

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the Borough Council of North Plainfield, New Jersey held on Monday, 23 November 2015.

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 Governing Body's actual approval of same. If changes are necessary, revised minutes will be posted to the website.

MINUTES of the Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **November 23, 2015** at 7:35 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Everett Merrill
Keiona R. Miller (7:45 p.m.)
Frank Righetti (absent – excused)
Wendy Schaefer
Douglas M. Singleterry
Frank “Skip” Stabile
Lawrence La Ronde, Council President

Also Present: Michael Giordano, Jr., Mayor
David E. Hollod, Business Administrator
Eric Bernstein, Esq., Borough Attorney
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. Stabile.

Council President La Ronde requested a moment of silence for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

The Council President read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This is an Agenda Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, scheduled by resolution of the Council adopted on December 8, 2014. Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.* by transmitting said notice to the *Courier News*, *The Star-Ledger* and *WKMB* Radio on December 10, 2014, by publication of the announcement in the *Courier News* of December 12, 2014 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank D'Amore, 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, recalling his request for an investigation of the 40-42 Washington Avenue owner's non-adherence to the Historic Ordinance, indicated that he believed Mr. Hollod had improperly quoted the Historic Ordinance. The speaker then congratulated the evening's award recipients.

Orlando Jerez, shared his displeasure with the Plainfield Police Department issuing summonses to North Plainfield taxicabs in Plainfield. Mr. La Ronde explained that the Plainfield taxicab ordinance forbids cold pickups within Plainfield. Mr. Stabile suggested that Mr. Jerez address his concerns with the Plainfield City Council.

Mayor Giordano administered the following Oath of Office:

Probationary Firefighter/EMT Patrick Lanzone

Chief William Eaton then offered the evening's awards presentation, detailing the incidents that had led to the commendatory actions of the evening's award recipients.

SERVICE COMMENDATION AWARDS

Captain James DiPaolo	Firefighter Jeffrey Holtz
Firefighter Jeffrey Meyer	Firefighter Shane Bell
Firefighter Thomas McDonald	Firefighter Brendan Kinney
EMT Robyn Barb	EMT Deirdre Wright
EMT Brian Pauli	EMT Kimberly Perryman
EMT Donald Obley	

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Civilian Jason Alexsander Mejia

Council President La Ronde offered his congratulations to all receiving their Service Commendation Awards and called for a 5-minute recess at 7:52 p.m.

The Council President reconvened the meeting promptly at 7:57 p.m. with all five council members marked present at Roll Call still in attendance as well as Ms. Miller.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Suburban Consulting Engineers – Design, Bid, and Construction Services for Public Works Salt Storage Facility – D.E.H.** Mr. Hollod advised that this resolution authorizes a change order needed for the design, bid, and construction services for the Public Works Salt Storage facility.

2. **Grotto Engineers – Design, Bid and Construction Services for 2016 Capital Roadway Projects** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this Resolution authorizes engineering services as to the Borough’s 2016 Capital Road Improvement Program.

3. **Minutes of Public Bodies’ Meetings** – F.S.S. Mr. Stabile voiced his displeasure with the various boards, committees, and commissions that have not supplied their meeting minutes to the Clerk’s office for publication to the website. The councilman further explained that the format of the Shade Tree Advisory Board meeting minutes resembles that of an agenda. Ms. Schaefer noted that the various boards, committees, and commissions rarely turn in meeting agendas. Mr. Hollod added that all boards, committees, and commissions should automatically submit their minutes to the Clerk’s office as they are permanent records.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Master Plan** – D.M.S. Mr. Singleterry reported that the Attorney’s office had prepared several draft ordinances for the Council’s review. Encouraging the development of more professional office spaces, the councilman reminded of the need to be compliant with both planned and existing development within residential zones. Mr. Hollod added that the Council may wish to restrict professional uses from the first floor in the downtown area so as to generate foot traffic throughout first floor retail establishments. Mr. Singleterry spoke in favor of expanding options, rather than limiting them. Mr. Rodino mentioned that many properties on Somerset Street and Watchung Avenue only have one ground level entrance which raises fire code concerns.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS:

Reporting on the recent flooding issues in the high school auditorium, Mr. Merrill explained that the winter concerts and the spring play may need to be moved. The councilman announced that the Texas Roadhouse restaurant made a \$2,000.00 donation to Project Graduation.

Ms. Miller announced that both the Municipal Alliance Committee and the Youth Services Commission would meet the following evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Mr. La Ronde reminded that the annual Santa Comes to Town and tree lighting will be held Sunday, November 29 at 4:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. Merrill and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President