

MINUTES of the Biennial Organization Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **January 2, 2023** at 12:08 p.m. at the North Plainfield Borough Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Borough Attorney, Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., who then read the following Statement of Compliance:

"This is a Biennial Organization Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield scheduled by resolution of the Council adopted on December 12, 2022. Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. by transmitting said notice to the *Courier News*, *The Star-Ledger*, *The Alternative Press* and *WKMB Radio* on December 13, 2022 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. Stabile followed by a moment of silence for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

Mr. Phoenix read the following:

"A statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers of Somerset County, New Jersey, relative to an election held in the County of Somerset on November 8, 2022 for the election of the following mentioned offices in the Borough of North Plainfield.

Four (4) Four-Year Borough Council Seats
The said Board does determine that

SUEZETTE GIVEN

STEVEN MCINTYRE

EVERETT MERRILL

WENDY SCHAEFER

were duly elected to the Borough Council

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true, full and correct statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers of Somerset County, New Jersey.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 26th day of November 2022."

Mayor Lawrence La Ronde administered the Oath of Office to Council Members-Elect:

SUEZETTE GIVEN

STEVEN MCINTYRE

EVERETT MERRILL

WENDY SCHAEFER

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo
Suzette Given
Steven McIntyre
Everett Merrill
Keiona R. Miller
Wendy Schaefer
Frank “Skip” Stabile

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor
David E. Hollod, Business Administrator
Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., Borough Attorney
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk
Michele Irby-Garry, CMR, Deputy Clerk

Mr. Bernstein called for nominations for President of the Council for the years 2023 and 2024.

Ms. Corzo nominated Frank “Skip” Stabile for President of the Council, seconded by Ms. Schaefer.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that FRANK “SKIP” STABILE be and is hereby elected PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL for the years 2023 – 2024.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Corzo, Given, McIntyre, Merrill, Miller, Schaefer
Abstain: Stabile

Resolution carried 6-0-1.

Mr. Stabile assumed the Chair.

Mr. Merrill nominated Aimee Corzo for Vice President of the Council, seconded by Ms. Given.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that AIMEE CORZO be and is hereby elected VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL for the years 2023 – 2024.

Seconded by Ms. Given with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Given, McIntyre Merrill, Miller, Schaefer, Stabile
Abstain: Corzo

Resolution carried 6-0-1.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the “Rules of Order” annexed hereto and made a part hereof are adopted as the Rules of Order for this Council for the years 2023 – 2024.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on roll call carried all seven voting aye.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-04 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 23-01 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing January 23, 2023 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. McIntyre and on roll call carried all seven voting aye.

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title:

ORDINANCE NO. 23-01 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” MORE SPECIFICALLY § 2-3, ENTITLED “COUNCIL,” MORE SPECIFICALLY § 2-3.12, ENTITLED “SALARY OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL MEMBERS.”

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:

Maria Paola Castro
Daniel Battista

Four-year term
Four-year term

Michelle Brown, Alternate 1	Two-year term
Bryan Carley, Alternate 2	Two-year term

SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Katherine Miller	One-year term
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APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL, ACTING AS LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH:

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE:

Suzette Given	One-year term
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APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Steven McIntyre	One-year term
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COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Wendy Schaefer	One-year term
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COUNCIL MEMBER AS CLASS III MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Aimee Corzo	One-year term
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COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION:

Suzette Given	One-year term
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APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL LIAISONS FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS:

BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Suzette Given
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PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE:	Everett Merrill
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RENT STABILIZATION BOARD:	Wendy Schaefer
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SHADE TREE ADVISORY BOARD:	Wendy Schaefer
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APPOINTMENT BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER:

SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS:

Aimee Corzo One-year term

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

MUNICIPAL JUDGE Three-year term

Brian Levine, Esq.

MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR One-year term

Raymond J. Stine, Esq.

BOROUGH TREASURER One-year term

Kathleen Intravartolo

PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (P.A.C.O.):

David E. Hollod One-year term

MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON:

David E. Hollod One-year term

BOROUGH HOUSING OFFICER:

Ken Capobianco One-year term

GARDEN STATE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND – One-year terms:

William Speck Fund Commissioner
David E. Hollod Alternate Commissioner

LICENSED SEWER OPERATOR:

Joseph Aidukas One-year term

RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Stephanie Sherwood One-year term

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION:

William F. Crosby, III	Four-year term
Dr. Harry Allen, Alternate	One-year term

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

Scott Lamperti	Four-year term
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LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Tom Fagan	Three-year term
Anne McBride	Three-year term

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE:

Rev. Ursula Cargill, Ph. D	Three-year term
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MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE – One-year terms:

Lawrence La Ronde	Elected Official
Angelo Bufaino, P.E.	Consultant Engineer
David E. Hollod	Planning Board Member
William F. Crosby III	Utility Authority Representative

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

One-year terms:

James DiPaolo - Three-year term	Coordinator
Joseph Asprocolas	Deputy Coordinator
Jennifer Bartholomew	Deputy Coordinator
Michael J. Ceccato	Deputy Coordinator
Chief William G. Parenti	Police Department
Chief William F. Eaton	Fire Department
Chief William F. Eaton	Emergency Medical Services

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL:

One-year terms:

