

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 10 May 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 Agenda Conference (virtual) of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **May 10, 2021** at 7:33 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo
Suzette Given
Steven McIntyre
Everett Merrill
Keiona R. Miller
Wendy Schaefer (absent – excused)
Frank “Skip” Stabile, Council President

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, 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 Captain DiPaolo.

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

The Council President 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."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mercedes Mejia, 94 Fairview Avenue, North Plainfield shared her concerns with the lack of advance notice from New Jersey American Water prior to the commencement of their work. She questioned if the roads would be paved at the conclusion of the repairs. Voicing her displeasure with the loud music played in her neighborhood, she inquired after enforcement of same. Mr. Hollod explained that all scheduled utilities work includes a requirement regarding the interruption of service as well as the repaving of the road. Mayor La Ronde recommended that residents call the Police Department to report loud music.

Aziel James, 111 Myrtle Avenue, North Plainfield expressed his concerns with loud cars racing throughout his neighborhood, most notably in the morning and afternoon hours. Advising of an ordinance in Woodbridge that prohibits auto repair shops from installing loud mufflers on vehicles, the speaker urged for consideration of a similar ordinance for the Borough. Sharing his concerns with the deteriorated sidewalks throughout his neighborhood, he urged for the Borough to look into making repairs. He urged for a more transparent Borough website, indicating that the current one is somewhat antiquated. Agreeing with the speaker's comments about the website, Mayor La Ronde advised that the website would be updated over time. The Mayor confirmed that speeding remains a concern throughout the Borough and the matter has been addressed with Chief Parenti. Council President Stabile supported looking into restricting auto repair shops from installing loud mufflers. Mr. McIntyre rejoined that the responsibility of repairing sidewalks falls on the homeowner. The Councilman encouraged residents to report deteriorated sidewalks to Property Maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Update on Covid-19** – D.E.H. (Captain James DiPaolo, OEM Director to be present) Captain DiPaolo advised that both State and County Covid cases have decreased significantly. Testing continues to decline as approximately fifty-five percent of Somerset County residents have received their Covid shots. To date, there have been one thousand eight hundred and fifty (1,850) Covid-19 cases and fifty-four (54) deaths in the Borough. Borough employees conduct health screenings and temperature checks at the start of their shifts and continue to wear masks when social distancing is not possible. The travel policy for employees remains in effect and the buildings are disinfected weekly. The Borough has conducted two Covid-19 vaccination clinics, the first at the Community Center and the second at the Fire House. A third clinic is scheduled at the Fire House for May 12, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with no appointment required. Responding to Mr. Merrill's inquiry, Captain DiPaolo reported that the Borough's case count was similar to other densely populated towns within Somerset County.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS:

Reporting on the adoption of the Board of Education Budget, Mr. Merrill indicated this would amount to an approximate increase of \$178.00 per homeowner. The schools will resume full day in-school sessions in September.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President