

# ***DRAFT MINUTES***

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 4 January 2021. 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 (virtual) Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **January 4, 2021** at 7:34 p.m. at the North Plainfield Borough Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

## **PRESENT:**

Council Members: Aimee Corzo  
Everett Merrill  
Keiona R. Miller  
Wendy Schaefer  
Frank "Skip" Stabile, Council President

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor  
David Hollod, Business Administrator  
Brian Hak, 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 Mayor La Ronde.

A moment of silence was observed for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

Council President Stabile read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This virtual 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, WKMB Radio, WJLP-TV, the Alternative Press and also to the Star Ledger on December 28, 2020 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and the Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES TO FILL  
THE COUNCIL SEAT VACATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF  
COUNCILMAN LAWRENCE LA RONDE

NOMINEES:

SUEZETTE GIVEN  
JENNIFER MCGOVERN  
STEVE MCINTYRE

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-04-21-01** 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 (Deliberations)

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.

Seconded by Mr. Merrill and on Roll Call carried all five voting aye. Executive Session convened at 7:40 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to come out of Executive Session by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Corzo and carried unanimously.

Council President Stabile reconvened the meeting at 7:46 p.m. with all five council members present.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-04-21-02** RESOLUTION APPOINTING STEVE MCINTYRE TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF COUNCILMAN LAWRENCE LA RONDE AS PER THE MUNICIPAL VACANCIES LAW

WHEREAS, Councilman Lawrence La Ronde resigned from the North Plainfield Borough Council effective the close of business, Thursday, December 31, 2020 in order to become the Mayor of the Borough of North Plainfield on January 1, 2021, thereby causing a Council vacancy;

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:16-3, N.J.S.A. 40A:16-5 and N.J.S.A. 40A:16-11, the North Plainfield Democratic Committee has provided the requisite number of names required for the Borough Council to consider for filling the Council vacancy until the next General Election when a candidate will be elected and qualified to serve as a Council member for the Borough of North Plainfield till December 31, 2022.

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 selects Steve McIntyre to serve as a Council Member on the North Plainfield Borough Council until the next General Election (November 2, 2021) at which time a candidate will be elected by the voting public of the Borough, and until the incoming candidate's election is certified and qualified in accordance with law, who will then serve the remainder of the unexpired term till December 31, 2022. This will fill the unexpired term of Mr. La Ronde as per above.

Seconded by Ms. Corzo and on Roll Call carried all five voting aye.

Mayor La Ronde administered the Oath of Office to Mr. McIntyre.

**HEARING:**

Council President Stabile opened the floor to public comment on the following:

2019 Community Development Block Grant Project

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. Merrill and on Roll Call carried all six voting aye.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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. Schaefer presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-04-21-03** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-04-21-03 a, b

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

Seconded by Ms. Miller with Roll Call as follows:

Aye: Corzo, Merrill, Miller, Schaefer, Stabile

Abstain: McIntyre

Resolution carried 5-0-1.

**APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-04-21-03a RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET COUNTY AND TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM YEAR 2019 CDBG-CV3 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield was notified by Somerset County on December 21, 2020 that it will receive a special allocation of Community Development Block Grant-CV funds in the amount of \$237,663.13 that must be used to prevent, prepare for or respond to the coronavirus through the CARES Act;

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield plans to use:

\$97,663.13 of these funds for Vermeule Community Center COVID Protection/Prevention Measures; \$95,000 of these funds for Memorial Library COVID Protection/Prevention Measures; and \$45,000 of these funds for Vermeule Mansion COVID Protection/Prevention Measures;

WHEREAS, the proposed projects were discussed at a public meeting that was held on January 4, 2021. No comments were received at this meeting;

WHEREAS, it may be necessary to execute a sub-grant agreement, and other such documents as required in order to satisfy conditions and requirements associated with the receipt of said funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey does hereby authorize submission of these projects for inclusion in Somerset County's Program Year 2019 CDBG-CV3 Action Plan Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council does hereby authorize and direct the Mayor and Borough Clerk to execute a sub-grant agreement, and any other documents related to said projects.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-04-21-03b RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UNION COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. seq. authorizes contracting units to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements; and

WHEREAS, the County of Union hereinafter referred to as "the Lead Agency" has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of work, materials and supplies; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield in the County of Somerset desires to participate in the Union County Cooperative Pricing Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the Borough Council authorizes the Borough of North Plainfield to participate in the Union County Cooperative Pricing Agreement and execute a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the County of Union upon its approval by the Division of Local Government Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Union as Lead Agency is expected to comply with the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. seq. and all of the provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey).

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Michelle Robertson, 676 Denninger Road, North Plainfield, congratulated Mr. McIntyre.

Mayor La Ronde and all Council members congratulated and welcomed Mr. McIntyre.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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Borough Clerk

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Council President