

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 28 February 2022.

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, **February 28, 2022** at 7:31 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo
Suzette Given
Steven McIntyre
Everett Merrill, Council Vice President
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
Kathleen Intravartolo, Treasurer, CTC, QPA
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk
Stephanie Sherwood, RMC, CMR, Deputy Clerk

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 15, 2021 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 Pledge to the Flag was led by Ms. Given.

All then joined in a moment of silence for the Men and Women serving in our Armed Forces as well as a moment of silence for the people of Ukraine.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank D'Amore, 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, reported that the property at 31-33 Rockview Avenue is a four-family home with an absentee landlord. Noting that just one Rental Certificate of Occupancy had been filed for the property, the speaker questioned if the Borough would be responsible to investigate if the other tenants resided at the address prior to the ordinance. Mr. George answered that the obligation to prove the tenants resided at the address prior to the ordinance falls on the owner of the property.

Mayor La Ronde presented the following Mayoral Proclamation:

NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK

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, life-saving 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, is instrumental in the medical management and surveillance 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 public and medical and emergency service professionals alike can easily access the NJ Poison Control Center's free services through the Poison Help line (1-800-222-1222) or chat (njpies.org); and

WHEREAS, the specialized healthcare professionals at the poison control center (doctors, nurses, and pharmacists) provide 24/7 medical treatment advice and information to callers of all ages; and

WHEREAS, most reported poison exposures involve children five (5) years old and younger; and

WHEREAS, most poison-related deaths occur in adults; and

WHEREAS, the 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, in addition to being New Jersey's primary defense against injury and death from unintentional poisoning, continues to play an essential role in the statewide response to the COVID-19 pandemic by assisting over 125,000 callers with COVID-19 information and resources; and

WHEREAS, poison control center experts encourage residents not to guess, wait for symptoms to appear, or waste time searching for medical information online, get immediate help from the poison control center when a potentially dangerous exposure occurs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor, of the Borough of North Plainfield do hereby proclaim the week of March 20-26, 2022 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Agreement with Somerset County Division of Transportation** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that Borough senior bus transportation had to be suspended during the pandemic and a new bus would be needed to reinstate this service. Somerset County can provide bus transportation services for seniors over the age of sixty and disabled residents over the age of eighteen. Transportation would be provided four days per week to Stop and Shop, Shoprite, and the Community Center. Responding to Mr. Merrill, he confirmed that input from seniors would be considered and other shopping locations such as Costco may be added. Acknowledging Mr. McIntyre, he advised that the Borough would consider using the old senior bus to transport supplies during emergencies. Ms. Schaefer requested confirmation that residents would be picked up and dropped off at their homes; Mr. Hollod confirmed same.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS:

Ms. Corzo reported that the Planning Board approved the preliminary plans for improvements to the Asian Food Market.

Ms. Given reported that the Municipal Alliance Committee aired a human race movie which was very informative.

Mr. Merrill reported that the Board of Education would wait to see how the Borough is faring in regards to Covid before removing the mask mandate.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President