

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 9 May 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 Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, May 9, **2022** at 9:05 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 (absent-excused)
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

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."

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

The Clerk had submitted copies of the minutes of the Board of Health, Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting of April 25, 2022.

The Council President called for a roll call on the minutes:

All in favor.

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER CLASS II

WILLIAM KELLY One-year term

SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER CLASS III

DARIN MARASCO One-year term
HUBERT HENDERSON One-year term
ROGER TERRY One-year term
JASON HAMILTON One-year term

HEARING: 05-09-22-01 ORDINANCE NO. 22-03 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 7A OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED “TRAFFIC SCHEDULES,” MOST NOTABLY: SECTION 7A-25, ENTITLED “SECTION 7A-25 SCHEDULE XV: ON-STREET PARKING RESERVED FOR POLICE VEHICLES”

The Clerk read the Ordinance by its title

Public Hearing: No one appeared.

Motion to close public hearing by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. McIntyre. On Roll Call, unanimously in favor.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 05-09-22-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 22-03 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on roll call carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. George noted a typographical error in item “b” in which the year 2023 had been mis-stated. On assent, the Council agreed with his suggested amendment. Resolution No. 05-09-22-02b appears below as amended.

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 presented the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 04-25-22-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

04-25-22-02 a, b (as amended), c and d

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

Seconded by Ms. Corzo and on roll call carried unanimously.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 05-09-22-02a WHEREAS, P.L. 202, c.117, signed into law on November 4, 2020 is the most progressive disposable bag law in the country, with the goal of phasing out single-use plastic and paper bags and encouraging the use of reusable bags throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is working to reduce reliance on single-use products to ensure that future generations have a clean and healthy environment to live, work, and recreate in; and

WHEREAS, banning or limiting the use of single-use plastic and paper carryout bags is a significant step in this effort; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Clean Communities Council, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Department of State, policymakers, environmental and business groups, as well as other stakeholders are working together to educate consumers, businesses, and communities about the new law and encouraging residents to "Bag Up" before the ban on single-use plastic bags goes into effect on May 4, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensive "Bag Up NJ" campaign will include educational programs, public and media engagement and reusable bag distribution programs throughout the state, with an emphasis on underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, this statewide public education campaign will provide residents, businesses and visitors with information about the types of reusable and sustainable bags and containers that they may use and where to access these products.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of North Plainfield, that it is critical to begin educating the public about this new law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that one way to gain important recognition is to deem the month of May each year as "Bag Up NJ" month in the Borough of North Plainfield, as a further reminder that all residents should bring their own reusable bags to the store; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the NJ Clean Communities Council, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-09-22-02b (as amended) RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL APPOINTING WILLIAM KELLY AS A CLASS II SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

OFFICER AND DARRIN MARASCO, HUBERT HENDERSON, ROGER TERRY AND JASON HAMILTON AS CLASS III SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR COMMENCING ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2023.

WHEREAS, North Plainfield Chief of Police William Parenti finds it necessary to nominate for appointment Special Law Enforcement Officers to assist in the enforcement of the laws, regulations and ordinances of the Borough of North Plainfield for the safety and benefit of the residents of the Borough of North Plainfield; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Code §2-21 authorizes the appointment of Special Law Enforcement Officers upon the nomination of the Chief of Police to the Mayor, who shall recommend their appointment to the Borough Council for approval; and,

WHEREAS, North Plainfield Chief of Police William Parenti has nominated William Kelly to serve as a Class II Special Law Enforcement Officer for a term of one (1) year commencing on September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, North Plainfield Chief of Police William Parenti has nominated Darin Marasco, Hubert Henderson, Roger Terry and Jason Hamilton to serve as Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers for a term of one (1) year commencing on September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor has recommended to the Borough Council the appointment of these Class II and Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers to the Borough Council to the North Plainfield Police Department appointment upon such terms:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the Borough Council hereby appoints William Kelly as a Class II Special Law Enforcement Officer for a term of one (1) year commencing on September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023 and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the Borough Council hereby appoints Darin Marasco, Hubert Henderson, Roger Terry and Jason Hamilton to serve as Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers for a term of one (1) year commencing on September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that a certified copy of the within Resolution be forwarded to the Mayor, Chief of Police, Police Captain, Borough Administrator, Personnel files, Payroll Department, William Kelly, Darin Marasco, Hubert Henderson, Roger Terry and Jason Hamilton.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-09-22-02c 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 9th day of May, 2022 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-09-22-02d RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION OF AUGUST TENTH CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, L.L.C., FOR CANNABIS CLASS 1 CULTIVATION AND CANNABIS CLASS 2 MANUFACTURE AT PREMISES LOCATED AT 942 ROUTE 22, LOT 157, BLOCK 16 IN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD.

