

# **DRAFT MINUTES**

***These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 13 January 2020.***

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

**MINUTES** of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **January 13, 2020** at 7:37 p.m. at the North Plainfield Borough Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

**PRESENT:**

Council Members: Aimee Corzo  
Lawrence La Ronde  
Everett Merrill  
Keiona R. Miller  
Wendy Schaefer  
Douglas M. Singleterry  
Frank "Skip" Stabile, Council President

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

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Melonie Marano, Freeholder.

Council President Stabile 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 a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, scheduled by resolution of the Council adopted on November 18, 2019. 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*, *WJLP-TV* and *WKMB* Radio on November 19, 2019, and by posting a copy of

this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

The Clerk had submitted copies of the minutes of the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting of December 16, 2019.

The Council President called for a Roll Call on the minutes:

Aye: Corzo, La Ronde, Merrill, Miller, Schaefer, Stabile  
Abstain: Singleterry

**HEARING:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 19-10** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, CHAPTER VII ENTITLED, "TRAFFIC," SECTION 7-3 ENTITLED, "PROHIBITED PARKING," MOST NOTABLY, SECTION 7-3.3, ENTITLED "PARKING PROHIBITED FOR SNOW REMOVAL," SCHEDULE III, "TEMPORARY NO PARKING FOR SNOW REMOVAL."

The Clerk read the Ordinance by its title.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

Motion to close public comment by Mr. La Ronde, seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-01** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 19-10 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

**HEARING:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 19-11** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER II OF THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, ARTICLE III, ENTITLED "DEPARTMENTS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES AND AGENCIES," MOST NOTABLY SECTION 2-21.6, ENTITLED "EXTRANEIOUS EMPLOYMENT OF OFF-DUTY BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD POLICE PERSONNEL."

The Clerk read the Ordinance by its title.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Frank D’Amore, 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, stated that off-duty police personnel receive compensation from the companies that hire them.

Motion to close public comment by Mr. La Ronde, seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-02** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 19-11 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Mr. La Ronde and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

**HEARING:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 19-12** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, CHAPTER III, POLICE REGULATIONS, MOST NOTABLY SECTION 3-5, TITLED “BICYCLE REGULATIONS AND THE BICYCLE SAFETY BOARD”

The Clerk read the Ordinance by its title.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. La Ronde and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-03** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 19-12 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

**APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:**

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:**

Basil D’Armiento	Four-year term
Herminio Estrella	Four-year term

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER TO THE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE:**

Lawrence La Ronde	One-year term
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**COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:**

Frank “Skip” Stabile One-year term

COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Wendy Schaefer One-year term

COUNCIL MEMBER AS CLASS III MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Aimee Corzo One-year term

COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION:

Keiona R. Miller One-year term

COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Frank “Skip” Stabile One-year term

**APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL LIAISONS FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS:**

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Everett Merrill

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE: Everett Merrill

RENT STABILIZATION BOARD: Wendy Schaefer

SHADE TREE ADVISORY BOARD: Lawrence La Ronde

**APPOINTMENT BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER:**

SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS:

Aimee Corzo One-year term

**APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:**

MUNICIPAL JUDGE:

Brian Levine, Esq. Three-year term

BOROUGH TREASURER:

Kathleen Intravartolo One-year term

## MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR

Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC	One-year term
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## PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (P.A.C.O.):

David E. Hollod	One-year term
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## MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON:

David E. Hollod	One-year term
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## BOROUGH HOUSING OFFICER:

Ken Capobianco	One-year term
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## GARDEN STATE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND – One-year terms:

William Speck	Fund Commissioner
David E. Hollod	Alternate Commissioner

## LICENSED SEWER OPERATOR:

David Hopkins	One-year term
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## RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Cynthia Danois	One-year term
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**APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS  
REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:**

## GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION:

William F. Crosby III	One-year term
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## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

Katherine Miller	Four-year term
Wendy Schaefer	Four-year term
Steve McIntyre	Four-year term
Sherlock Bender	Four-year term

## LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Tom Fagan	Three-year term
Jim Maloney	Three-year term
Suzette Givens	Three-year unexpired term

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE:

Terrence Roselle	Three-year term
Rev. Ursula Cargill	Three-year term

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE – One-year terms:

Michael Giordano Jr.	Elected Official
Angelo Bufaino, P.E.	Consultant Engineer
David E. Hollod	Planning Board Member
William F. Crosby III	Utility Authority Representative

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Three-year term:

Brian Martin	Coordinator
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One-year terms:

Joseph Asprocolas	Deputy Coordinator
Jennifer Bartholomew	Deputy Coordinator
Michael J. Ceccato	Deputy Coordinator
Chief William G. Parenti	Police Department
Chief William F. Eaton	Fire Department
Chief William F. Eaton	Emergency Medical Services

