

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **August 14, 2023** at 9:05 p.m. at North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo, Council Vice President
Suzette Given
Steven McIntyre
Everett Merrill
Keiona R. Miller (absent – excused)
Wendy Schaefer (absent – excused)
Frank “Skip” Stabile, Council President

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor
David E. Hollod, Business Administrator
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Michele Irby-Garry, CMR, Acting 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 12, 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.”

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

RESOLUTION NO. 08-14-23-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that prior to the adjournment of this meeting it shall convene in executive session from which the public will be excluded for the purpose of discussion on:

Attorney/Client Privilege – Affordable Housing

Exclusion of the public for this purpose is specifically permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. The contents of this discussion will not be disclosed until such time as the disclosure of same will not adversely affect the public interest and upon resolution of the Council. Formal action may be taken following end of executive session.

Seconded by Mr. Merrill and on roll call carried all five voting aye. Executive Session convened at 9:10 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to come out of Executive Session by Ms. Given, seconded by Mr. McIntyre and carried unanimously.

Council President Stabile reconvened the meeting at 9:20 p.m. with all five council members present.

Mr. George indicated that all five council members were present as well as the Mayor, Administrator, Acting Borough Clerk, and Assistant Borough Attorney. Discussion was held relative to affordable housing.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

The Council President called for a roll call on the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting minutes of July 24, 2023: All in favor.

HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 23-10 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 3 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED “POLICE REGULATIONS”, MORE SPECIFICALLY, § 3-7.10, ENTITLED “DISORDERLY CONDUCT” AND EVEN MORE PARTICULARLY BY ADDING A NEW § 3-7.10.1, ET SEQ., ENTITLED “BEGGING AND SOLICITING”.

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Corzo, seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 08-14-23-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 23-10 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried all five voting aye.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 08-14-23-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 23-12 be read by its title by the Borough Clerk and be passed on its first reading and advertised as required by statute, fixing September 11, 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 five voting aye.

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title:

ORDINANCE NO. 23-12 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE AMENDED VILLA MARIA SITE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

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.

Mr. Merrill requested that item “e” be considered separately.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 08-14-23-04 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

08-14-23-04 a, b, c, d, f, g

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 all five voting aye.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 08-14-23-04a WHEREAS, NJSA 54:5-19.1 authorizes electronic tax sales pursuant to rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Division of Local Government Services has promulgated rules and regulations for pilot programs, and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Division of Local Government Services has approved NJ Tax Lien Investors/RealAuction.com to conduct pilot programs, and

WHEREAS, the rules and regulations authorize a municipality to submit an application for participation in the pilot program for an electronic tax sale, and

WHEREAS, an electronic tax sale is innovative and provides a greater pool of potential lien buyer, thus creating the environment for a more complete tax sale program for an electronic tax sale process, and

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield wishes to participate in the pilot program for an electronic sale.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that Kathleen Intravartolo is hereby authorized and directed to complete an application to participate in the electronic tax sale program and submit same to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 08-14-23-04b BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to create duplicate tax sale certificate(s) as follows:

Block 127 Lot 4	39 Harrison Ave.	# 01-52	issued 6/19/2001
		#05-35	issued 12/30/2005
		#06-00081	issued 6/29/2006
		#07-00080	issued 12/18/2007
		#11-00127	issued 9/20/2011
		#13-00181	issued 12/4/2013
		#15-00138	issued 10/29/2015

RESOLUTION NO. 08-14-23-04c WHEREAS, St. Luke’s Church, 300 Clinton Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey, has applied for licenses to conduct an off-premises cash draw raffle on October 29, 2023; and

WHEREAS, St. Luke’s Church has been issued Identification No. 352-1-14479 by the New Jersey Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission; and

WHEREAS, investigation has shown that said applicant meets the requirements for the issuance of raffles licenses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Acting Clerk be and is hereby authorized to issue license to St. Luke’s Church for an off-premise cash raffle to be held on October 29, 2023 at 300 Clinton Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