WHEREAS, in 2020, New Jersey voters approved Public Question No. 1, which amended the New Jersey Constitution to allow for the legalization of a controlled form of marijuana called “cannabis” for adults at least twenty-one (21) years of age; and,

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2021, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2021, c. 16, known as the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act” (hereinafter referred to as the “Act”), which legalizes the recreational use of marijuana by adults twenty-one (21) years of age or older, and establishes a comprehensive regulatory and licensing scheme for commercial recreational adult use cannabis operations, use and possession; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield has adopted a new section of the Borough Code of the Borough of North Plainfield, § 22-115.33, entitled “Commercial Recreational Adult Use Cannabis Operations,” to amend the Borough of North Plainfield’s zoning regulations to permit certain adult recreational cannabis-related uses to be licensed within the geographic boundaries of Borough of North Plainfield, including but not limited to Cannabis Class 1 cultivation and Cannabis Class 2 Manufacturing without limit in the B-3 Business and Commercial Zone; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has considered that the proposed cannabis business to be located at premises at 942 Route 22, Block 157, Lot 16 conforms to B-3 Business and Commercial municipal zoning requirements based on the nature of the Applicant’s primary business operations pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 17:30-5.1(f)(1)*; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield Zoning Officer has certified that the property located at 942 U.S. Route 22, also known as Block 157, Lot 16, in the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, is located in the B-3 Commercial and Business District wherein Cannabis Cultivation Class 1 and Cannabis Manufacture Class 2 Businesses are a permitted use under North Plainfield Borough Ordinance 22-115.33(a-b); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has determined that the intended location is appropriately located or otherwise suitable for activities related to the operations of the proposed Cannabis Class 1 and Cannabis Class 2 businesses because they are located in commercial and business zones, not residential zones, and in commercial buildings suited to re-purposing in accordance with odor, security and other strict regulations of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission and other State regulatory agencies; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield wishes to insure that such licensed recreational adult use cannabis operations provide the maximum local opportunity for

enterprises to all residents as well as minority and other businesses as provided for in the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act”:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the proposed location of a Cannabis Class 1 Cultivation business and a Cannabis Class 2 Manufacturing business at 942 Route 22, Block 157, Lot 16 conforms to municipal zoning requirements allowing for activities related to the operations of the proposed cannabis business to be conducted at the location, that no limit has been established for the same in the B-3 Zone, that no variances appear to be required concerning the operation of a cannabis business, subject to final application for occupation and/or site plan approval under *N.J.A.C. 17:30-5.1(f)*, and that the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield hereby states its support and evidence of municipal preference for a Cannabis Class 1 Cultivation business and a Cannabis Class 2 Manufacturing business at the proposed location by August Tenth Capital Investments, L.L.C.

REPORTS 2022:

March 2022 Monthly Police Report

COMMUNICATIONS:

NJ League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ	Various Newsletters and Communications
Somerset County Bd. of Commissioners Somerville	Various Newsletters and Communications
Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ	Invoice and Reports
NJ American Water Co., Voorhees, NJ	Newsdrop Newsletter
Maureen Coxwell, Deputy County Clerk Somerville	Mail-In Ballot Specimens
William Parenti, Chief of Police North Plainfield	March Police Report QuickChek reports
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Trenton	Weekly Newsletters
North Plainfield Bd. of Education	Signed Budget Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Tobias, Esq., 125 Hardenburg Lane, East Brunswick NJ, thanked the Council for approvals with regard to his client, saying that they were looking forward to becoming a vibrant member of the community.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Merrill offered his thanks to the team and legwork accomplished on cannabis research, saying that he particularly appreciated Mr. George's efforts.

Further, Mr. Merrill expressed how happy he was with the Borough's full-time EMS crew and their dependable quick response.

Ms. Corzo added how well-deserved the mayoral proclamation for EMS had been. She also complimented the efforts of the cannabis committee that led to the latest developments and progress on an entirely new enterprise in the State of New Jersey. The Council President added his support to the progress being achieved while Ms. Corzo interjected her appreciation for the support of Chief Parenti throughout the process.

In reference to EMS, the Council President recalled how much both of his parents had benefited from the services of the Borough EMS, and what a comfort it had been to have them on duty.

The Council President reminded that the usual range of Memorial Day activities would be held in North Plainfield, and encouraged all to participate.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Merrill, seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on voice vote carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President