUTION NO. 05-06-24-04 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that prior to the adjournment of this meeting it shall convene in executive session from which the public will be excluded for the purpose of discussion on: Attorney/Client Privilege – Affordable Housing Exclusion of the public for this purpose is specifically permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. The contents of this discussion will not be disclosed until such time as the disclosure of same will not adversely affect the public interest and upon resolution of the Council. Formal action may be taken following end of executive session.

Second by McIntyre with roll call as follows:

Aye: Corzo, Given, McIntyre, Merrill, Stabile

Absent: Miller, Schaefer

Ms. Corzo presented the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 05-06-24-05 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 24-12 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing May 20, 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.

Second by McIntyre with roll call as follows:

Aye: Corzo, Given, McIntyre, Merrill, Stabile

Absent: Miller, Schaefer

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-12 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING APPLICATION FOR A LONG-TERM TAX EXEMPTION AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH CAROL GARDENS AT NORTH PLAINFIELD URBAN RENEWAL LLC.

Reading of title by Acting Clerk

<u>COMMUNICATIONS:</u>	
NJDEP Office of Local Government Service Assistance	Weekly Newsletter
Zoning Hearing	Zoning Board of Adjustment Hearing Notice
Somerset County Commissioners	E-News & Introduction of 2024 Budget Information
New Jersey Department of State	Newsletter
Somerset County Public Information	Online Auction
Somerset County Public Information	Mail in Ballots for June Primaries

REPORTS: NONE

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT

General public comments shall be limited to five minutes for each individual.
(Rule 29 of the Borough Council’s Rules of Order)

Francine Gargano, 57 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, requested for the Villa Nova name to be kept instead of Carol Gardens and suggest that council pass a resolution for no more Affordable Housing it increases the numbers substantially. She is disturbed about hoe the form Clerk was let go and about the Clerk’s Office being so big now since taxes are so high, salaries, staff and qualifications.

Council President explained Carol Gardens is the name of the potential developer late mother and she can discuss that with the developer.

Council President stated in regards to the Clerk Office, the former Clerk did have a Deputy Clerk her name was Ms. Sherwood and she was hired to be the Registrar and then hired Mrs. Garry as the Deputy Clerk. There was not a (2) year lapse without a Deputy Clerk, that was wildly inaccurate, maybe 2 months without a Deputy in search for a new Deputy Clerk. For Staffing, there always been a two full time staff in the Clerk’s Office. There is a part time employee working Monday-Friday who is qualified and fluent in Spanish and another part – time employee that only works on Thursdays and Fridays to assist with agendas and council meeting preparations. Ms. Garry

took the exam and waiting on the results and we can request a waiver up to (3) years as Acting Clerk.

Mr. George explained we are under the code, indicated that there is a (3) year period to meet the Clerk qualifications.

Mayor La Ronde advised that the Clerk's Office line item was \$154,000 and was dropped by \$34,000 and the budget for this year is only \$120,000.

Mrs. Salome Pachkori 144 Harley Avenue North Plainfield New Resident would like to know if there is an ordinance for parking commercial vehicles on residential properties, as her father received a warning ticket when parked at night by her house.

Mayor La Ronde issued his business card to call his office to schedule a meeting and the property maintenance department to go over ordinance.

No more public comments

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor La Ronde had the Community Clean Up Event on Saturday and thanks council members that participated. The numbers were down this year (40 people attended). Will have another clean up date by the Fall.

Mr. Hollod discussed the Tow movie was filmed in several offices at the Borough and it was a success. It was a film crew of 60 people and the Borough Offices remained open and hours was not disrupted at all. Film crew thanks the Borough and appreciate the help.

The Borough will be receiving a couple of grants \$850,000 from the Forestry Program in a period of 3 to 4 years from the United States Department of Agriculture and North Plainfield was qualified. There will a 3-part process for property maintenance, tree removal, trimming/planting. Thank you to Katherine Miller and Dave Testa for submitting the application. \$850,000 is the largest grant the town has ever received. Separate \$12,500 grant to educate staff regarding tree maintenance.

Council President congratulated the administration

Mr. McIntyre questioned will there any training available for pruning trees near power lines?
Requested ordinance.

Mr. Hollod Trees around power lines are done by PSE&G.

Mr. George responded we cannot mandate, there is no ordinance and must reach out and file a complaint with the Environmental Protection, there is no real provision.

Mr. Merrill Expand of 2 ½ years we had a Presidential visit at one of schools and a motion picture have been filmed that is pretty good for a town of 22,000.

Ms. Corzo Want to thank the Administration for \$850,000 grant is going to make a big difference and great job.

Mr. McIntyre will be working on a film ordinance.

Council President congratulated the Administration for grant.

Borough Attorney and Council President stated the procedures for going into Executive Session.

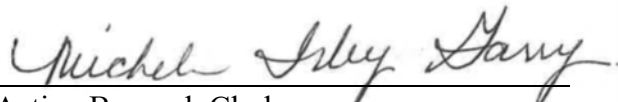
ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. McIntyre, seconded by Ms. Given and on voice vote

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Council President



Acting Borough Clerk