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL:

One-year terms:

David E. Hollod	Mayor's Representative
Lawrence La Ronde	Council Member
Milton Mathis	North Plainfield Public Schools
Joann Righetti	Citizen-at-Large
Himanshi Bhatt	Health
Richard K. Phoenix	Media
Angelo Costello	Public Works
Dr. Harry L. Allen	Hazardous Materials
Elizabeth B. Dente	Emergency Animal Shelter

RENT STABILIZATION BOARD:

Mary Ann Climes	Three-year term
Douglas Singleterry	Three-year term
Keiona R. Miller, Alternate	Two-year term

**SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS:**

Tom Fagan	One-year term
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**YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION:**

Terrence Roselle	Three-year term
Rev. Ursula Cargill	Three-year term

**APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:**

**ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW BOARD – *One-year terms***

Michael Giordano Jr., Mayor  
 David E. Hollod, Business Administrator (*requires confirming resolution*)  
 Leonard W. Lange, Economic Development Committee  
 Daniel Battista, Alternate  
 Aimee Corzo, Alternate

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:**

Michelle Brown	Three-year term
Alissa DiScala	Three-year term
Nick Kisling	Three-year term
Joanne Pierre	Three-year term

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:**

Tom Fagan	Two-year term
Leonard Lange	Two-year term
Paul Alirangues	Two-year term

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION:**

Keiona Miller	Three-year term
Henry Stoner	Three-year term

**PLANNING BOARD:**

David E. Hollod	One-year term
Frank Kreder	Four-year term
Andre Mitchell	Four-year term

Mary “Liz” Appezzato, Alternate 1 Two-year term

SHADE TREE ADVISORY BOARD:

Thalia Saloukas Four-year term

SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Michael Giordano Jr. One-year term

**RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE MAYOR FOR APPOINTMENTS BY THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS:**

SOMERSET COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Keiona R. Miller One-year term

SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Henry R. Stoner One-year term

**RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COUNCIL FOR APPOINTMENTS BY THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS:**

SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Aimee Corzo One-year term

**CONSENT AGENDA NO. 1**

Council President Stabile 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. Corzo presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-19-04** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-13-19-04 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z, aa

having been placed on Consent Agenda No. 1 and there having been no objection thereto, the same are hereby approved as amended.

Seconded by Mr. La Ronde and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.



**APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA NO. 1 RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04a** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that LAWRENCE LA RONDE be and hereby is appointed as Board of Health Member to the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring on January 1, 2021, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04b** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that FRANK "SKIP" STABILE be and hereby is appointed to the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04c** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that WENDY SCHAEFER be and hereby is appointed to the LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04d** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that AIMEE CORZO be and hereby is appointed as Class III member to the PLANNING BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04e** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that KEIONA R. MILLER be and hereby is appointed to the YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring on January 1, 2021, and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04f** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that FRANK "SKIP" STABILE be and hereby is appointed to the SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04g** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that, by nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, KATHLEEN INTRAVARTOLO be and hereby is appointed TREASURER of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 1, 2020 and expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04h** WHEREAS, the State Legislature has mandated that each municipality provide for a Municipal Prosecutor; and,

WHEREAS, Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC has experience in this area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC is hereby

appointed Municipal Prosecutor for the Borough of North Plainfield for calendar year 2020. Said appointment is as an employee of the Borough in which he shall receive the allotted salary, but waives all other benefits available to an employee of the Borough.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04i** 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, DAVID E. HOLLOD be and hereby is appointed as PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (P.A.C.O.) for the Borough of North Plainfield for the year 2020 in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04j** 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, DAVID E. HOLLOD be and hereby is appointed as MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing on January 1, 2020 and expiring on January 1, 2021, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04k** 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, KEN CAPOBIANCO be and hereby is appointed BOROUGH HOUSING OFFICER of this Borough for calendar year 2020.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04l** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that WILLIAM SPECK be named as Fund Commissioner and DAVID E. HOLLOD be named as Alternate Commissioner to the Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund for calendar year 2020.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04m** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that CYNTHIA DANOIS be and hereby is appointed as RECYCLING COORDINATOR for this Borough for calendar year 2020.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04n** RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD APPOINTING A LICENSED SEWER OPERATOR

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of a professional to act as the Borough's C-4 Sanitary Sewer Operator for the 2020 calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to retain the services of David Hopkins of Mott MacDonald to act as the Borough's C-4 Sanitary Sewer Operator and believes that David Hopkins is eminently qualified to perform such engineering services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that David Hopkins of Mott MacDonald is hereby appointed as the Borough's C-4 Sanitary Sewer Operator for the 2020 calendar year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04o** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council,

