

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 11 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 Governing Body'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 11, 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
Steven McIntyre
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 Mr. McIntyre.

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."

Mayor La Ronde recognized the following appointment:

RECOMMENDATION BY THE MAYOR FOR APPOINTMENT BY THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS:

SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Michael Giordano, Jr.

One-year term

CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES TO FILL
THE COUNCIL SEAT VACATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF
COUNCILMAN DOUGLAS SINGLETERRY

NOMINEES:

ALISSA DISCALA
SUEZETTE GIVEN
JENNIFER MCGOVERN

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-11-21-01 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 Ms. Corzo and on Roll Call carried all six voting aye. Executive Session convened at 7:37 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 7:41 p.m. with all six council members present.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-11-21-02 RESOLUTION APPOINTING SUEZETTE GIVEN TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF COUNCILMAN DOUGLAS SINGLETERRY AS PER THE MUNICIPAL VACANCIES LAW

WHEREAS, Councilman Douglas Singleterry resigned from the North Plainfield Borough Council effective the close of business, Thursday, December 31, 2020 in order to become a Somerset County Freeholder (Commissioner) 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 Suezette Given 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. Singleterry as per above.

Seconded by Mr. Merrill and on Roll Call carried all six voting aye.

Mayor La Ronde administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Given.

The Clerk had submitted several sets of meeting minutes.

The Council President called for a Roll Call on the Board of Health and Regular Meeting of December 14, 2020:

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

The Council President called for a Roll Call on the Special Meeting of December 28, 2020:

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

The Council President called for a Roll Call on the Biennial Organizational Meeting of January 1, 2021:

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

The Council President called for a Roll Call on the Regular Meeting of January 4, 2021:

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

The Council President called for a Roll Call on the Executive Session of January 4, 2021:

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

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. 01-11-21-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-11-21-03 a, b, c, d, e

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

Seconded by Ms. Miller with Roll Call as follows:

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

Resolution carried 6-0-1.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-11-21-03a RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES TO THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of public health services; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield desires to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the Somerset County Board of Health in accordance with the Uniform Shared Services Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq. to provide such public health services to the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and the Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a shared services agreement with the Somerset County Board of Health for the provision of public health services to the Borough for a term not to exceed five (5) years, which shall be renewable annually commencing on January 1, 2021 and terminating on December 31, 2025. A copy of such shared services agreement is annexed hereto and incorporated herein and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-11-21-03b RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH RICH TREE SERVICE, INC. FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL OF TREES THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of certain services to maintain and remove trees throughout the Borough for the calendar year 2021 and Alternate A for calendar year 2022 (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield solicited bids for the Project and two (2) bids were received, which are as follows:

<u>Bidding Entity</u>	<u>Base Bid Total Amount</u>	<u>Alternate A</u>
Rich Tree Service, Inc.	\$195.00/hour	\$195.00/hour
Dom’s Lawnmaker, Inc.	\$1,095.00/hour	\$1,095.00/hour

WHEREAS, Director of Law/Borough Attorney Eric M. Bernstein, Esq. and the offices of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC have reviewed the bid submissions and recommend the award of the bid and contract for the Project to the lowest responsible bidder, Rich Tree Service Inc., whose main offices are located at 325 Bergen Street, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 (hereinafter referred to as the “Contractor”) as there are no material defects with the bid proposal; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is desirous of obtaining the services of the Contractor to perform all those services contemplated in the Borough’s bid documents and the bid proposal submitted by the Contractor; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield finds that the Contractor is the lowest responsible bidder for the Project, both the Base Bid and Alternate Bid A, pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.

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 hereby awards the following Bid and Contract:

Project: Tree Maintenance and Removal
 Successful Bidder: Rich Tree Service, Inc.
 Total Bid: In the Amount of One Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars and Zero Cents Per Hour (\$195.00).

