

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, March 8, 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, **March 8, 2021** at 7:33 p.m. at the North Plainfield Borough Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

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

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor
David Hollod, Business Administrator
Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., Borough Attorney
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. Merrill.

A moment of silence was observed for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces as well as those lost during the pandemic.

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."

The Clerk had submitted copies of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2021.

The Council President called for a Roll Call on the minutes: All in favor.

Mr. Phoenix read the following Mayoral Proclamation:

NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK PROCLAMATION 2021

WHEREAS, Congress designated the third full week in March to be National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) in 1961 and since then this week has helped to raise national awareness of the dangers of potentially dangerous medicines, household products and chemicals, environmental contaminants, and other substances; and

WHEREAS, poison control centers across the country will focus the public's attention on the free, lifesaving services provided by poison centers as well as educating the public on ways to prevent poisoning exposures; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Poison Control Center, a division of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, provides 24/7 expert medical treatment advice, drug information, and prevention education at no cost to the public through the Poison Help hotline; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Poison Control Center's specialized medical professionals (doctors, pharmacists, and nurses) provide accessible, free, and confidential poisoning/medical treatment advice and information to all; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Poison Control Center's services save healthcare dollars by eliminating thousands of unnecessary emergency department/room visits and result in shorter lengths of stay for patients hospitalized for poisoning; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Poison Control Center is instrumental in the surveillance and management of poisoning exposures across the state, including the use, misuse, and abuse of; medications, legal and illicit drugs, environmental contaminants, bioterrorism agents, and common household products and chemicals; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Poison Control Center is involved in New Jersey's efforts in homeland defense, counterterrorism, emergency preparedness and pandemic response, and biosurveillance; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Hotline at the NJ Poison Control Center, a collaboration with the NJ Department of Health, has assisted nearly 90,000 additional callers to provide up-to-date, unbiased, accurate information as well as medical guidance and links to services; and

WHEREAS, unintentional poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in New Jersey outnumbering deaths by motor vehicles and firearms; and

WHEREAS, a poison is defined as anything that can cause harm if taken in the wrong amount, in the wrong way or by the wrong person; and

WHEREAS, although most reported poison exposures involve children five (5) years old and younger; most poisoning deaths occur in adults aged 20 to 59; and

WHEREAS, overdose deaths from prescription opioids, over-the-counter medications, and illegal drugs remain at epidemic proportions for both New Jersey and the United States; and

WHEREAS, lead exposure and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning remain major public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, poison center experts encourage the public not to guess, wait for symptoms, or waste time looking up medical information online when potential poisoning exposures occur: call 1-800-222-1222, text 973-339-0702, or chat www.njpies.org; and

WHEREAS, all residents should save the Poison Help hotline in their cell, home, and office phones because a fast response can make all the difference in preventing serious injury and saving lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor of the Borough of North Plainfield do hereby proclaim the week of March 21-27, 2021 as National Poison Prevention Week in New Jersey and encourage all citizens to pledge their commitment to ensuring the safety of themselves, their families, and their community.

Mayor La Ronde recognized the following appointment:

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

One-year terms:

James DiPaolo

Deputy Coordinator

HEARING:

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

2021 Community Development Block Grant Project

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-08-21-01c 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 30, 2021 through May 25, 2021; 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-1193 to St. Joseph Church for a three-month Calendar Raffle to be held March 30, 2021 through May 25, 2021 at 99 Westervelt Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-08-21-01d 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, JAMES DIPAOLO be and hereby is appointed as Deputy Coordinator to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing February 8, 2021 and expiring on January 1, 2022 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-08-21-01e RESOLUTION INCREASING THE BID THRESHOLD FOR CONTRACTS SUBJECT TO PUBLIC BIDDING UNDER THE LOCAL PUBLIC CONTRACTS LAW

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3(a) provides that “If a purchasing agent has been appointed, the governing body of the contracting unit may establish that the bid threshold be up to ... the threshold amount adjusted by the Governor pursuant to subsection c. of this section.”

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3(c) provides that “The Governor, in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, shall, no later than March 1 of every fifth year... adjust the threshold amount, in direct proportion to the rise or fall of the index rate... and shall round the adjustment to the nearest \$1,000. The Governor shall, no later than June 1 of every fifth year, notify each governing body of the adjustment. The adjustment shall become effective on July 1 of the year in which it is made.”

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2020, the State Treasurer announced the adjusted bid threshold amount under the Local Public Contracts Law for a governing body which has appointed a qualified purchasing agent to be \$44,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of North Plainfield desires to increase its bid threshold in accordance with the State’s adjusted bid threshold and grant the authorization to negotiate and award such contracts below the bid threshold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Borough of North Plainfield hereby increases the bid threshold for award of public contracts by the Borough to \$44,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect on March 8, 2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-08-21-01f WHEREAS, the following applicant has filed application for a coin-operated amusement devices license for calendar year 2021 and has submitted the required fee; and

WHEREAS, review of the application with accompanying sketch and investigations of the site by appropriate Borough officials disclosed that the granting of this application would be in order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a coin-operated amusement devices license be granted to the following applicant for calendar year 2021 in accordance with the filed application, subject to all conditions and requirements set forth in N.P.R.G.O. 4-2:

Mi Mundo Latino, LLC
375 Somerset Street
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

RESOLUTION NO. 03-08-21-01g 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 8th day of March, 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, Sustainable Grants
Sustainable Raritan River, New Brunswick	Newsletter: Comment Period expires
Somerset Co. Governing Officials Somerville	Meeting Details
NJ American Water Co., Voorhees, NJ	Water Drop Newsletter
Dept. of Emergency Medicine, Rutgers Univ. New Brunswick	Poison Prevention Week Proclamation
Yvette Scola, North Plainfield BOE	Read Across America Virtual
NJ Highlands, Boonton, NJ	Newsletters
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Trenton	Weekly Newsletters

General Code Rochester, NY	Updates to Borough Code
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REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Hollod announced that the next meeting would include the Budget discussion with Mr. DeBlasio.

Mr. Merrill reported on the CVS Covid-19 vaccine program which has administered approximately two hundred vaccines each day so far.

Recognizing International Women's Day, Ms. Corzo reminded that we should celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

Ms. Given called for recognition of Women's History Month.

Ms. Schaefer announced that the library would consider doing away with fines for late materials. Mr. McIntyre added that the library utilizes a very safe system for using their materials.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President