WILLIAM F. CROSBY III be and hereby is appointed to the GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION as the alternate representative of the Borough of North Plainfield to serve for the legal term commencing on January 1, 2020 and expiring on January 1, 2021, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04p** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that it does hereby recommend the appointment of AIMEE CORZO by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders to the SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE as representative of the Borough of North Plainfield for the year 2020.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04q** 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, DAVID E. HOLLID be and hereby is appointed as a member of the Borough Administration to the ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW BOARD of this Borough to effectuate Architectural Design Standards pursuant to Chapter XXII, Subsection 22-138 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of North Plainfield to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04r** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that BASIL D'ARMIENTO and HERMINIO ESTRELLA are hereby appointed Members to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2024 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04s** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that KATHERINE MILLER, WENDY SCHAEFER, STEVE MCINTYRE and SHERLOCK BENDER are hereby appointed Members to the HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2024 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04t** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice of consent of this Council, TOM FAGAN and JIM MALONEY be and hereby are appointed to the LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2023 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, SUEZETTE GIVENS be and hereby is appointed to the LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE to serve for the balance of an unexpired term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04u** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of the Council, TERRENCE ROSELLE be and hereby is appointed MEMBER of the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2023 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that REV. URSULA CARGILL be and hereby is appointed as Religious Community representative to the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2023 and until her successor is appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04v** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that, by nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, the following are hereby appointed to the Municipal Wastewater Management Plan Committee for terms expiring December 31, 2020:

Michael Giordano Jr. – Elected Official  
 Angelo Bufaino, P.E. – Consultant Engineer  
 David E. Hollod – Planning Board Member  
 William F. Crosby III – Utility Authority Representative; and

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that by nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, WILLIAM F. CROSBY III is hereby appointed Chair of the Municipal Wastewater Management Plan Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM F. CROSBY III be appointed to the Somerset County Wastewater Advisory Committee and David E. Hollod, as alternate, for terms expiring December 31, 2020.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04w** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, BRIAN MARTIN be and hereby is appointed as Coordinator to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2023 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that JOSEPH ASPROCOLAS, JENNIFER BARTHOLOMEW, and MICHAEL J. CECCATO be and hereby are appointed as Deputy Coordinators to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until their successors are appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM G. PARENTI be and hereby is appointed as Police Department representative to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM F. EATON be and hereby is appointed as Fire Department representative to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAVID E. HOLLLOD be and hereby is appointed as the Mayor's representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal

term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LAWRENCE LA RONDE be and hereby is appointed as Council Member representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM F. EATON be and hereby is appointed as Emergency Medical Services representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MILTON MATHIS be and hereby is appointed as Public Schools representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that JOANN RIGHETTI be and hereby is appointed as Citizen-at-Large representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until her successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that HIMANSHI BHATT be and hereby is appointed as Health representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until her successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that RICHARD PHOENIX be and hereby is appointed as Media representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANGELO COSTELLO be and hereby is appointed as Public Works representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DR. HARRY L. ALLEN be and hereby is appointed as Hazardous Materials representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ELIZABETH B. DENTE be and hereby is appointed as Emergency Animal Shelter Manager representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING

COUNCIL to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until her successor is appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04x** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, MARY ANN CLIMES, homeowner, and DOUGLAS SINGLETERRY, homeowner, be and hereby are appointed as Members to the RENT STABILIZATION BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal terms expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2023 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED than upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, KEIONA MILLER, tenant, be and hereby is appointed as Alternate Member to the RENT STABILIZATION BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2022 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04y** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, TOM FAGAN be and hereby is appointed citizen member to the SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS of this Borough to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2021 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04z** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of the Council, TERRENCE ROSELLE be and hereby is appointed MEMBER of the YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2023 and until his successor is appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that REV. URSULA CARGILL be and hereby is appointed as Religious Community representative to the YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE to serve for the legal term expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2023 and until her successor is appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-04aa** RESOLUTION APPOINTING BRIAN LEVINE AS NORTH PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield has a shared municipal court with the Borough of Watchung and the shared municipal court requires a municipal court judge, which the Borough of North Plainfield now wishes to make such an appointment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor hereby nominates, and the Borough Council hereby appoints Brian Levine, Esq. as Municipal Judge for the Borough of North Plainfield for the annual salary of Sixty-Five Thousand (\$65,000.00) Dollars, of which the Borough of North Plainfield's share of said salary is seventy (70%) percent or Forty-Five Thousand Five Hundred (\$45,500.00) Dollars. Judge Levine's appointment shall be retroactive to January 1, 2020 and shall continue to serve the unexpired three (3) year term ending December 31, 2021 and until a successor is qualified and appointed.

