

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting
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 Regular (virtual) Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **June 14, 2021** at 9:19 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."

The Clerk had submitted copies of the minutes of the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting of May 24, 2021.

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

HEARING:

AMENDMENT TO THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Given and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

Ms. Schaefer presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 06-14-21-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

\$28,476,123.27 (Twenty-Eight Million, Four Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand, One Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars and Twenty-Seven Cents) item 2 below, for municipal purposes. I so move.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 06-14-21-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 21-03 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing June 28, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as the time and the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey as the place for hearing and final adoption.

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

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-03 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 3 OF THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, ENTITLED "POLICE REGULATIONS," MORE SPECIFICALLY TO ADD A NEW SUBSECTION 3-7.11 ENTITLED "INSTALLATION, REPAIR AND MODIFICATION OF AUTOMOTIVE EXHAUST SYSTEMS."

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

RESOLUTION NO. 06-14-21-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 21-04 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing July 12, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as the time and the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey as the place for hearing and final adoption.

Seconded by Ms. Given and on Roll Call failed with all seven voting nay.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-04 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 22, "LAND DEVELOPMENT," ARTICLE CXV, ENTITLED "GENERAL PROVISIONS," MOST NOTABLY AMENDING, REVISING AND SUPPLEMENTING § 22-115.1 BY ADDING § 22-115.1(B AND C), PROHIBITING ANY CLASS OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD.

Mr. McIntyre presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 06-14-21-04 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 21-05 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing July 12, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as the time and the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey as the place for hearing and final adoption.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer with Roll Call as follows:

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

Resolution carried 5-2.

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-05 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 22, "LAND DEVELOPMENT," § 22-115, ENTITLED "GENERAL PROVISIONS," MOST NOTABLY AMENDING, REVISING AND SUPPLEMENTING § 22-115 BY ADDING § 22-115.33, ENTITLED "COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL ADULT USE CANNABIS OPERATIONS," PERMITTING CERTAIN CLASSES OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES IN SPECIFIED ZONES WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD.

Ms. Given presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 06-14-21-05 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 21-06 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing July 12, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as the time and the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey as the place for hearing and final adoption.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer with Roll Call as follows:

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

Resolution carried 5-2.

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-06 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 23, "TAX EXEMPTIONS," MOST NOTABLY AMENDING, REVISING AND SUPPLEMENTING § 23-8, ENTITLED "INELIGIBILITY," BY ADDING § 23-8(B), REQUIRING CERTAIN CLASSES OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM PERMITTED EXCISE TAXATION.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 06-14-21-06 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 21-07 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing July 12, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as the time and the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey as the place for hearing and final adoption.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-07 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 26, "HEALTH REGULATIONS," ARTICLE XIV, ENTITLED "SMOKING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY," MOST NOTABLY AMENDING, REVISING AND SUPPLEMENTING § 26-14 BY PROHIBITING ANY USE OF CANNABIS ON ANY PUBLIC PROPERTY OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD.

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.

Mr. McIntyre requested that item "d" be considered for separate vote.

Ms. Schaefer presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 06-14-21-07 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

06-14-21-07 a, b, c

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

Seconded by Ms. Miller and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 06-14-21-07a WHEREAS, both the homeowner, and Corelogic paid \$2,123.44 on Block 56 Lot 15, 276-78 Watchung Avenue, Corelogic has requested refund of that payment.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to make the following refunds:

Refund Duplicate Tax Payment:

Corelogic \$ 2,123.44
 Attn. Recoveries Dept.
 PO Box 9205
 Coppell, TX 75019-9214

RESOLUTION NO. 06-14-21-07b BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to create duplicate tax sale certificate(s) as follows:

Block 112 Lot 11 126 Ridge Avenue # 08-00116 issued 12/04/08

RESOLUTION NO. 06-14-21-07c WHEREAS, Equity Title Services over paid \$ 3,125.18 on Block 64.02 Lot 21, 105 Jennings Lane, Equity Title has requested refund of that payment.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to make the following refunds:

Refund Tax Over Payment:

Equity Title Services, LLC \$ 3,125.18
 Escrow Account.
 1923 Springfield Avenue
 Maplewood, NJ 07040

Ms. Schaefer presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 06-14-21-07d 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 14th day of June, 2021 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

Seconded by Ms. Corzo with Roll Call as follows:

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

Abstain: McIntyre

Resolution carried 6-0-1.

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
Somerset County Business Partnership Somerville	Marijuana Legalization Impacts on Business
Division of Local Government Services Trenton	LEAP Implementation Grants
Capehart Scatchard, P.A., Mt. Laurel, NJ	Quarterly Newsletter
NJ Conservation Foundation, Far Hills	25 th Annual Land Conservation Rally
NJ American Water, Voorhees, NJ	Newsdrop Newsletter
NJ DEP, Trenton, NJ	FFY21 Clean Water Financing Program
Tina Totten, North Plainfield	Green Brook Flood Control meeting
C. Scott, North Plainfield	Mali Drive gathering

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Yolanda Bobb, 165 Delacy Avenue, North Plainfield, inquired after a complete listing of all Borough ordinances. Mr. Phoenix recommended she visit the Borough website for same.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor La Ronde reported on the turnout for the Memorial Day ceremonies and the Borough-wide Yard Sale which included more than one hundred participants. The Blood Drive was well attended and Robert Wood Johnson will schedule another one in September. The Fourth of July parade is scheduled for Monday, July 5 and the fireworks, July 10. Juneteenth celebration will be held on June 17 in Somerville.

Mr. Hollod thanked the Council for their support of the Budget.

Ms. Schaefer thanked her colleagues for their efforts with the marijuana ordinances.

Mr. Merrill echoed Ms. Schaefer’s sentiments. He took an opportunity to explain his opposition for the allowance of retail sales of marijuana, specifically the message it would send to our youth.

Ms. Given complimented her colleagues' work on the ordinances.

Ms. Corzo thanked those that participated in the cannabis survey. She thanked her fellow Council members, as well as Chief Parenti and Mr. Bernstein's office for all of their work on the ordinances. She noted that Council President Stabile presided seamlessly tonight from another continent, while visiting family in Brazil. As a proud mother of an LGBTQ+ member, she wished everyone a happy Pride Month.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President