

DRAFT MINUTES

*These are the Draft Minutes of the North Plainfield Borough Council
Regular Meeting held on Monday, 14 November 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, **November 14, 2022** at 8:47 p.m. at North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, 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 E. Hollod, P.E. – Business Administrator
Brian Hak, 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 October 20, 2022 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 Agenda Conference, and Regular Meeting of October 24, 2022.

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

Aye: Given, McIntyre, Miller, Schaefer, Stabile
Nay: None
Abstain: Corzo, Merrill

Minutes ordered approved 5-0-2

HEARING: ORDINANCE NO. 22-10 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 2 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION,” MOST NOTABLY, ARTICLE IV, ENTITLED “MUNCIPAL PROCEDURES,’ SPECIFICALLY § 2-42, ENTITLED “WEDDING AND CIVIL UNION CEREMONIES” AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, § 2-42.1 ENTITLED “FEES.”

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one appeared.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Ms. Miller and on Roll Call carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 11-14-22-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 22-10 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Mr. Merrill and on Roll Call carried, all in favor.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 11-14-22-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 22-11 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing December 12, 2022 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 or Zoom as the place for hearing and final adoption.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on Roll Call carried, all in favor.

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title:

ORDINANCE NO. 22-11 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 14 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED “STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND SANITATION” AND, MORE SPECIFICALLY, SECTION 14-6, ENTITLED “ELECTRICAL LINES,” BY AMENDING § 14-6.1 TO CREATE § 14-6.1(A) AND

ADD NEW § 14-6.1(B), AND BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 14-6.2, ENTITLED “ABANDONED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE LINE LINES.”

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

RESOLUTION NO. 11-14-22-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 22-12 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing December 12, 2022 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 or Zoom as the place for hearing and final adoption.

Seconded by Mr. Merrill and on Roll Call carried as follows:

Ayes: Corzo, Given, McIntyre, Merrill, Schaefer, Stabile
Absent: None
Nays: None
Abstain: Miller

Resolution carried 6-0-1.

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title:

ORDINANCE NO. 22-12 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 2 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION,” MOST NOTABLY ARTICLE I, ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATIVE CODE,” SPECIFICALLY § 2-2, ENTITLED “OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,” BY ADDING A NEW § 2.2.3 ENTITLED “SALARY,” MORE SPECIFICALLY, § 2-3, ENTITLED “COUNCIL,” BY ADDING A NEW § 2.3.12, ENTITLED “SALARY OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL MEMBERS.”

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.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 11-14-22-04 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

11-14-22-04a, 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 unanimously.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-14-22-04a PROVIDING FOR TRANSFER OF SURPLUS FUNDS

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-58 provides for the transfer of surplus funds from one account to the other during the last two months of the calendar year:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that transfers be made in the Boroughs' 2022 budget appropriations in accordance with the following schedule:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
<u>CURRENT FUND</u>			
23-220-299	Medical Insurance	\$ 70,000.00	
25-275-101	Prosecutor-S&W		\$ 3,000.00
26-310-200	Building & Grounds-OE		27,000.00
26-315-220	Vehicle Maintenance		5,000.00
31-460-299	Utilities-Gasoline		35,000.00
25-252-101	Emergency Management-S&W	9,000.00	
25-252-299	Emergency Management-OE		9,000.00
25-265-101	Fire-S&W	11,000.00	
25-265-299	Fire-OE		5,000.00
25-266-299	Fire Hydrant		6,000.00
26-290-100	Streets & Roads-S&W	55,000.00	
26-290-200	Streets & Roads-OE	<u> </u>	<u>55,000.00</u>
Totals		<u>\$145,000.00</u>	<u>\$145,000.00</u>

RESOLUTION NO. 11-24-22-04b RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH RICH TREE SERVICE, INC. FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL OF TREES THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of certain services to maintain and remove trees throughout the Borough for the calendar year 2023 and Alternate A for calendar year 2024 (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield solicited bids for the Project and two (2) bids were received, which are as follows:

<u>Bidding Entity</u>	<u>Base Bid Total Amount</u>	<u>Alternate A</u>
Rich Tree Service, Inc.	\$195.00/hour	\$195.00/hour
Harmony Tree Care	\$475.00/hour	\$475.00/hour

WHEREAS, Director of Law/Borough Attorney Eric M. Bernstein, Esq. and the offices of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, LLC have reviewed the bid submissions and recommend the award of the bid and contract for the Project to the lowest responsible bidder, Rich Tree Service Inc., whose main offices are located at 325 Bergen Street, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 (hereinafter referred to as the “Contractor”) as there are no material defects with the bid proposal; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is desirous of obtaining the services of the Contractor to perform all those services contemplated in the Borough’s bid documents and the bid proposal submitted by the Contractor; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield finds that the Contractor is the lowest responsible bidder for the Project, both the Base Bid and Alternate Bid A, pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.