David E. Hollod	Mayor's Representative
Everett Merrill	Council Member
Jody Karcher	North Plainfield Public Schools
Michael Giordano, Jr.	Citizen-at-Large
Sumera Khurram	Health
Richard Phoenix	Media

Angelo Costello
 Dr. Harry L. Allen
 Josh Reyes

Public Works
 Hazardous Materials
 Emergency Animal Shelter

RENT STABILIZATION BOARD:

Mary Ann Climes
 Michael Dellipoali, Alternate

Three-year term
 Two-year term

SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS:

Tom Fagan

One-year term

YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION:

Rev. Ursula Cargill, Ph. D

Three-year term

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW BOARD – *One-year terms*

Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor
 David E. Hollod, Business Administrator (*requires confirming resolution*)
 Leonard W. Lange, Economic Development Committee
 Daniel Battista, Alternate
 Aimee Corzo, Alternate

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Janice Allen
 Bruce Heyman
 Amnet Ramos-Hernandez

Two-year term
 Two-year term
 Two-year term

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION:

Keiona Miller

Three-year term

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Michelle Brown
 Nyja Canada
 Nick Kisling
 Joanne Pierre

Three-year term
 Three-year term
 Three-year term
 Three-year term

PLANNING BOARD:

David E. Hollod	One-year term
Aimee Corzo	One-year term
Michael Giordano	Four-year term

SHADE TREE ADVISORY BOARD:

William E. Rathjen III	Four-year term
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SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Lawrence La Ronde	One-year term
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RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE MAYOR FOR APPOINTMENTS BY THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN COMMISSIONERS:

SOMERSET COUNTY CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Keiona R. Miller	One-year term
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SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Michael Giordano, Jr.	One-year term
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RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COUNCIL FOR APPOINTMENTS BY THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN COMMISSIONERS:

SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Frank "Skip" Stabile	One-year term
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Mr. Merrill presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-05 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 23-02 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing January 23, 2023 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 unanimously.

The Clerk read the ordinance by its title:

ORDINANCE NO. 23-02 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 4, "GENERAL LICENSING," MOST NOTABLY § 4-17, MORE SPECIFICALLY § 4-17-1, *ET SEQ.*, ENTITLED "RECREATIONAL CANNABIS TAX" BY ADDING NEW DEFINITIONS TO

§4-17.1 “DEFINITIONS” AND ADDING A NEW SECTION §4-17.4, ENTITLED “MUNICIPAL CANNABIS LICENSE REQUIRED.”

CONSENT AGENDA NO. 1

Council President Stabile stated that all matters listed on Consent Agenda No. 1 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. Miller presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-02-23-06a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y

having been placed on Consent Agenda No. 1 and there having been no objection thereto, the same are hereby approved.

Seconded by Ms. Given and on roll call carried all seven voting aye.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA NO. 1 RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06a BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that STEVEN MCINTYRE be and hereby is appointed to the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-23-06b BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice of consent of this Council, WENDY SCHAEFER be and hereby are appointed to the LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal terms commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, ANNE MCBRIDE AND TOM FAGAN be and hereby is appointed to the LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the balance of an unexpired term expiring on January 1, 2026, and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-21-06c BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that AIMEE CORZO be and hereby is appointed as Class III member to the PLANNING BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2023 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06d BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that SUEZETTE GIVEN be and hereby is appointed to the YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06e BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that KATHERINE MILLER be and hereby is appointed to the SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2-23-06f BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, KATHLEEN INTRAVARTOLO be and hereby is appointed TREASURER of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06g BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, DAVID E. HOLLOD be and hereby is appointed as PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (P.A.C.O.) for the Borough of North Plainfield for the year 2023 in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06h BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, DAVID E. HOLLOD be and hereby is appointed as MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing on January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06i BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, KEN CAPOBIANCO be and hereby is appointed BOROUGH HOUSING OFFICER of this Borough for calendar year 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06j BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that WILLIAM SPECK be named as Fund Commissioner and DAVID E. HOLLOD be named as Alternate Commissioner to the Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund for calendar year 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06k RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD APPOINTING A LICENSED SEWER OPERATOR

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield is in need of a professional to act as the Borough's C-4 Sanitary Sewer Operator for the 2023 calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to retain the services of Joseph Aidukas of Mott MacDonald to act as the Borough's C-4 Sanitary Sewer Operator and believes that Joseph Aidukas is eminently qualified to perform such engineering services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that Joseph Aidukas of Mott MacDonald is hereby appointed as the Borough's C-4 Sanitary Sewer Operator for the 2023 calendar year.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-23-06l BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that STEPHANIE SHERWOOD be and hereby is appointed as RECYCLING COORDINATOR of this Borough to serve for calendar year 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01-21-06m BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, WILLIAM F. CROSBY, III be and hereby is appointed to the GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION, DR. HARRY ALLEN as the alternate representative of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024, and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06n BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that it does hereby recommend the appointment of MICHAEL GIORDANO, JR. by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Commissioners to the SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE as representative of the Borough of North Plainfield for the year 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06o BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, DAVID E. HOLLID be and hereby is appointed as a member of the Borough Administration to the ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW BOARD of this Borough to effectuate Architectural Design Standards pursuant to Chapter XXII, Subsection 22-138 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of North Plainfield to serve for the legal term commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06p BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, SCOTT LAMPERTI be and hereby is appointed to the HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2027 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, than upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, STEPHEN HARLAN be and hereby is appointed to the HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION of this Borough as an alternate member to serve for the legal term commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06q BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice of consent of this Council, TOM FAGAN be and hereby is appointed to the LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal terms commencing January 1, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2026 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, ANNE MCBRIDE be and hereby is appointed to the LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the balance of an unexpired term expiring on January 1, 2026, and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06r BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, REV. URSULA CARGILL, PH.D be and hereby are appointed to the MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE of this Borough to serve for the legal terms commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06s BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, the following are hereby appointed to the Municipal Wastewater Management Plan Committee for terms expiring December 31, 2023:

Lawrence La Ronde – Elected Official
 Angelo Bufaino, P.E. – Consultant Engineer
 David E. Hollod – Planning Board Member
 William F. Crosby III – Utility Authority Representative; and

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that by nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, WILLIAM F. CROSBY III is hereby appointed Chair of the Municipal Wastewater Management Plan Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM F. CROSBY III be appointed to the Somerset County Wastewater Advisory Committee and David E. Hollod, as alternate, for terms expiring December 31, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06t BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, JOSEPH ASPROCOLAS, JENNIFER BARTHOLOMEW, and MICHAEL J. CECCATO be and hereby are appointed as Deputy Coordinators to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT of this Borough to serve for the legal terms commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM G. PARENTI be and hereby is appointed as Police Department representative to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the legal term commencing on January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM F. EATON be and hereby is appointed as Fire Department representative to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the legal term commencing on January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAVID E. HOLLID be and hereby is appointed as the Mayor's representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that EVERETT MERRILL be and hereby is appointed as Council Member representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WILLIAM F. EATON be and hereby is appointed as Emergency Medical Services representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MILTON MATHIS be and hereby is appointed as Public Schools representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MICHAEL GIORDANO, JR. be and hereby is appointed as Citizen-at-Large representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until her successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that RICHARD PHOENIX be and hereby is appointed as Media representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANGELO COSTELLO be and hereby is appointed as Public Works representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DR. HARRY L. ALLEN be and hereby is appointed as Hazardous Materials representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that JOSH REYES be and hereby is appointed as Emergency Animal Shelter Manager representative to the LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL to serve for the legal term commencing on January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06u BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, MARY ANN CLIMES be and hereby is appointed to the RENT STABILIZATION BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, MICHAEL DELLIPOALI be and hereby is appointed as an Alternate Member to the RENT STABILIZATION BOARD of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06v BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, TOM FAGAN be and hereby is appointed to the SEWER USAGE CHARGE BOARD OF APPEALS of this Borough to serve for the legal term commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06w BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination of the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, REV. URSULA CARGILL PH.D be and hereby are appointed to the YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION of this Borough to serve for the legal terms commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2024 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06x BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that MARIA PAOLA CASTRO and DANIEL BATTISTA be and hereby are appointed to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the legal terms commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2027 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MICHELLE BROWN and BRYAN CARLEY be and hereby are appointed as Alternate Members to the BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of this Borough to serve for the legal terms commencing January 2, 2023 and expiring on January 1, 2025 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-06y RESOLUTION APPOINTING MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTOR AND ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTOR TO THE NORTH PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL COURT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023

WHEREAS, the Mayor requests the appointment of a Municipal Court Prosecutor, an Alternate Municipal Court Prosecutor and a Conflict Prosecutor to the North Plainfield Municipal Court for calendar year 2023; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that, as of January 2, 2023, the Municipal Court Prosecutor and Alternate Municipal Court Prosecutor to the North Plainfield Municipal Court, as well as Conflict Prosecutor for calendar year 2023 shall be as follows:

Municipal Court Prosecutor: Raymond J. Stine, Esq. and the Law Firm of Shain Schaffer P.C. Mr. Stine shall be compensated at an annual salary of \$30,000.00, less all applicable deductions.

Alternate Municipal Court Prosecutor: To be appointed by a separate Resolution.

Conflict Prosecutor: Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, L.L.C., effective January 2, 2023 with compensation to be paid at the Firm’s hourly rate for other Borough work.

Mr. Stine shall remain in his respective position until a successor is qualified and appointed.

CONSENT AGENDA NO. 2

Council President Stabile read the Consent Agenda Statement.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-07 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

01-02-23-07a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k

having been placed on Consent Agenda No. 2 and there having been no objection thereto, the same are hereby approved.

Seconded by Ms. Corzo and on roll call carried all seven voting aye.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA NO. 2 RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2-23-07a BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the *COURIER NEWS* be named the official newspaper of the Borough of North Plainfield for the publication of legal notices for calendar year 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meeting notices of the Borough of North Plainfield shall be transmitted to the *COURIER NEWS* and *THE STAR-LEDGER*, *THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS*, *WJLP-TV*, *WKMB Radio* and posted on the official bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and the North Plainfield Memorial Library for calendar year 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tap into North Plainfield be and hereby is designated as the electronic news source for which notices and other matters are to be provided under the Open Public Meetings Act.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2-23-07b BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the following are hereby designated as depositories for Borough funds for calendar year 2023:

Unity Bank
Valley National Bank
United Roosevelt Savings Bank

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2-23-07c BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the following are hereby authorized to sign checks for the Borough of North Plainfield for calendar year 2023:

Lawrence La Ronde – Mayor

Patrick J. DeBlasio - Chief Financial Officer

Kathleen Intravartolo - Treasurer

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-07d BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to charge interest on delinquent tax, assessment, and sewer user accounts for calendar year 2023, as follows:

Eight percent (8%) on the first one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) which is delinquent for a period in excess of ten (10) calendar days, which said percentage shall be chargeable from the due date of the payment; and

Eighteen percent (18%) on any amount in excess of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) which is delinquent for a period in excess of ten (10) calendar days, which said percentage shall be chargeable from the due date of the payment; and

Six percent (6%) yearly penalty on any tax delinquency, as defined by N.J.S.A. 54:4-67, which exceeds ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), provided said delinquency has not been paid prior to the end of the calendar year.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2-23-07e BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that Borough Tax Assessor BARBARA A. FLAHERTY is hereby authorized to file corrective appeals for errors in assessments or counterclaims to increase assessments, defend tax appeals filed by taxpayers, and agree to the terms of any stipulations of settlement of tax appeals as she deems necessary and in the best interest of the Borough for calendar year 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-22-07f BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of North Plainfield is hereby authorized to establish change funds for calendar year 2023 for the following departments in the amounts designated:

Borough Clerk	\$100.00
Construction Office	50.00
Health Office	100.00
Municipal Court	300.00
Police	50.00
Public Works	50.00

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-07g WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17 allows for the cancellation of property tax overpayments or delinquent amounts of less than \$10.00.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to cancel all property tax overpayments and/or delinquencies in the amounts of less than \$10.00, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-07h PROVIDING FOR A TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2023 PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-19

WHEREAS, the Revised Statutes of New Jersey 40A:4-19 provides for the adoption of temporary appropriations for the period between the beginning of the Budget Year and the date of the adoption of the Local Budget for the Year 2023 for the purposes and amounts required;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that the following temporary appropriations be made in the amounts and for the purposes herein set forth for the period between January 1st, 2023 and the adoption of the Local Budget for the Borough of North Plainfield, Somerset County and State of New Jersey for the Year of 2023:

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
20-100	Department of Administration	\$ 62,750.00	\$ 3,175.00
20-110	Borough Council	12,000.00	1,000.00
20-120	Borough Clerk	36,750.00	6,375.00
20-130	Department of Finance	78,000.00	3,500.00
20-135	Annual Audit		10,500.00
20-145	Tax Collection		3,250.00
20-150	Division of Assessments	26,250.00	1,600.00
20-151	Tax Appeals		7,500.00
20-155	Department of Law		76,250.00
20-165	Engineering		12,500.00
20-175	Historical Commission	775.00	250.00
21-180	Planning Board	375.00	1,250.00

21-185	Board of Adjustments	375.00	1,500.00
22-195	Uniform Construction Code	52,250.00	2,500.00
23-210	Liability Insurance		550,000.00
23-220	Group Insurance		300,000.00
23-225	Unemployment Compensation		5,000.00
25-240	Police	1,000,000.00	50,000.00
25-241	Crossing Guards	44,750.00	0.00
25-252	Emergency Management	6,125.00	4,000.00
25-265	Fire Protection	1,017,000.00	16,125.00
25-266	Fire Hydrant		50,201.50
25-267	Uniform Fire Code	3,000.00	4,628.50
25-268	LOSAP		750.00
25-269	Emergency Medical Services		9,750.00
25-275	Borough Prosecutor	7,000.00	0.00
26-290	Street & Roads	302,875.00	116,250.00

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
26-310	Building & Grounds		26,000.00
26-315	Vehicle Maintenance		69,153.50
27-330	Health	43,750.00	35,500.00
27-340	Dog Regulation		15,000.00
28-370	Recreation	61,675.00	7,925.00
28-375	Maintenance of Parks		1,625.00
28-380	Shade Tree Advisory Board		2,000.00
30-415	Retirement Benefits		75,000.00
30-420	Celebration of Public Events		3,750.00
31-201	Contingent		2,500.00
31-430	Electricity		93,750.00
31-440	Telephone		20,000.00
31-445	Water		7,250.00
31-446	Natural Gas		20,000.00
31-460	Gasoline		45,000.00
31-461	Technology		50,000.00
31-462	Postage		10,000.00
31-471	Employees Retirement System		118,328.00
36-472	Social Security		117,500.00
36-475	Police/Fireman Retirement		500,000.00
41-899	Matching Funds for Grants		1,250.00
42-300	COAH Housing		2,500.00
42-305	Somerset County Recycling		50,000.00
42-306	SLEO-S&W		55,500.00
42-405	Parking Meters	21,622.00	0.00
42-520	NJDEP Permit Fee		1,312.50
43-490	Municipal Court	85,000.00	5,400.00

43-495	Public Defender		1,000.00
62-405	Capital Equipment		17,650.00
	Totals	\$2,862,322.00	\$2,592,749.00
45-920	Payment of Bond Principle	\$	\$2,140,000.00
45-925	Note Principle		0.00
45-930	Interest on Bonds		358,590.50
45-926	Lease Payments	0.00	276,911.40
	Totals	\$ 0.00	\$2,777,501.90

<u>A/C #</u>	<u>SEWER UTILITY FUND</u>	<u>Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>
55-501	Sewer Operating	\$ 51,250.00	\$ 22,500.00
55-502	Plainfield Area Regional Sewer		500,000.00
55-541	Social Security		4,250.00
55-542	Unemployment Comp Insurance		250.00
	Totals Sewer Utility	\$ 51,250.00	\$ 527,000.00

55-520	Payment of Bond Principal		\$ 235,000.00
55-522	Interest on Bonds	0.00	81,071.17
55-523	Principal/Interest-Notes		0.00
	Totals	\$ 00.00	\$ 316,071.17

RESOLUTION NO. 1-2-23-07i 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 2nd day of January, 2023 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. 01-02-23-07j RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PUBLIC COURTYARD AT THE VERMEULE COMMUNITY CENTER TO WHIRL CONSTRUCTION, INC., PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(3).

