

# ***DRAFT MINUTES***

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference  
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 25 April 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 Council's actual approval of same. If  
changes are necessary, revised minutes will be posted to the website.*

**MINUTES** of the Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **April 25, 2022** at 7:45 p.m. at the North Plainfield Community Center, 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

## **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  
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk  
Stephanie Sherwood, RMC, CMR, Deputy Clerk

Council President Stabile read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This 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."

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Patricia Merath, 118 Tappan Avenue, North Plainfield, expressed her concerns with intoxicated individuals loitering in the QuickChek parking lot. Fights have occurred outside the store and people have been assaulted inside. Council President Stabile stressed the importance of reporting these incidents to the police. Chief Parenti confirmed that he had been made aware

of the recent incidents and termed QuickChek as one of the Borough's most problematic establishments. The Chief suggested the business may need to hire a security detail or limit their hours. Patrol has been instructed to perform checks of the parking lot every twenty minutes throughout the evening and overnight hours.

Daniel Battista, 34 Regent Street, North Plainfield, thanked Mayor La Ronde for his efforts with the cleanup of the brook behind Trinity Reformed Church on Greenbrook Road. He suggested that all banners along Somerset Street be removed at the same time. Mayor La Ronde explained that they depend on the use of Green Brook's cherry picker to remove and install the banners which is why they could not be done at the same time. Mr. Battista indicated his displeasure with non-functional lamp lights along Somerset Street. Mr. Hollod acknowledged his concerns, relaying that the police department had conducted a Borough-wide assessment of all lamps. PSE&G had been notified and would make the necessary repairs.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Resolution Awarding Bid for Somerset Street Resurfacing and Signalization Project** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution authorizes the acceptance of the proposal submitted by Fai-Gon Electric Inc. for the Somerset Street signalization improvement project.
2. **Ordinance to Create a Reserved Police Parking Space on Wilson Ave. near NPHS** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this ordinance allows for the creation of a reserved police parking space on Wilson Avenue in front of the high school.
3. **North Plainfield Police Department's Community Policing** – D.E.H. (Chief Parenti to be present). Council President Stabile clarified that Councilwoman Miller had requested this presentation. Ms. Miller indicated that in light of some of the horrific events seen on the news, residents had shared their concerns with her. Chief Parenti advised that he began his tenure as Chief in 2004 and continues to strive for transparency. North Plainfield was the first accredited agency and the first to implement the use of body cameras. Software is used to track every stop made by patrol officers. The goal at the end of the day is for everyone to go home safe.

The Police Chief indicated that he makes every effort to attend community events. The Immigration Trust Directive barred police departments from cooperating with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. Coffee With a Cop is used to bring police officers and members of the community together to discuss issues and learn more about each other. The Borough has implemented the GREAT program and the STEP program, Neighborhood Watches, National Night Out, and the Good Morning program. Officers conducting walking beats are encouraged to stop into businesses and talk with the shop owners.

Responding to Council Vice President Merrill's inquiry, Chief Parenti explained that the Stranger Danger program is used in elementary schools. Officers are required to walk throughout all of the schools in an effort to familiarize themselves with the layouts of the schools. Responding to Councilwoman Given, Chief Parenti advised that police officers are required to be trained in mental health as they field approximately four to five calls per week for PESS. Dispatchers are trained as to what to ask to correctly assess situations and relay the

information to the officers. Thanking Chief Parenti and the entire police department for all of their efforts, Mayor La Ronde stressed that the Borough is blessed with wonderful police officers that show up to community events and take the time to talk with our residents.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS:**

Mr. Merrill announced that the Board of Education would present their annual budget at their next meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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Borough Clerk

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Council President