

# ***DRAFT MINUTES***

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the Borough Council of North Plainfield, New Jersey held on Monday, 25 January 2016.*

*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, **January 25, 2016** 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  
Frank Righetti  
Wendy Schaefer  
Douglas M. Singleterry  
Frank "Skip" Stabile  
Lawrence La Ronde, Council President

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

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Ms. Miller.

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 14, 2015. 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*, *The Alternative Press* and *WKMB* Radio on December 15, 2015, by publication of the announcement in the *Courier News* of December 17, 2015 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:**

Bob (name indistinguishable), Malcolm Avenue, North Plainfield, shared his displeasure with the twice weekly garbage collection requirement.

Frank D'Amore, Sr., 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, voiced his concerns with the poor condition of the Villa Maria property and called to question the responsibility of the property owner to maintain same.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Crime and Traffic** – L.L.R. (Chief Parenti to be present). Chief Parenti addressed the recent concerns regarding crime in town. Explaining that the Somerset County Prosecutor controls what information may be released to the public, he noted that police reports are sent to the various news outlets. Beginning this year, monthly reports will be shared on the website in an effort to keep the public apprised. Addressing burglaries, the Chief explained that E-bay and Craig's List are monitored and officers are even sent to the local pawn shops. He stressed that approximately eighty percent of the burglarized vehicles in town are those left unlocked with valuables in plain view. Commenting on speeding motorists, Chief Parenti advised that speed counters are used as well as radar posts in an effort to deter violators. Cell phone use among drivers has surpassed DWI as the number one violation, he reported.

Responding to Mr. Stabile, the Chief indicated that investigation reports may not be released to the public. Offering further clarification of the OPRA law, the Chief advised that motor vehicle accident reports may be released. Answering Mr. Merrill, Chief Parenti advised that although they remain a lost art, neighborhood watches would help to deter burglaries. The Chief encouraged all residents to contact the police department for all suspicious activity.

2. **Shared Services Agreement between the Plainfield Municipal Authority and the Borough of North Plainfield** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution authorizes an extension of the existing agreement with the Plainfield Municipal Authority for the disposal of Type 10 solid waste.

3. **Increase in local Plenary Retail Consumption and Distribution License Fees** – R.K.P. Mr. Phoenix explained that this ordinance authorizes an increase in the annual plenary retail consumption and distribution license fees. Plenary Retail Consumption license fees will be increased to \$2,500, the maximum allowed under State law, and Plenary Retail Distribution license fees will be increased to \$2,168, he concluded. He concluded that this was the first local increase in the fees since 2011.

4. **Trash Ordinance** – L.L.R. Mr. La Ronde offered clarification of the trash collection ordinance, specifically that the original ordinance from 1966 called for twice weekly collection. Mr. Stabile spoke of a potential revision to allow for once weekly collection as the garbage companies may then self-regulate. Mr. Righetti interjected that State law requires twice weekly collection of garbage.

5. **Rehabilitation/Redevelopment Resolutions** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod advised that these resolutions endorse the Planning Board actions regarding rehabilitation and redevelopment.

6. **Authorizing Ambulance Services Billing Coordination with JFK Medical Center** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution authorizes an extension of the current agreement as required by Federal law.

7. **Agreement to Provide 24/7 EMS Services to Green Brook Township** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod indicated that this resolution authorizes an agreement with Green Brook for EMS services for 2016.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Noise Ordinance(s)** – F.S.S. Mr. Stabile explained that a noise ordinance would require the use of scientific equipment, whereas a nuisance ordinance may simplify things. Mr. La Ronde noted Chief Parenti's concerns with an amendment to the current ordinance as it may not be easily enforced. Addressing Mr. Stabile's concerns with loud music played at festivals, Mr. George proposed dealing with this under permitting.

2. **Planning Board Ordinances** – D.M.S. Mr. Singleterry advised of being ready to move ahead with the notification requirements. Mr. George noted the timeline would be longer to accommodate the Planning Board.

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

Mr. Merrill reported that the Recreation Department has begun a redesign of their website which will include on-line registration for the various programs.

Mr. Stabile reported that the former Radio Shack building had been demolished. A La-Z-Boy showroom will replace it and the tile store will share with another tenant. The former Villa Furniture store will become a high-end furniture store and the former McDonald's will become a Goodwill store, he concluded.

Mr. La Ronde announced that both the Municipal Alliance Committee and the Youth Services Commission will meet on January 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

---

Borough Clerk

---

Council President