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield (hereinafter referred to as the “Borough”) is in need of work for a new public courtyard at the Vermeule Community Center (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough issued a Request for Proposals for a contract for the Project on

May 29, 2022, and one bid was received as of the submission date of June 30, 2022, to wit:

<u>Bidding Entity</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
A-Tech Concrete Co.	\$832,000.00

WHEREAS, upon review of the bid of A-Tech Concrete Co., by CTS Group Architecture & Planning, P.A., the Borough's Architect on the Project (the "Architect"), by letter dated July 28, 2022, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk, the bid of A-Tech Concrete Co. in the amount of Eight Hundred Thirty Two Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$832,000.00) was found to be approximately two hundred and nineteen percent (219%) over the Architect's estimate for the Project; and,

WHEREAS, Director of Law/Borough Attorney Eric M. Bernstein, Esquire and the offices of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, L.L.C., as well as CTS Group Architecture & Planning, P.A., the Borough's Architect on the Project, have reviewed the bid submission and recommend rejection of the bid and proposed contract for the Project by A-Tech Concrete Co., 11 Taylor Road, Edison, New Jersey 08817 because the bid proposal is over two hundred percent (200%) higher than the Architect's estimate; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield therefore rejected the bid in Resolution 8-15-22-04(i) by vote on August 15, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough again issued a Request for Proposals for a contract for the Project on July 31, 2022, and the following five (5) bids were received on the closing date of the proposal on September 1, 2022, to wit:

<u>Bidding Entity</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
A-Tech Concrete Co.	\$788,000.00
TC Landscape Construction Group	\$628,000.00
Salazar Associates, Inc.	\$546,900.00
Whirl Construction, Inc.	\$470,851.00
Seacoast Construction, Inc.	\$859,640.00

WHEREAS, upon review of the apparent lowest bid of Whirl Construction, Inc., by CTS Group Architecture & Planning, P.A., the Borough's Architect on the Project (the "Architect"), by letter dated September 16, 2022, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk, the base bid of Whirl Construction, Inc. in the amount of Four Hundred Seventy Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty One Dollars and No Cents (\$470,851.00) was found to be approximately twenty one percent (21%) over the Architect's estimate for the Project; and,

WHEREAS, the next lowest and bid received from Salazar Associates, Inc., in the amount of Five Hundred Forty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$546,900.00) was more than One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) over the Architect's estimate, and all other bids were more excessive; and,

WHEREAS, Director of Law/Borough Attorney Eric M. Bernstein, Esquire and the offices of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, L.L.C., as well as CTS Group Architecture & Planning, P.A., the Borough's Architect on the Project, reviewed the apparent lowest bid submission and recommended rejection of the apparent lowest bid and proposed contract for the Project by Whirl Construction, Inc., because the bid proposal is approximately twenty percent (20%) higher than the Architect's estimate; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield therefore rejected both bids in Resolution 10-24-22-02(a) by vote on October 24, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 40A:11-5(3)(b), bids have been advertised pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1971, c. 198 ([C.40A:11-4](#)) on two (2) or more occasions and the governing body rejected the bids because it determined that the bids which were received after reissuance of requests for bids were not reasonable as to price, on the basis of cost estimates prepared for or by the contracting agent prior to the advertising therefor; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough then made a reasonable effort to determine whether the same or equivalent goods or services, at a cost which is lower than the negotiated price, are available from an agency or authority of the United States, the State of New Jersey or of the county in which the contracting unit is located, or any municipality in close proximity to the contracting unit proceeded to negotiate a contract, and determined that such goods or services are not available through any such agency or authority; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough then notified each responsible bidder submitting bids on the second occasion of its intention to negotiate for a contract, and afforded each bidder a reasonable opportunity to negotiate; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough has negotiated with the lowest bidder, Whirl Construction, Inc., for a lowest possible bid, and received a best-and-final bid of Four Hundred Seventy Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty One Dollars and No Cents (\$470,851.00), and the terms, conditions, restrictions, and specifications set forth in the negotiated contract are not substantially different from those which were the subject of competitive bidding pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1971, c. 198 ([C.40A:11-4](#)); and

WHEREAS, the Borough negotiated a minor amendment or modification of the terms, conditions, restrictions, and specifications which were the subject of competitive bidding pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1971, c. 198 ([C.40A:11-4](#)), to the Contract Price which resulted in Whirl Construction, Inc., making said best-and-final offer by not increasing its bid to account for volatile market conditions which would have resulted in higher prices, and the Governing Body may therefore award the contract because the negotiated price, based upon volatile market conditions continuing since the second (2nd) round of bids were rejected on October 24, 2022 is lower than the lowest rejected bid price submitted on the second occasion by a responsible bidder, is the lowest price offered by any responsible vendor, and is a reasonable price for goods or services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the best-and-final bid received for the Project in the amount of Four Hundred Seventy Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty One Dollars and