**CONSENT AGENDA NO. 2**

Council President Stabile read the Consent Agenda Statement.

Mr. La Ronde presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-05** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-13-20-05 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m

having been placed on Consent Agenda No. 2 and there having been no objection thereto, the same are hereby approved as amended.

Seconded by Ms. Miller and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

**APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA NO. 2 RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-05a** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the *COURIER NEWS* be named the official newspaper of the Borough of North Plainfield for the publication of legal notices for calendar year 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meeting notices of the Borough of North Plainfield shall be transmitted to the *COURIER NEWS* and *THE STAR-LEDGER*, *THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS*, *WJLP-TV*, *WKMB Radio* and posted on the official bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and the North Plainfield Memorial Library for calendar year 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tap into North Plainfield be and hereby is designated as the electronic news source for which notices and other matters are to be provided under the Open Public Meetings Act.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-05b** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the following are hereby designated as depositories for Borough funds for calendar year 2020:

Unity Bank  
Valley National Bank  
United Roosevelt Savings Bank

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-05c** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the following are hereby authorized to sign checks for the Borough of North Plainfield for calendar year 2020:

Michael Giordano Jr. – Mayor

Patrick J. DeBlasio - Chief Financial Officer

Kathleen Intravartolo - Treasurer

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-05d** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to charge interest on delinquent tax, assessment, and sewer user accounts for calendar year 2020, as follows:

Eight percent (8%) on the first one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) which is delinquent for a period in excess of ten (10) calendar days, which said percentage shall be chargeable from the due date of the payment; and

Eighteen percent (18%) on any amount in excess of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) which is delinquent for a period in excess of ten (10) calendar days, which said percentage shall be chargeable from the due date of the payment; and

Six percent (6%) yearly penalty on any tax delinquency, as defined by N.J.S.A. 54:4-67, which exceeds ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), provided said delinquency has not been paid prior to the end of the calendar year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-05e** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that Borough Tax Assessor BARBARA A. FLAHERTY is hereby authorized to file corrective appeals for errors in assessments or counterclaims to increase assessments, defend tax appeals filed by taxpayers, and agree to the terms of any stipulations of settlement of tax appeals as she deems necessary and in the best interest of the Borough for calendar year 2020.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-05f** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of North Plainfield is hereby authorized to establish change funds for calendar year 2020 for the following departments in the amounts designated:

Borough Clerk	\$100.00
Construction Office	50.00
Health Office	100.00
Municipal Court	300.00
Police	50.00
Public Works	50.00

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-05g** WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17 allows for the cancellation of property tax overpayments or delinquent amounts of less than \$10.00.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to cancel all property tax overpayments and/or delinquencies in the amounts of less than \$10.00, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17.



**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-05h** 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 licenses for the owner/operation of limousines to the following for one year in accordance with the applications heretofore submitted:

Shahid Akram, t/a  
Shahid Akram LLC  
12A Interhaven Avenue  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-05i** PROVIDING FOR A TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2020 PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-19

WHEREAS, the Revised Statutes of New Jersey 40A:4-19 provides for the adoption of temporary appropriations for the period between the beginning of the Budget Year and the date of the adoption of the Local Budget for the Year 2020 for the purposes and amounts required;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that the following temporary appropriations be made in the amounts and for the purposes herein set forth for the period between January 1st, 2020 and the adoption of the Local Budget for the Borough of North Plainfield, Somerset County and State of New Jersey for the Year of 2020:

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries &amp; Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
20-100	Department of Administration	\$ 55,500.00	\$ 3,575.00
20-110	Borough Council		1,000.00
20-120	Borough Clerk	36,250.00	5,375.00
20-130	Department of Finance	71,250.00	3,500.00
20-135	Annual Audit		10,000.00
20-145	Tax Collection		3,250.00
20-150	Division of Assessments	24,750.00	1,800.00
20-151	Tax Appeals		8,750.00
20-155	Department of Law		70,000.00
20-165	Engineering		12,500.00
20-175	Historical Commission	750.00	250.00
21-180	Planning Board	300.00	1,250.00
21-185	Board of Adjustment	250.00	1,500.00
22-195	Uniform Construction Code	50,000.00	2,250.00
23.210	Liability Insurance		400,000.00
23-220	Group Insurance		525,000.00
23-225	Unemployment Compensation		5,000.00
25-240	Police	1,462,250.00	50,000.00
25-241	Crossing Guards	43,000.00	0.00
25-252	Emergency Management	3,500.00	2,650.00
25-265	Fire Protection	965,250.00	15,700.00