RESOLUTION NO. 08-14-23-04d A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAXES

WHEREAS, the owner of 413 Tappan Avenue, also known as Block 170.02 Lot 9 was deemed a 100% Disabled Veteran effective January 1, 2023 per the Assessor and;

WHEREAS, the property taxes were billed on the aforementioned parcel for 2023 3rd & 4th quarters as well as 2024 1st and 2nd.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield of Somerset County, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel taxes on this parcel:

RESOLUTION NO. 08-14-23-04f LOCAL EFFICIENCY ACHIEVMENT PROGRAM (LEAP) RESOLUTION OF GRATITUDE ACCEPTANCE

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has allocated \$3.275 million in Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) funds to promote shared service initiatives among peer local units across New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) administers the LEAP grant program; and

WHEREAS, LEAP Implementation Grants provide reimbursement for qualifying expenses incurred in the implementation of a local or regional service agreements, or for the coordination of programs and services authorized under the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the LEAP Implementation Grant exists to help cover costs associated with shared services implementation - including one-time reimbursable costs for project completion or transition support for municipalities and counties;

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield has agreed to be the lead agency in this program; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of North Plainfield, is acknowledging and accepting the responsibility of acting as administrator for this grant on behalf of all participating local units; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of North Plainfield received a Notice of Award from the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) its eligibility to receive a LEAP Grant in the amount of \$400,000.00; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of the award is to provide funding to assist in the joint purchase of a fire service ladder truck; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Governing Body of the Borough of North Plainfield, that the Governing Body does hereby accept the award of \$400,000.00, to fund the North Plainfield/Watchung Fire Departments - Shared Ladder Truck.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Executive Officer of the Borough of North Plainfield be and hereby is authorized to execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs on behalf of the Borough of North Plainfield and the Borough of Watchung,

and upon execution of said Agreement, the Borough of North Plainfield does accept the Terms and Conditions specified in the Agreement in connection to this grant award.

RESOLUTION NO. 08-14-23-04g 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 August, 2023 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 08-14-23-04e RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL APPOINTING AN ACTING BOROUGH CLERK FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey requires the appointment of an Acting Borough Clerk, subject to the appointment of a permanent successor due to a vacancy in the office of Borough Clerk, effective January 9, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, Michele Irby Garry has served as the Deputy Borough Clerk for the Borough of North Plainfield and held such position prior to the vacancy in the office of Borough Clerk; and,

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A.* 40A:9-133(c) permits the appointment of an Acting Borough Clerk for a period not to exceed one (1) year if the individual does not hold a registered municipal clerk’s certificate, which Ms. Irby Garry does not; and,

WHEREAS, Michele Irby Garry has been serving in the capacity of Acting Borough Clerk of the Borough of North Plainfield since January 10, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey hereby appoints Michele Irby Garry as the Acting Borough Clerk of the Borough of North Plainfield, retroactive to January 10, 2023, in accordance with and under the terms of *N.J.S.A.* 40A:9-133(c) for a period not to exceed January 9, 2024.

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

REPORTS:

BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT – JULY 2023

COMMUNICATIONS:

NJDOT Commitment to Communities	NJDOT Highway Occupancy Permit Process for Tv & Film Information
NJDEP Office of Local Government Assistance	NJDEP Commission LaTourette Congratulates

	Successful Applicants	Stormwater	Assistant	Grant
Keiona Miller, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection	NJDEP Weekly Update			
Plainfield Area Humane Society	Report & Invoicing			
Somerset County Business Partnership	Upcoming Events			

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: Mayor La Ronde requested the scheduling of an awards ceremony for the Fire Department at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mayor La Ronde commented on the success of the National Night Out event. Clean Community Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 9 and the Hispanic Heritage Festival for Saturday, September 16.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Acting Borough Clerk

Council President