No Cents (\$470,851.00) submitted by Whirl Construction, Inc., 194 Main Street, Port Monmouth, New Jersey 07758 be and hereby is, accepted, the terms, conditions, restrictions, and specifications set forth in the negotiated contract being substantially similar to those which were the subject of competitive bidding pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1971, c. 198 ([C.40A:11-4](#)); because the negotiated price is lower than the lowest rejected bid price submitted on the second occasion by a responsible bidder; is the lowest price offered by any responsible vendor; and, is a reasonable price for the contracted-for goods or services; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute any and all contracts to memorialize the proposal submitted by Grotto Engineering Associates, LLC, for the position of Manager of the North Plainfield Borough Department of Public Works and Zoning Officer for the Borough of North Plainfield for the calendar year 2023; and,

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

RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-23-07k RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR UPGRADES TO PUBLIC RESTROOMS TO SALAZAR & ASSOCIATES, INC., PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(3).

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield (hereinafter referred to as the “Borough”) is in need of certain improvements for upgrades to public restrooms at the Vermeule Mansion, Vermeule Community Center and the North Plainfield Memorial Library (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough issued a Request for Proposals for a contract for the Project on April 3, 2022 and no bids were received as of the submission date of April 23, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough reissued a Request for Proposals for a contract for the Project on May 29, 2022 and no bids were received as of the submission date of June 30, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough therefore again solicited bids for the Project and two (2) bids were received by the Borough and reviewed by CTS Group Architecture & Planning, P.A., the Borough’s Architect on the Project (the “Architect”), by letter dated September 16, 2022, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk, to wit:

<u>Bidding Entity</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
TC Landscape Construction Company	\$413,000.00
Salazar Associates, Inc.	\$280,200.00

WHEREAS, the review of the base bid of Salazar Associates, Inc., in the amount of Two Hundred Eighty Thousand Two Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$280,200.00) was found to be approximately nineteen percent (19%) over the Architect’s estimate for the Project of Two Hundred and Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$235,800.00); and,

WHEREAS, the next lowest and only other bid received from TC Landscape Construction Group in the amount of Four Hundred and Thirteen Thousand Dollars (\$413,000.00) was more than One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) over the Architect's estimate for the Project of Two Hundred and Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$235,800.00); and,

WHEREAS, Director of Law/Borough Attorney Eric M. Bernstein, Esquire and the offices of Eric M. Bernstein & Associates, L.L.C., as well as CTS Group Architecture & Planning, P.A., the Borough's Architect on the Project, recommended rejection of both bids because both bids exceeded the Borough Architect's estimates by significantly higher amounts; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield therefore rejected both bids in Resolution 10-24-22-2(a); and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 40A:11-5(3)(b), bids were advertised pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1971, c. 198 ([C.40A:11-4](#)) on two (2) or more occasions and the governing body rejected the bids because it determined that no bids were initially received, and the bids which were finally received after reissuance of requests for bids were not reasonable as to price, on the basis of cost estimates prepared for or by the contracting agent prior to the advertising therefor; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough then made a reasonable effort to determine whether the same or equivalent goods or services, at a cost which is lower than the negotiated price, are available from an agency or authority of the United States, the State of New Jersey or of the county in which the contracting unit is located, or any municipality in close proximity to the contracting unit proceeded to negotiate a contract, and determined that such goods or services are not available through any such agency or authority; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough then notified each responsible bidder submitting bids on the second occasion of its intention to negotiate for a contract, and afforded each bidder a reasonable opportunity to negotiate; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough has negotiated with the lowest bidder, Salazar & Associates, Inc., for a lowest possible bid, and received a best-and-final bid of Two Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$280,000.00) and the terms, conditions, restrictions, and specifications set forth in the negotiated contract are not substantially different from those which were the subject of competitive bidding pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1971, c. 198 ([C.40A:11-4](#)); and,

WHEREAS, the Borough negotiated a minor amendment or modification of the terms, conditions, restrictions, and specifications which were the subject of competitive bidding pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1971, c. 198 ([C.40A:11-4](#)), to the Contract Price in the amount of a reduction in the Contract Price in the amount of Two Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$200.00), and the Governing Body may therefore award the contract because the negotiated price is lower than the lowest rejected bid price submitted on the second (2nd) occasion by a responsible bidder, is the lowest price offered by any responsible vendor, and is a reasonable price for goods or services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the best-and-final bid received for the Project in the amount of Two Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$280,000.00) submitted by Salazar & Associates, Inc., 2226 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083 be and hereby is, accepted, the terms, conditions, restrictions, and specifications set forth in the negotiated contract being substantially similar to those which were the subject of competitive bidding pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1971, c. 198 (C.40A:11-4); because the negotiated price is lower than the lowest rejected bid price submitted on the second (2nd) occasion by a responsible bidder; is the lowest price offered by any responsible vendor; and, is a reasonable price for the contracted-for goods or services; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Borough Clerk to sign and/or execute any and all contracts to memorialize the proposal submitted by Salazar & Associates, Inc. to handle the bathroom renovations at the Vermuele Mansion, Vermeule Community Center and North Plainfield Memorial Library as per the issue discussed above; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award of this proposal shall be subject to the certification of the Borough's Chief Financial Officer as to the availability of funds for payment for same.