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 awards the following Bid and Contract:

Project: Tree Maintenance and Removal Base Bid (and Alternate A, see below)
 Successful Bidder: Rich Tree Service, Inc.
 Total Bid: In the Amount of One Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars and Zero Cents Per Hour (\$195.00).
 Term: Calendar Years 2023 and 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council, at the recommendation of the Director of Law, accepts Alternate Bid A for the services in calendar year 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute the contract and all necessary documents to engage the construction services of Rich Tree Service, Inc. for the Project; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award of this contract shall be subject to the certification of the Borough’s Chief Financial Officer as to the availability of funds for payment for same; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award and the contract and its performance shall be consistent with all applicable laws, the Borough’s bid documents and the bid proposal of Rich Tree Service, Inc. for the Project known as the Tree Maintenance and Removal Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-14-22-04c 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 November, 2022 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 11-14-22-05 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF NORTH PLAINFIELD SUSPENDING THE BUSINESS HOUR RESTRICTION ON THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT A CERTAIN PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSEE’S ESTABLISHMENT

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield has an ordinance prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., and

WHEREAS, the Borough has received a written request from Dombar LLC, t/a International Club and Sports Bar, Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 1814-33-007-008 to allow the extension of their hours of operation on Friday, November 25, 2022 to better enable them to serve their clientele and to improve their receipts during difficult financial times; and

WHEREAS, Dombar LLC, t/a International Club and Sports Bar, Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 1814-33-007-008 has requested permission to close at a later hour on Friday, November 25, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Thanksgiving Weekend generates a large amount of business for alcoholic beverage licensees in the Borough; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to grant the request of International Club and Sports Bar to remain open until a later hour on November 25, 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the business hours restriction on the sale of alcoholic beverages is hereby suspended on November 25, 2022 to allow International Club and Sports Bar to sell alcoholic beverages until last call at 2:00 a.m. with non-alcoholic sales permitted until 3:00 a.m. closing at that time.

Seconded by Ms. Corzo and on roll call failed, all seven opposed.

REPORTS:

POLICE: September 2022 Monthly Police Report

COMMUNICATIONS:

NJ State League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ	Newsletters & Advisories; League Convention Details
Somerset County Bd. of Commissioners Somerville	Newsletters & Communications
Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ	Report and Invoicing
Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority Middlesex, NJ	Minutes and Agenda Newsletters
Somerset County Business Partnership Somerville	Newsletters
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Trenton	
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC – Borough Clerk Chief Operator, WPQJ90 – 1630-AM Radio	Early Voting Radio Script
Public Service Electric & Gas, Newark Eric M. Bernstein, Esq. Borough Attorney	Rate Hearings Scheduled Municipal Town Hall

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. President reminded that the canvassing topic still needed further consideration. Then, there were brief discussions on the licensing of canvassing businesses. Mr. Hollod replied that inquiries should be directed to Mr. Testa, the Zoning Officer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No one appeared.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mayor La Ronde offered his congratulations to the newly re-elected Council Members. He then mentioned that the food banks were running low, and reminded that the North Plainfield food bank is now at the Apgar House at 11 Vermeule Place. A free rabies clinic will be held for dogs and cats at the firehouse on Saturday, December 3rd; and, the Santa Arrival and tree lighting will be held at the Community Center on Sunday the 4th beginning at 4:00 p.m. featuring pictures with Santa at the Vermeule Mansion fireplace.

The Borough has applied for \$500,000.00 in American Rescue Fund money for the Greenbrook Road interceptor sewer, and has received it. It will lower fees, and \$54,000.00 will also be received for emergency clothing.

A December 2nd dinner for volunteers will be held with catering by Leon's.

The Meadowbrook neighborhood will hold its third annual luminary event, which will also feature hot chocolate and cookies.

Ms. Given confirmed that it would officially be named the Apgar Food Bank after Mr. and Mrs. Apgar who lived there for many years. The Mayor replied that the County would be asked to put together an appropriate sign for the house.

Mr. Hollod reported on the installation of charging stations at Borough Hall for the new electric vehicles, and the new electronic sign across from Borough Hall which is now fully functional.

Ms. Given rejoined that yesterday was World Kindness Day, adding that kindness supports greater longevity.

On the topic of websites, Mr. McIntyre endorsed the idea of a streamlined domain name for the Borough, saying that “northplainfield.gov” would be simpler, while Ms. Schaefer congratulated her running mates, lauded Mr. McIntyre for his advocacy on the new ordinance dealing with abandoned cable installations, then wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Miller briefly discussed holiday décor on Somerset Street, asking if wreaths could be a possible addition. Mr. Hollod replied that holiday-themed banners were being installed, and the Mayor said that he would check into the addition of wreaths. Mr. Merrill expressed how much he appreciated the Council President’s leadership on the salary ordinance. Ms. Corzo offered her congratulations to the victorious incumbents, saying that the Democrats deserved credit for getting out the vote.

A brief discussion ensued about setting of the date for the Re-Organizational Meeting and Mr. Hak replied that it did not have to be on the first of January which will be a Sunday in 2023. The Council will reach a decision and vote on the 2023 meeting calendar at the December 12 Regular Meeting.

Council President Stabile termed the recent local election results a “mandate,” that the victorious council people are supported in droves. He concluded by wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Miller moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Given, with voice vote as follows:

Ayes:	Corzo, Given, McIntyre, Miller, Schaefer, Stabile
No:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	Merrill

Vote to adjourn carried 6-0-1.

Meeting declared adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President