25-266	Fire Hydrant		51,375.00
25-267	Uniform Fire Code	3,000.00	4,426.00
25-268	LOSAP		1,500.00
25-269	Emergency Medical Services		10,500.00
25-275	Borough Prosecutor	6,750.00	0.00
26-290	Street & Roads	293,750.00	112,500.00
26-310	Building & Grounds		24,000.00
26-315	Vehicle Maintenance		54,125.00
27-330	Health	43,750.00	34,500.00
27-340	Dog Regulation		15,000.00
28-370	Recreation	52,875.00	8,362.50
28-375	Maintenance of Parks		1,625.00
28-380	Shade Tree Advisory Board		2,500.00
30-415	Retirement Benefits		56,250.00
30-420	Celebration of Public Events		3,000.00
31-201	Contingent		2,500.00
<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries &amp; Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
31-430	Electricity		100,000.00
31-440	Telephone		19,000.00
31-445	Water		6,500.00
31-446	Natural Gas		15,000.00
31-460	Gasoline		43,750.00
31-461	Technology		50,000.00
31-462	Postage		10,000.00
31-471	Employees Retirement System		98,042.75
36-472	Social Security		110,000.00
36-474	Consolidated Police/Fire Retirement		0.00
36-475	Police/Fireman Retirement		619,641.25
41-899	Matching Funds for Grants		1,250.00
42-300	COAH Housing		2,500.00
42-305	Somerset County Recycling		50,000.00
42-405	Parking Meters	20,375.00	0.00
42-520	NJDEP Permit Fee		1,312.50
43-490	Municipal Court	79,250.00	5,587.50
43-495	Public Defender		1,000.00
62-405	Capital Equipment		16,950.00
	Totals	\$3,212,800.00	\$2,656,047.50
45-920	Payment of Bond Principle	\$	\$1,285,000.00
45-925	Note Principle		200,000.00
45-930	Interest on Bonds		286,928.64
45-935	Interest on Notes	0.00	140,890.31
	Totals	\$ 0.00	\$1,912,818.95

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>SEWER UTILITY FUND</u>	<u>Salaries &amp; Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
55-501	Sewer Operating	\$ 51,250.00	\$ 50,000.00
55-502	Plainfield Area Regional Sewer		500,000.00
55-541	Social Security		4,250.00
55-542	Unemployment Comp Insurance		250.00
	Totals Sewer Utility	<u>\$ 51,250.00</u>	<u>\$ 554,500.00</u>
55-520	Payment of Bond Principal		\$ 114,681.13
55-522	Interest on Bonds	0.00	30,839.81
55-523	Principal/Interest-Notes		145,087.44
	Totals	<u>\$ 00.00</u>	<u>\$ 290,608.38</u>

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-05j** WHEREAS, St. Joseph Church, 99 Westervelt Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey, has applied for a license to conduct a three-month Calendar Raffle from March 24, 2020 through May 26, 2020; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph Church has been issued Identification No. 352-1-11754 by the New Jersey Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission; and

WHEREAS, Investigation has shown that said applicant meets the requirements for the issuance of a raffle license;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of North Plainfield hereby authorizes the Clerk to issue License No. RL-1187 to St. Joseph Church for a three-month Calendar Raffle to be held March 24, 2020 through May 26, 2020 at 99 Westervelt Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-20-05k** A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD ACCEPTING A DONATION FROM V.I.P. CYCLE AND SPORTS CENTER FOR THE USAGE OF A VEHICLE FOR UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the North Plainfield Police Department has an ongoing need for an undercover police vehicle; and,

WHEREAS, the public will learn the make and model of the undercover police vehicle after a period of time, thereby making it less effective; and,

WHEREAS, changing the police undercover vehicle periodically is an ideal solution; and,

WHEREAS, V.I.P. Cycle and Sports Center has donated to local police departments the usage of used vehicles of about \$11,500.00 or less for undercover police use; and,

WHEREAS, V.I.P. Cycle and Sports Center is offering to donate the usage of a vehicle to the Borough of North Plainfield Police Department for undercover usage and change the vehicle periodically.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that:

1. The Borough of North Plainfield agrees to accept the donation of the usage of a vehicle from V.I.P. Cycle and Sports Center specifically for police undercover use;
2. The Borough of North Plainfield agrees to register and insure the vehicle during the time of its use.
3. The Borough of North Plainfield agrees that V.I.P. Cycle and Sports Center and/or the Borough of North Plainfield may end this agreement with forty-eight (48) hours' written notice and the Borough agrees to return the vehicle thereafter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this authorization is made pursuant to and consistent with the Local Public Contracts Laws of the State of New Jersey.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-13-19-05/ RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL WATER MAIN CLEANING CO. FOR SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 22 AND NORTH DRIVE IN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield promulgated bids for sanitary sewer improvements at Route 22 and North Drive in the Borough (hereinafter referred to as "Project"); and,

WHEREAS, four (4) bids were received by the Borough on December 19, 2019 for providing the services required in the bid for the Project; and,

WHEREAS, the four (4) bids received were as follows from low to high:

(1) National Water Main Cleaning Co.	\$52,795.00
(2) Standard Pipe Services, LLC	\$77,600.00
(3) AM-Liner East, Inc.	\$98,200.00
(4) North American Pipeline Services, Inc.	\$207,826.00

All of the bids cited above are base bid pricing.