REPORT:

Police: October 2022 Monthly Police Report

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Merrill requested that Deputy Chief Beattie provide an update on the Exempt Firemen's Association Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE:

Mayor La Ronde read his State of the Borough address as follows:

Happy New Year and welcome to North Plainfield's first Borough Council meeting of the new year. I wish the Borough Council and everyone a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2023.

Police Department – Chief William Parenti

In 2022, the Police Department received its sixth Re-Accreditation. This means the Police Department policies and methods of operation are subject to review by an independent team of accreditors to verify that the Department complies with current best practices. Our Police Department was the first in Somerset County to achieve this accreditation.

Post Covid-19, the Police Department has resumed our popular youth and community programs.

The Summer Teen Evening Program (STEP) opens a gym 2 nights per week to give our youth an opportunity to have a safe place to play basketball, soccer, or just interact with police officers.

The Police Youth Academy provides 6th through 8th grade students an opportunity to learn what police officers do.

Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) and (G.R.E.A.T), Gang Resistance Education And Training programs continue to be taught in the schools.

New for 2022 was Trunk or Treat, where officers handed out Halloween candy to the children at our Elementary Schools and the Police parking lot.

Also new was No Shave December. In exchange for not shaving, officers donated \$50.00 each to raise money to buy gifts for needy children. The presents were then delivered in person to each child.

Especially well received this year were our officers dressed as Santa and Mrs. Claus who went into each of the elementary schools and gave out candy canes.

We have received much praise for The School Resource Officer (SRO) program. Faculty, parents, and our students truly enjoy the positive interaction with police officers. The SRO program is committed to keeping the students and teachers safe.

We continued “Project Medicine Drop” and “Operation Take Back.” These programs make it convenient for residents to dispose of their unwanted or expired prescription medications, thus reducing the chance that they end up on the street, in children’s hands, or in the water supply. A secure collection box is located in the lobby of Borough Hall and is accessible 24 hours a day.

Our Good Morning program made hundreds of calls this year. This no-cost program is designed for shut-ins and senior citizens who live alone and have no one to look in on them. A member of the police department calls subscribing residents each day to ensure all is OK.

The Police Department Facebook page continues to grow. Social media allows us to communicate instantly with our citizens about important information like crime bulletins, road closures and general police information. Our Facebook page has assisted in solving countless crimes, from shoplifting to burglary.

Fire/EMS Department – Chief William Eaton

In 2022 we responded to over 3,400 fire and emergency medical incidents and performed over 2,000 fire code inspections. Revenue from our emergency medical calls generated approximately \$440,000 for the Borough.

One of the training highlights for the fire department in 2022 was the continuation of a specialized training program that we have been jointly conducting with our neighboring fire departments. In

2021, through the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, our department, along with the Plainfield and South Plainfield fire departments, were awarded approximately \$500,000 to be used for specialized technical rescue equipment and training. During 2022, we conducted another phase-in period of this project, participating in over 8 weeks of specialized training exercises. This included heavy rescue and large vehicle stabilizing techniques, as well as trench rescue operations.

In the fall of 2022, we were awarded two other grants – the first was the American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant, with an award amount of \$54,000. We were among the top 5 recipients out of 300 municipalities for the funding amount received.

The second grant was a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant with an amount of \$48,000 for rope rescue equipment and training.

At the end of the year, we took delivery of a new replacement rescue ambulance, which was ordered back in 2021. This vehicle will be a welcome addition to our apparatus fleet and save on maintenance costs.

Lastly, during 2022, we established a shared services committee with Watchung for the purpose of exploring the joint purchase of a ladder truck. Our existing ladder truck is over 20 years old and due for replacement.

The cost of a new ladder truck is approximately \$2 million. We are submitting an application for a \$400,000 NJ SHARE grant. If this initiative is successful, we anticipate saving the Borough up to one million dollars on this much needed capital purchase.

Public Works - David Testa, Director

This past year the Borough completed work on curb repairs, ADA sidewalk ramp improvements and the milling and resurfacing on sixteen roads in the Borough.

Additionally, we completed the traffic signal replacement at the Somerset Street intersection with Pearl Street and Craig Place. This project also involved drainage improvements in the intersection as well as the reconstruction of all ADA sidewalk ramps with stamped, tinted concrete.

The Borough started an NJDOT Grant Funded roadway, drainage, curb, sidewalk pedestrian safety improvement project on Brook Avenue between Sandford Avenue and Farragut Road. This project will be completed in the spring of 2023.

This coming year, we anticipate the completion of roadway and pedestrian safety improvements on Jackson Avenue, between Somerset Street and Sandford Avenue and also on Delacy Avenue.

These two projects are being funded in part by over \$750,000 in NJDOT Local Aid Grants which are supported by the state gasoline tax.

Also planned is the replacement of some sidewalk slabs in areas where Borough trees are causing problems with the sidewalks.

Additionally for 2023, the Borough is planning for the milling and resurfacing of approximately fourteen streets throughout the Borough with Capital Funds.

