

# ***DRAFT MINUTES***

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 14 June 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, **June 14, 2021** at 7:44 p.m. via Zoom.

**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  
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney  
Patrick DeBlasio, Chief Financial Officer  
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk  
Stephanie Sherwood, RMC, CMR, Deputy Clerk

Mr. Phoenix 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:**

Cynthia Dawkins, 477 Mountainview Drive, North Plainfield, inquired after the status of her request for a Black Lives Matter mural. Mayor La Ronde advised that the Borough would consider hanging flags similar in size to the Veteran flags located in the downtown, but they would not be purchased with tax payer monies.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Automotive Exhaust Systems Ordinance** – L.L.R. Mayor La Ronde explained that this ordinance would require all exhaust systems installed, repaired, and/or modified on any motor vehicle manufactured after July 1, 1935 to meet the requirements of *N.J.A.C.* 13:20-4.4 and *N.J.S.A.* 13:20-33.20, as well as New Jersey Motor Vehicle Statute *N.J.S.A.* 39:3-70. Mr. George advised of the possibility that those vehicles registered as historic with the “QQ” license plates may be exempt. Ms. Miller noted this may not address the issue of the noise caused by those vehicles already altered. Ms. Schaefer rejoined that it would not eliminate all loud vehicles, but it adds a hurdle in front of those considering altering their vehicles. Mayor La Ronde confirmed that he and Mr. Hollod had met with Chief Parenti to stress that this is a high priority issue.
  
2. **Recreational Marijuana Ordinance(s)** – A.C. Ms. Corzo explained that after an in-depth look at the State legislation regarding the legalization of marijuana with both the Borough Attorney’s Office and Chief Parenti, the subcommittee would share their findings. Ordinance No. 21-04 would prohibit any class of cannabis business within the Borough, while Ordinance No. 21-05 would permit certain classes of cannabis businesses in certain specified zones within the Borough, specifically Route 22. Explaining that the State’s legislation contains more unanswered questions than answers, Mr. McIntyre indicated that the Council must do what they can with what they have. Mr. Merrill shared his concerns with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities’ recommendation to ban cannabis until the New Jersey State Regulation Commission releases their findings. Agreeing with Mr. Merrill’s concerns, Ms. Miller thought it counterproductive before knowing what the State would require. Mr. McIntyre detailed the results of the Borough’s cannabis survey which indicated roughly seventy percent of participants in favor of some form of retail allowance. Reporting that Ordinance No. 21-06 addresses the taxation of cannabis, Mr. McIntyre confirmed the unrestricted use of the funds generated.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS:** None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

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Borough Clerk

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Council President