WHEREAS, after a review by the Borough’s consulting engineer on this Project, Mott McDonald and the Borough Attorney, it is determined that National Water Main Cleaning Co. is the lowest responsible bidder for the Project.

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 approve the awarding of a contract for the Project set forth above to National Water Main Cleaning Co. whose New Jersey office is located at 1806 Newark Turnpike, Kearny, New Jersey 07032 in the base bid amount of Fifty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars and Zero Cents (\$52,795.00) as the lowest responsible bidder for the Project and authorizes the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute a Professional Services Agreement with National Water Main Cleaning Co. without the need for any further action of this Borough Council as to the Project.

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.

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. 01-13-20-05m** 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

NJ League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ Somerset County Business Partnership Somerville, NJ Frank N. D’Amore, Sr. North Plainfield NJ Transit Newark, NJ NJ American Water Voorhees, NJ Jerry Midgette, Esq., Somerset County Election Board Nick Ciampa North Plainfield NJDEP Trenton, NJ	Various Newsletters and Communications Invoice and Reports  Newsletters & Advisories  Property Maintenance Report  Bus Services  Newsletter  Confirming 2020 Polling Places  Music at the Mansion  Classification Exception: BP Station
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PARSA Middlesex, NJ NJ Dept. of Transportation Trenton, NJ NJ Office of the Attorney General Newark, NJ Somerset County Governing Officials Somerville, NJ Census Support Trenton, NJ	Minutes and Agenda  Commitment to Communities Newsletter  Credit for Unplayed Bingos  Meeting Reminder  Sessions Schedule
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**REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:**

Mayor Giordano advised of the Code Enforcement Officer's request for an amendment to the Vacant Properties Ordinance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Frank D'Amore, 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, shared his concerns with the improper enforcement of the Borough Code, specifically Chapter 11-6.22. The speaker urged for a revision of the ordinance which would require the issuance of a rental certificate of occupancy every twelve months.

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE:**

Mayor Giordano read his State of the Borough address as follows:

Happy New Year and welcome to North Plainfield's first Borough Council meeting of the year. I'd like to wish the Borough Council and everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2020.

I'm proud to say that redevelopment activity, investment, and progress in North Plainfield continued to be strong in 2019 and I believe this trend will continue through the New Year.

Highlights of this past year include the opening of many key businesses in the Route 22 Corridor, including Legacy Care Club, Medify Air, CFK Auto Repair and the Wawa Convenience Store and Gas Station. These developments serve to strengthen the already vibrant Route 22 Corridor.

New businesses were not limited to Route 22 however. We had numerous small businesses open this year including Q Car Group, Kasi McCoy Photo and Video Studio and D'Colombia Café. These small businesses have an outsized impact, giving North Plainfield a unique quality and help to sustain our downtown business community.

**Police Department – Chief William Parenti**

In 2019, our Police Department continued popular youth programs, such as our Summer Teen Evening Program (STEP), and our Youth Police Academy which is open to children in the 5th through 8th grades.

These two programs are very successful and were featured on WPIX Channel 11 News during First Responders week.

We graduated over 500 students in our DARE program and provided Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T) to all of our 7th grade students. In addition, our National Night Out continues to grow in attendance with over 750 residents in 2019.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) program continues to be a successful program in our school system. Our uniformed officer is a highly visible presence who engages both the students and staff on a daily basis. The SRO officer and program is committed to keeping the students and teachers safe.

The Police Department also worked closely with the school administration in planning school crisis response and keeping lines of communication open between our educators and law enforcement.

The Police Department continues to participate in “Project Medicine Drop” and “Operation Take Back.” These programs make it convenient for residents to dispose of their unwanted or expired prescription medications and reduce the chance that they end up on the street, in children’s hands, or in the water supply. As a result of these programs, the police department collected 265 lbs. of unwanted or expired prescription drugs in 2019.” The secure collection box is located in the lobby of Borough Hall and is accessible 24 hours a day.

We continue public outreach making presentations to senior citizens, preschools, daycare centers and the general public on safety and security topics. In February of 2019, the Police Department presented a free seminar entitled **Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events** teaching residents how to react during an active attack event. North Plainfield Police officers now patrol all schools on a random schedule. The patrols have a multifaceted appeal...

They keep officers interacting with the students, staff and parents. In addition, they point out deficiencies or security concerns at each school.