Parks and Recreation – Dennis Jackson, Jenn DeJesso, Directors

Although the Recreation Department was faced with challenges in the last year due to the pandemic and Hurricane Ida, we continue planning and building a stronger Parks and Recreation Department.

We have a new website, new programs, and have extended recreation activities to high school freshmen.

In an effort to create synergy within our community, we've strengthened our relationship with the board of education and have been working together to promote the Recreation programs.

We have also partnered on a quarterly newsletter that is distributed to all residents in the Borough and features a full informational page with all Recreation and Mayor's Special Events.

Recreation's basketball program had good registration numbers this year. We experienced quite a few scheduling challenges due to some Covid outbreaks, but we were able to have some very exciting championship games in the newly renovated middle school gym.

Recreation's Baseball/Softball enrollment was slow to start, but after a spirited marketing campaign within the schools, we saw our highest enrollment in recent years. Also, we successfully re-ignited our softball program which featured four teams at the junior girl's level.

After having Passe field destroyed in 2021 by Hurricane Ida, we were able to have it completely repaired and resume our games at that location.

Summer Camp is another one of our successful programs with an enrollment this year of 150 children. We strive to have a quality product that remains affordable to our community.

We are currently in the process of refurbishing the Vermeule Playground with new playground equipment and a new mulch surface to improve safety.

The Community Center Christmas light display this year was our biggest ever, and was well received by residents. Our Santa Comes to Town event was a big hit as usual.

We are in the process of applying for grant funding to refurbish the basketball courts in Green Acres Park.

We plan to continue working with Somerset County to apply for grants to improve the Vermeule site and plan for future improvements at the former Villa Maria site once that land comes under Borough jurisdiction.

A significant highlight this year was the return of approximately 12 acres of open space along the Green Brook which was formerly under a 99 year lease with Union County. That land will remain undeveloped in an effort to alleviate flooding.

Sanitary Sewer Grants

This year we are replacing a section of one of the Borough's oldest sewer lines on Rockview Avenue. Other sewer work is currently taking place on Jefferson Avenue. These projects are partially funded by Federal Community Development Block Grants administered by Somerset County.

We are in the planning stages for a project to rehabilitate sewers on Greenbrook Road. I am glad to announce that we will be receiving \$500,000 in funding through Somerset County to perform this work which will cover the entire cost of this project.

These sewer projects translate to dollars saved by our residents by reducing groundwater infiltration into the sewer lines and mitigating the need for expensive emergency repairs.

EV's

This year we purchased the Borough's first electric vehicles and charging stations. Four vehicles were purchased for use by the Police and Administrative Departments utilizing \$34,000 in grants from PSE&G and the NJ Board of Public Utilities. These vehicles will save on fuel and maintenance costs over the long term. We will continue to investigate EV's for other Borough vehicles in the future.

Council/Administration

While I've mentioned a lot of accomplishments, I must add that these are made possible with the support and backing of the Borough Council. The Council and I strive to have a close working relationship in which we can speak frankly and honestly about the issues facing the Borough.

The Council is responsible for funding our initiatives through the operating and Capital budgets. The Council, as the Borough's legislative body, enacts ordinances which have a direct impact on our quality of life.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome back Councilmembers Shafer, Given, McIntyre, and Merrill as you begin your four year terms.

I would like to express my appreciation to my Administrator Dave Hollod and my Assistant Katherine Miller. I count on them to carry out the day-to-day duties of my office. Every day brings its own set of issues and I know I can count on them to handle most anything that comes their way.

Volunteers

Countless volunteer hours go into making our community strong and vital, and a better place to call home. Dozens of our residents help out at recreational events, litter pickup days, serve on

committees, and bring issues to the attention of Borough government. For our part we try to respond to issues in a timely and courteous manner, keep in regular communication with our residents, and generally support all volunteer activities.

Every citizen has a role to play in making North Plainfield a better community. Whether that be a commitment as extensive as serving in local government, or simply bringing issues to our attention, our town works best when everyone takes an active role trying to make it better. So please keep in touch with us as we welcome your ideas and input on issues big and small.

Conclusion

While we can't predict all of the issues that will arise during the next year, I am confident that, working together as a team, we can face them successfully. Thank you for your support and I wish you and all the citizens of North Plainfield a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Mr. Hollod acknowledged being a part of a great team consisting of the Council, Mayor and members of the various boards, committees, and commissions. He recognized the Borough's partnership with Somerset County for their continued support, specifically with grants.

Ms. Corzo offered her congratulations to the four re-elected members of the Council. She thanked her colleagues for their vote of confidence as she steps into the Vice President role.

Mr. Merrill wished to underscore Ms. Corzo's sentiments to the four re-elected Council members and wished her well in her new role as Council Vice President. He recognized the passing of Linda Bond-Nelson who had served on the Board of Education for many years.

Ms. Miller expressed her pride to serve on a majority female governing body, noting it as a privilege and an honor.

Ms. Schaefer congratulated Council Vice President Corzo, Council President Stabile and her running mates. She then wished everyone a happy New Year.

Mr. McIntyre thanked Mr. Merrill for his service as Council Vice President and congratulated Vice President Corzo.

Ms. Given acknowledged looking forward to the next four years serving with her fellow Council members.

Council President Stabile congratulated the four re-elected Council members. In terms of governing bodies, this group possesses a real synergy and diversity of backgrounds and experiences. He thanked them for their faith in him as he commences a new term as Council President.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President