Term: Calendar Years 2021 and 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council, at the recommendation of the Director of Law, accepts Alternate Bid A for the services in calendar year 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute the contract and all necessary documents to engage the construction services of Rich Tree Service, Inc. for the Project; and,

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; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award and the contract and its performance shall be consistent with all applicable laws, the Borough's bid documents and the bid proposal of Rich Tree Service, Inc. for the Project known as the Tree Maintenance and Removal Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-11-21-03c RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT REMOTE PUBLIC MEETINGS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Governor Phil Murphy's Executive Order Number 103 dated March 9, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy declared a Public Health Emergency and a State of Emergency in New Jersey; and,

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, P.L. 2020, Chapter 11 amended the Open Public Meetings Act to allow local public bodies, such as the North Plainfield Borough Council, to conduct Remote Public Meetings by use of electronic communications technology during a period declared as a Public Health Emergency or a State of Emergency; and,

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs issued regulations requiring local public bodies to adopt standard procedures and requirements for public comment made during Remote Public Meetings and for public comment submitted in writing to such meeting; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.4(h), the Borough of North Plainfield desires to adopt standard procedures and requirements for public comment made during Remote Public Meetings and for public comment submitted in writing to such meetings.

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 of North Plainfield Council hereby adopts the following procedures and requirements for public comment made during Remote Public Meetings:

1. Public comments which are neither obscene, defamatory and/or abusive will be accepted that are submitted in written form or via electronic mail received at the office of the Borough

Clerk of the Borough of North Plainfield (hereinafter the “Borough”) at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the meeting. Public comments submitted through electronic mail or written letter before the remote public meeting shall be read aloud and addressed during the remote public meeting in a manner audible to all meeting participants, including public participants. Any written or electronic submissions which contain obscene, defamatory and/or abusive language will not be read aloud as same shall be considered disruptive to the Borough Council meeting.

2. At the end of the regular business session of a Remote Public Meeting, a reasonable period of time will be provided for public comment, consistent with the Borough’s prior and current rules governing the public portion of its non-remote meetings. In addition to the written submissions being read aloud during the public portion, members of the public attending the Remote Public Meeting will be able to submit comments by raising their virtual hand and/or its equivalent function in the Zoom/remote meeting application or by typing in their information in the comment section of the remote meeting application. The moderator of the Zoom Meeting/remote meeting application and/or the Borough Clerk will recognize those members of the public that wish to submit a comment and, if more than one, will establish a queue for those wishing to comment. The Council President will recognize, in order, each member of the public that desires to provide public comment. When recognized, the member of the public shall identify themselves by name, address and, if applicable, the group or organization that they represent.
3. Members of the public participating in a Remote Public Meeting shall conduct themselves with decorum, shall not use abusive, defamatory, or obscene language and any comments made shall be concise and to the point. The Council President, in his/her discretion, may interrupt, warn, or mute the individual’s ability to speak if their conduct/comment is abusive, defamatory, obscene, or overly long.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-11-21-03d A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD ACCEPTING A DONATION OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT FROM TRIDENT FURNITURE SERVICES FOR THE USE OF THE NORTH PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the North Plainfield Police Department has an ongoing need for office equipment; and,

WHEREAS, Trident Furniture Services, 1355 West Front Street, Plainfield NJ 07063, has donated office equipment for use by the North Plainfield Police Department; and,

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 various office equipment from Trident Furniture Services specifically for police use;

2. The Borough of North Plainfield agrees to utilize said office equipment for a period of several years.

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. 01-11-21-03e 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 11th day of January, 2021 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 State League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ	Newsletters & Advisories
County of Somerset, Somerville, NJ	Newsletters & Communications
Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ	Report and Invoicing
Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority Middlesex, NJ	Minutes and Agenda
Public Service Electric & Gas, Newark, NJ	Newsletters
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Trenton, NJ	Newsletters
Dept. of State, Trenton, NJ	Thanks for Census Participation
PSE&G, Newark, NJ	Tariff Hearings

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rosemary “Roe” Woods, 350 Crosson Place, North Plainfield, invited everyone to attend the Parks and Recreation Committee virtual meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 19 at 7:30 p.m. Advising of the need to postpone the winter basketball season due to Covid-19, she expressed her hope for basketball in the spring.

Michelle Robertson, 676 Denninger Road, North Plainfield, congratulated Ms. Given and thanked all of the other candidates.

Eric Bernstein, 34 Mountain Boulevard, Building A, Warren, NJ, congratulated Mr. McIntyre and Ms. Given and offered assistance to help them acclimate to their new positions.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor La Ronde and all Council members congratulated and welcomed Ms. Given.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President