The Good Morning program made over 300 calls checking in on the welfare of our residents. This no-cost program is designed for shut-ins and senior citizens who live alone and have no one to look in on them. A member of the police department calls subscribing residents each day and asks if all is OK.

Our Traffic Safety Bureau again participated in the “Street Smart Program” in conjunction with Ridewise of Somerset County to help educate the public about pedestrian safety. The North Plainfield Police Traffic Safety Unit will continue to participate in the Safe Routes to School program in conjunction with Somerset County Ridewise and the North Plainfield Board of Education.

The Police Department Facebook Page continues to grow daily with nearly 3,000 followers. Social media has become a critical aspect in law enforcement which allows us to communicate instantly

with our citizens about important information like crime bulletins, road closures and general police information. Our Facebook Page has assisted in solving countless unsolved crimes, from shoplifting to burglary.

The North Plainfield Police Department is committed to a productive partnership with the community. In an effort to expand that partnership and provide more comprehensive services to the community we initiated and launched Operation Watch Dog. This program encourages residents and businesses to register their privately owned home/business video surveillance in efforts to increase safety and reduce crime. The department recognizes that crimes can be committed at any place or time and that home/business video surveillance may have captured vital footage that could help solve crimes in our community.

We are collaborating with Prosecutor Michael Robertson's office on the STOPit mobile reporting app...

People using the app can have real time anonymous dialogue with county law enforcement, who then pass the information on to North Plainfield police or other agencies as appropriate. The STOPit App is available in the iTunes or Google Play Store with the access code SOMERSETNJ.

The Body Worn Camera program has been active for over three years and all signs show the program has been successful. Assaults on police have fallen, along with the use of force used by the police. We have also seen a steady decline in internal affairs complaints by citizens against the police.

### **Fire/EMS Department – Chief William Eaton**

2019 was another very active year for the Fire Department. Our ever-increasing emergency call volume alone accounted for responding to 3,476 Fire and EMS incidents. Similar to previous years, emergency medical calls accounted for about two-thirds of our call volume and \$430,000 in revenue for the Borough to help offset our costs.

Last year we logged over 1,000 training hours. We also conducted over 2,000 total fire inspections of local businesses and multi-family homes in the Borough. This program, coordinated through our Bureau of Fire Prevention and Protection, is at the core of our many life safety initiatives that help make the occupancies within our community safe, and the inspection activities assisted in generating about \$75,000 for the Borough. We also participated in many fire prevention programs in the schools, hosted educational tours of the firehouse and partnered with the schools in their career day events. Two specific such programs included one-on-one mentoring of high school students and an internship program with a high school senior.

Besides the schools, we also worked with our local boy scouts and girl scouts to assist them in fulfilling requirements of their civic duties and safety lessons.

With a common goal of safety and compliance, the Fire Department works closely with the Borough's Property Maintenance Office, Zoning, and Building Department to help eliminate unsafe conditions and illegal activities.



We have expanded joint training between the fire and police department in areas of emergency response that overlap, namely - active shooter situations and opioid overdose incidents. Specifically, our Firefighters and EMTs participated in classroom training sessions and hands-on drills to practice how we would mutually respond and coordinate efforts at those types of events. With Active Shooter and Hostile events becoming unfortunately more common, we have also remained very involved at the County level by sending numerous officers, Firefighters and EMTs to their newly developed Rescue Task Force training programs. In turn, last year, we earned two grants that covered the cost of equipment and 8 tactical rescue vests, with a total value of approximately \$10,000.

We have continued our long standing relationship and interaction with the local seniors group on a regular basis. We offer them blood pressure screenings when we attend their monthly meetings and we also encourage them to participate in our annual smoke detector replacement program.

### **Recreation – Dennis Passe, Director**

The Recreation Department continued to expand its programming in 2019.

With my consent the Senior Citizens Club was folded into the Recreation Department which now assists our Senior Citizens with their weekly activities and periodic luncheons.

For this holiday season we expanded our holiday decorations at the Vermeule Complex giving the community center the best holiday look ever. In addition we added new 2'x4' holiday banners along Somerset Street and Greenbrook Road

This year we begin our Salute North Plainfield Heroes Banner Program. This program will and honor former and current residents who have served in our armed forces by displaying personalized banners along Somerset Street and Greenbrook Road. The banners will show our hero's photo, branch of service and years served.

At an approximate cost of \$3 per hour we continued to give our residents a great value with our summer camp program. We provide our children free arts and crafts programs, free swimming at Warrenbrook Swim Club, plus free entertainment throughout the summer.

In terms of safety and security we replaced all hardware and chains on every swing at Green Acres and Vermeule Parks, installed a new surveillance system at Green Acres Park and expanded our camera coverage at Vermeule.

### **Public Works – David Testa, Director**

This past year the Borough completed roadway, sidewalk and pedestrian safety improvements on both Sandford and Clinton Avenues as well as milling, resurfacing and drainage improvements on eleven other streets in the Borough.

We also saw the opening of the new state of the art fueling facility at the Public Works yard as well as the replacement of aging sanitary sewers on Harmony Street and the rehabilitation of sanitary sewers on West End Avenue.

This coming year, we anticipate the completion of roadway and pedestrian safety improvements on Grandview and Summit Avenues, between Somerset Street and Westervelt Avenue. Both of these projects are primarily funded by NJDOT Local Aid Grants which in turn are funded by the State Gasoline Tax.

Planned for 2020 is the milling and resurfacing of approximately sixteen streets in the Borough as well as the repaving of the North Plainfield Library parking lot.

Also planned is the replacement of the traffic signal at the Somerset and Pearl Street intersection along with pedestrian safety ADA ramp improvements and repaving of the last section of Somerset Street.

We also plan to award a bid tonight for the rehabilitation of aging sanitary sewers on North Drive at Route 22. Other scheduled sewer projects include the replacement of sanitary sewers on West End Avenue and Grove Street, and sewer rehabilitation on Glenside Place. These projects are partially funded by Federal Community Development Block Grants.

### **Infrastructure Projects and Community Facilities**

I'd like to thank the Borough Council for being supportive of funding the initiatives brought forth in our Capital Budgets, typically over \$2.5 million a year. I will be presenting additional projects for consideration in the spring as part of the annual budgetary process.

In 2019 we participated in the NJ Direct Install program, which partially funded energy efficiency upgrades at Borough Hall and the Vermeule Community Center. We replaced aging lighting and HVAC equipment which will lower our energy and maintenance costs, and reduce our carbon footprint. This year we expect delivery of a hybrid vehicle which will be tested for future operations.

This year we will be applying for long anticipated State grant money to continue with the next phases of interior improvements to the Memorial Library.

This past year also saw the acquisition of the former Villa Maria property on the north side of town. This was done with partial funding from the Somerset County Open Space Program and was financed through the Somerset County Improvement Authority. This tract will be used in part to satisfy court mandated affordable housing obligations, but the vast majority will be preserved as passive open space forever.

### **Public Outreach**

We continue to improve our website and will improve our Emergency Alert System in 2020. Our official Facebook page is updated almost daily and includes emergency notifications during bad weather and power outages. Our radio station broadcast is likewise updated several times a week and is now accessible through the website providing traffic information, community event notices, emergency alerts, and real time weather.

In 2019 we partnered with the Board of Education to have our first Fall Festival to bring our residents and community organizations together. The event was a great success and we plan to make this an annual event.

We are now working with Somerset County, the U.S. Census Bureau and the Board of Education to develop programs to promote Census 2020 participation. The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds to states, counties and communities is based on census data. It is crucial that we have an accurate count of our residents.

### **2020 Annual Budget**

We began the process of preparing the 2020 annual budget in November. The budget being proposed will maintain all essential services and be formally presented to the Council next month.

I am proud to announce that once again we received our full complement of State Aid due to achieving the highest possible category once again in the State's annual Best Practices Survey. Similar evidence that we are a well-run town comes in the fact that we received only one minor audit recommendation in our Annual Audit.

### **Administration**

The responsibility of the day-to-day operations of the Borough falls to our Business Administrator, Dave Hollod, and our Administrative Assistant, Katherine Miller.

I'd like to give them credit for helping me, and all of us, do our best for our community.

I'd like to thank all of our volunteers who have served and continue to serve as members of our committees, commissions, and advisory boards. Congratulations are offered to all the newly appointed members who are needed for their fresh ideas and experience.

I look forward to working with all of you on the Council and with the Board of Education, Somerset County Freeholders, our state agencies, neighboring communities, community groups, and our many volunteers, to continue the progress we have made in North Plainfield. Every day we benefit from the value of strong partnerships with these groups.

If you have any questions, please contact me or any member of our Borough staff at any time. I always look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you for being with us today and best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2020!

Mr. Merrill advised that the Board of Education held their reorganizational meeting selecting Bianca Butler as President and Sandy Dodd as Vice President.

Ms. Miller announced the Black History Month Celebration to be held on Sunday, February 16 at the North Plainfield High School Auditorium. This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of black men being able to vote and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage.

Ms. Corzo congratulated Mr. Singleterry on the new addition to his family.

Mr. Singleterry thanked Freeholder Marano for her attendance and Mayor Giordano for his excellent summary of the Borough's progress.

Council President Stabile thanked the Mayor for his speech, a welcome reminder of the previous year's accomplishments as we look forward to the next twelve months. The Mayor is accessible and surrounds himself with strong leadership, he remarked.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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Borough Clerk

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Council President